

# INTERNATIONAL E-LECTURE SERIES



**Hosted by: THE DEPARTMENTS OF ENGLISH & FRENCH  
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES  
PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY  
PUDUCHERRY 605014**

## Host Departments:

The Department of English and the Department of French are two of the oldest Departments of the University, and since inception both the Departments have been the hub of teaching and research activity, attracting a cross-section of students and research scholars from all over the country. These departments cater to the language and communication needs of students from other departments, running special courses on language and communication skills.

## Objectives:

- ▶ To provide a comprehensive background to the theory of existentialism
- ▶ To become aware of the various existentialist philosophers with a special emphasis on Sartre, Camus and Kafka
- ▶ To explore new meanings of the term in the contemporary period
- ▶ To know the historical development of the philosophical notion

## Concept Note:

In today's challenging times of Covid-19, when fear and anxiety dominate our everyday life and we are forced to deal with a persistent sense of uncertainty, one discerns uncanny similarities with the crisis 20th century Europe underwent during the times of the two World Wars. The material circumstances, however, led to the rethinking of philosophical questions related to the purpose of life and the idea of existence. Consequently, the theory of existentialism which sought to view existence as fluid and focused on the absurd nature of life gained popularity. It might then be useful to reinvestigate the concept of existentialism to understand if it can offer meaningful insights in comprehending our situation and dealing with it today.

Existentialism, which originated from the backdrop of wars and other horrors, was primarily viewed as a philosophical theoretical set up. However, it is also a theory that addresses queries of daily life such as suffering, fear, trauma, chaos, and meaninglessness. The key idea of existentialism has been the question of choice and free will.

The responsibility of the individual is of prime importance and paves the path to determine the process of one's life. Existentialism has influenced various fields such as literature, religion, education, psychology and so on. Our aim is to provide a background for students, scholars, and others to grasp the main tenets of existentialism and to comprehend the importance of Sartre, Camus and Kafka from literary perspectives. We wish to focus on the idea of the individual, the question of choice, the role of consciousness, the anxiety of the moment, and the sense of absurdity. We hope that with such an understanding, we can cope better with the pandemic as well as apply these principles on critical literary reading.

## Resource Persons:

- ▶ **Dr. Ben Roth, Preceptor, Harvard College Writing Program, Harvard University, USA**
- ▶ **Dr. H. Kalpana, Professor and Head, Dept. of English, Pondicherry University, India**
- ▶ **Dr. Jonathan Webber, Professor & Head of Philosophy, Cardiff University, UK**
- ▶ **Dr. Mangesh Kulkarni, Professor & Head, Dept. of Politics & Public Administration, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, India**
- ▶ **Dr. Matthew Sharpe, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Deakin University, Australia**
- ▶ **Dr. Ritu Tyagi, Asst. Professor, Dept. of French, Pondicherry University, India**
- ▶ **Dr. Romey Borges, Retd. Professor, Center of French & Francophone Studies, JNU, New Delhi, India.**
- ▶ **Dr. Rosy Singh, Associate Professor, Centre of German Studies, JNU, New Delhi, India**

## Registration Fee:

- ▶ Scholars and Faculty (International): Rs. 2000
- ▶ Indian faculty: Rs 800
- ▶ Research Scholars (National and SAARC Countries): Rs 500
- ▶ Students (National and International): Rs 300
- ▶ **Account details would be provided once registration is done.**
- ▶ **Deadline for registration: August 12, 2020**
- ▶ Online Feedback forms will be provided for each lecture and E certificates would be provided to the registered participants. Attendance for all the lectures is mandatory.
- ▶ Contact email id for any queries/doubts: **[existentialismpondicherry@gmail.com](mailto:existentialismpondicherry@gmail.com)**

## Registration Link:

Click the link to register now: <https://forms.gle/kS3PEGD6MSuik7ip9>

## Chairpersons/Organizers:

- ▶ Dr. H. Kalpana, Professor & Head, Department of English, PU
- ▶ Dr. S. Pannirselvame, Professor & Head, Department of French, PU.
- ▶ Dr. Ritu Tyagi, Assistant Professor, Department of French, PU.

## Members: Dept. Of English

- ▶ Prof. Sujatha Vijayaraghavan
- ▶ Prof. Clement Lourdes
- ▶ Prof. T.Marx
- ▶ Dr. Binu Zachariah
- ▶ Dr. K. Reshmi
- ▶ Dr. Ujjwal Jana
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- ▶ Dr. S. Visaka Devi

## Members: Dept. Of French

- ▶ Prof. Nalini J Thampi
- ▶ Dr. C Thirumurugan
- ▶ Dr. Sarmila Acharif
- ▶ Dr. Jayapal Sharmili