

***OPTIONAL COURSE UNIT
 SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES TRACK
 FALL SEMESTER 2022/2023***

<p>1. Unidade curricular (UC)/Curricular Unit</p> <p>a. Name: Philosophy and Literature b. Número de vagas/Vacancies: 30</p>
<p>2. Pequeno texto introdutório que deve refletir, o enquadramento da UC proposta na oferta curricular da NOVA FCSH, bem como, o carácter inovador ou a complementaridade com outras UC's existentes.</p> <p>The proposal is the creation of a new course for Bachelor students taught in English on the encounter between philosophy and modern literature. We will analysis and closely read carefully selected iconic and iconoclastic philosophical prose and poetry in modern literature and try to answer some of the most fundamental questions of philosophy. The questions that arise and which we will try to discuss will be, amongst others: is there free will? What is art? What is the good life? What can I know? Is there a meaning to existence? What is ecological thought? What ought I do? Do good and evil exist? How can we approach the reality of death? If philosophy is to survive and flourish again amidst the various crises of human civilization ahead of us, and to respond and open up new pathways, it will need the help of experimenters in literature, which can guide us in reconnecting with ourselves, each other, all other living species, and the planet itself. The task of the philosopher is not to read a poet or author in order to appropriate an idea that it thinks it has found in order just to help articulate a notion that a philosopher already had, thus remaining in control and adding very little to a reading of literature. Rather, there is something in literature that is out of reach of the philosopher. Literature can bring us to a region where the philosopher is not comfortable nor can control. It is in this space where the encounter between philosophy and literature can happen, a vulnerability is opened on both sides to inspire the creating of a new concept in the philosophy and a new form and linguistic gesture in literature.</p>
<p>3. Código da unidade curricular/Curricular unit code: <i>[Não Preencher]</i></p>
<p>4. Faculdade/Faculty: Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas</p>
<p>5. Unidade de Investigação/Research Unit: <i>[Optional]</i></p>
<p>6. Curso/Course: Opção livre aberta a todos os cursos de Licenciatura/<i>Optional course for all undergraduate students</i></p>
<p>7. Nível do curso/Course Level: Licenciatura/<i>Bachelor's Degree</i></p>

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8. Carácter da unidade curricular: <i>Opcional/Optional</i>
9. Tipo da unidade curricular/Type of curricular unit: <i>Unidade Curricular Letiva / BA course</i>
10. Percentagem de aulas práticas/Percentage of practical classes: <i>10%</i>
11. Ano do plano de estudos/Syllabus year: <i>1st year</i>
12. Semestre/Semester: <i>1.º semestre/1st semester</i>
13. Número de créditos/Number of credits (1 crédito = 28h): <i>6 ECTS (licenciatura)</i>
14. Docente ou Investigador responsável/Teacher or principal researcher: <i>Bartholomew Ryan</i>
15. Course program details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Número de horas por sessão/Number of hours per session: <i>2 horas (licenciatura)</i> b. Número de sessões por semestre/Number of hours per semester: <i>32 sessões (licenciatura)</i> c. Periodicidade/periodicity: <i>2 sessões por semana /2 sessions per week</i> d. Período de funcionamento/Class period: <i>Oct – Dec 2021</i>
16. Objetivos da unidade curricular/Learning objectives (máx. 200 palavras; expostos em termos do que se espera que o aluno adquira): Students will acquire the following skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discover and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions in the history of philosophy through reading key modern literary texts - Acquire skills in reading and learning how to decipher some of the most experimental works of literature from a philosophical perspective - Acquire analytical skills - Discover and discuss central problems and predicaments of the modern age via the encounter between literature and philosophy, such as, for example: on choice,

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procrastination and decision-making, varieties of belief; free will; the plurality of the subject; the role of the body; life as meaningful/meaningless; problems of time and temporality; nihilism; order and chaos; multispecies conversation and interaction; and ecological thinking on a damaged planet

- Practice in the art of presentation and synthesizing and organizing ideas

17. Competências gerais do grau/General skills of the degree: a); b); c); d); e); f)

18. Competências específicas do curso/Specific Course skills: Não aplicável/*Not applicable.*

19. Requisitos de frequência/Attendance requirements:

Students are expected to participate in course assignments and activities. Classes will be taught in English. An intermediate/upper knowledge of English is required.

20. Conteúdo da unidade curricular/Syllabus :

What is literature? What can we learn from it? Can it guide us to understanding the art of living and dying? Can it teach philosophy something? Can a poet or an author also be a kind of philosopher in asking the most fundamental questions in the history of humanity? We will analysis and closely read carefully selected iconic and iconoclastic philosophical prose and poetry in modern literature and try to answer some of the most fundamental questions of philosophy. The questions that arise and which we will try to discuss will be, amongst others: is there free will? What is art? What is the good life? What can I know? Is there a meaning to existence? What is ecological thought? What ought I do? Do good and evil exist? How can we approach the reality of death?

The focus of the course will be an analysis of texts in modern literature. The course will introduce texts from the age of modernity and modernism. In the introductory part of the course, we will explore what modernity and modernism is and treat modernism as a philosophical problem. A starting point can be made with one of the greatest modern philosophical figures in literature - Shakespeare's Hamlet – who famously says: "To be or not to be; that is the question".

1. In the first two weeks of the course, we will look at both the birth and emergence of modern philosophy and modern literature beginning with Descartes and Spinoza and Shakespeare and Cervantes, and how these two regions of writing developed, and how and why some of the greatest modern authors becoming increasingly philosophical (for example, Dostoevsky, Pessoa, T.S. Eliot, Samuel Beckett, Clarice Lispector, Albert Camus, Fernando Pessoa, and more); and how some of some of the greatest modern philosophers

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becoming increasingly poetic or literary (for example, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Unamuno, Heidegger, Sartre, Deleuze).

2. With philosophical questions, problems and analysis, we will then explore and closely read a variety of selected texts from modern literature. Being in Lisbon, we will spend at least 4-5 classes on the great Portuguese philosophical poet Fernando Pessoa, and we will explore especially the philosophical idea of the plurality of the subject via his output. Also, we will think about philosophical problem of procrastination, doubt, choice and despair via T.S. Eliot's poem "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"; we will explore the conflict and ideas on the separation and interpenetration of body and mind, and the fusion of chaos and order ("chaosmos") in James Joyce's novels; we will study and discuss the problem of free will and a world with or without God or higher order in Fyodor Dostoevsky; we will analysis the presence and conundrum of death in Emily Dickinson's poetry; we will analysis the problem of ecological disaster and a meaningless universe in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*; and we will bring up the idea of "becoming animal", "multispecies encounters", grace and being present to oneself in Clarice Lispector's novel *Água Viva*.

21. Bibliografia recomendada/Recommended Reading list: (máx. 5 títulos. Por ordem decrescente de data de edição.)

1. Pessoa, Fernando, *The Book of Disquiet*. Translated by Richard Zenith, London: Penguin Books, 2015.
2. Lispector, Clarice, *Água Viva*. Translated by Stefan Tobler, London: Penguin Classics, 2012
3. Pessoa, Fernando, *A Little Larger than the Entire Universe: Selected Poems of Fernando Pessoa*. Translated by Richard Zenith, London: Penguin Books, 2006
4. Camus, Albert, *The Stranger*. Translated by Matthew Ward, New York: Vintage Press, 1989.
5. Other texts and extracts from: F. Dostoevsky ("The Grand Inquisitor" (from *The Brothers Karamazov*) and "Stavrogin's Confession" (from *Demons*); T.S Eliot ("The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"; S. Beckett ("Waiting for Godot"); J. Joyce (extracts from *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake*); E. Dickinson (selected poems); F. Kafka (short stories); and J. Guimarães Rosa ("The Third Bank of the River").

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22. Métodos de ensino/*Teaching method:*

Lectures based on analysis, synthesis, comparison and evaluation; and in-class discussion.

23. Métodos de avaliação/*Evaluation method:*

Classroom presentations and assignments

24. Língua de ensino/*Teaching language:*

Inglês/English