

Gandhian Centre for Philosophical Arts and Sciences, MAHE Manipal

Master of Arts (MA) in Ecosophical Aesthetics

Course Details & Course Outline

Course Details :-

The papers offered are as follows.

Semester –I

- 1. Introduction to Ecosophical Aesthetics
- 2. Cultural History of the World
- 3. History of Science
- 4. Overview of Literature
- 5. Ecology and Environment

Semester - II

- 1. Research Methodology
- 2. Fundamentals of Music
- 3. Essentials of Dance
- 4. Painting and other Visual Arts
- 5. Appreciating Theatre

Semester – III

- 1. Dissertation
- 2. Journalism, Media and Communication
- 3. Nuances of Creative Writing
- 4. Understanding Cinema
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Semester – IV

- 1. Project
- 2. Advanced Ecosophical Aesthetics
- 3. Ecological Economics
- 4. Ecological Management and Sustainability

There will be one mandatory internship during the course. The electives such as

- i) Yakshagana Appreciation
- ii) Folkloristics
- iii) Society, History and Polity

- iv) Gandhian Studies
- v) Peace Studies etc, may be offered at different levels in the programme.

The professional possibilities include

- 1. Academics and Research**
 - 2. Journalism, Media and Communication**
 - 3. Socio-cultural and environmental sector**
 - 4. Policy Research**
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Course Outline :-

Semester - I

Introduction to Ecosophical Aesthetics

The course covers elements of philosophy, ecology and aesthetics, focussing on their intersectionality. It introduces the fundamentals of all the three areas, drawing both from Eastern and Western sources. It provides glimpses into all other courses to be studied during the programme.

Art History of the World

The course glances over the evolution of cultures across the globe over centuries. It focusses on certain art forms such as theatre, music, dance etc in different cultures, identifying commonalities, differences and influences. This will be 'glimpses of world history', keeping 'art' at the centre.

History of Science

While certain kind of science did exist all the time, science in its modern sense, has a history of a few centuries. It has a distinct meaning, genesis, evolution, implication for and relationship with nature. The course explores these dimensions of modern science and traces its journey with reference to nature at large.

Overview of Literature

Literature, both oral and written, presupposes the presence of verbal language and it has developed its own grammar, vocabulary, theory and aesthetics in every culture. It has also remained as a highly contemplate form of art. The course gives an overview of different literatures of the world, with a focus on their complex relationship with nature.

Environmental Science

While the course examines different elements of environmental science in-depth, it traces the evolution of environmental science and different world-views vis-à-vis environment. This will be an advanced course, turning searchlight on contemporary research in the field and connecting it with issues such as climate change and global warming.

Internship

It is mandatory for all the students to do an internship in an organisation, concerning their area of study and interest.

Semester- II

Research Methodology

The course attempts to equip students with necessary knowledge about methodological tools of humanities and social science research. It teaches them essentials of both qualitative and quantitative researches so that students are enabled to carry on research in related areas – both during and after the programme.

Fundamentals of Music

Music is an abstract art form having close connection with both human and non-human nature. The course goes deeper into the genesis, evolution, structure, theories and music of different cultures, with an objective of preparing students to understand, appreciate, experience music and write about it.

Essentials of Dance

Dance is an art form which makes use of the body and mind to develop an aesthetic of its own. The course studies evolution of dance in different cultures, its patterns, theories and aesthetics so that students are able to understand, appreciate, experience and write about it.

Overview of Painting

While painting remains a very ‘colourful’ art with each artist experimenting with it and the art has also resulted in complex theories and various movements in modern era. The course covers this visual art form with all its shades and nuances and how it has responded to environment – both in its general sense and specific meaning.

Understanding theatre

Theatre is an art form which makes use of different other art forms to develop a grammar of its own. Philosophically perhaps, it is also quite political in nature in the sense of its conscious response to the contemporary. Like literature, it has remained quite thoughtful and the course intends to capture theatre in all its complexities.

Semester - III

Dissertation

Drawing from the research methodology he/she learns from second semester, the student needs to write a dissertation on a chosen area with clear objectives and methods. The dissertation should give student the actual experience of research which he/she may carry forward after post-graduation.

Journalism, Media and Communication

Even art is a form of communication, a kind of creative communication. While the modern media – print, radio, television and new media – claim to inform, educate and entertain - in classical terms; advertising seems to dominate the media world now. However, this paper examines theories of communication, craft of journalism and media with an emphasis of actual art of writing.

Creative Writing

While journalism may be considered as a more factual writing - poetry, short story, novel, essay, script and screen-play writing may be described as creative forms of writing, even though an element of creativity exists in every form of such writing. This paper gets into the very structure of such writing and focusses more on practical exercises and experience in this area.

Understanding Cinema

With its origin just before the beginning of 20th century, cinema has grown into a popular medium all over the world with every language producing its own cinema. Over the years, cinema has become a complex system of popular entertainment, an art form developing its own aesthetics, a search for the philosophy of life and a medium mirroring/modifying reality. The course covers cinema with all its philosophical nuances.

Semester - IV

Project

The student needs to undertake a practical project concerning one of the areas of the programme.

Advanced Ecosophical Aesthetics

Taking off from the previous paper with similar title, this course goes further deep into examining certain philosophers, ecologists and aestheticians of the modern and post-modern age. It aims at providing a firm foundation for further research and policy making process.

Ecological Economics

This course intends to translate all ecosophical notions into economics so that it provides an alternative model of development. It tries to develop a system and a way of life which will address issues of both – sustainability and social justice. It comes up with an alternative voice in the discourse on climate change, global warming, equity etc.

Ecological Management

The course attempts to develop an alternative system of management, based on ecosophical principles. It addresses issues concerning governance and management of ecological systems, organisations and movements. It thinks about how ecosophical aesthetics could be a reality to be experienced by everyone.
