

# COURSE DETAIL

## LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL CULTURE

**Country**

France

**Host Institution**

University of Bordeaux

**Program(s)**

University of Bordeaux

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Women's & Gender Studies Comparative Literature

**UCEAP Course Number**

102

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL CULTURE

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

LIT&PHIL CULTURE

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

4.50

**UCEAP Semester Units**

3.00



## **Course Description**

In order to approach the Feminine/Masculine dichotomy or its complementarity, it is worth taking a diachronic approach that embraces different literary genres and philosophical arguments. From the earliest texts of Antiquity to contemporary novels, it's important to note the clichés and canons of the two genres in order to better reopen representations of binarity. Starting with Plato's myth of the androgyne, which proposes the invention of the sexes, the course works on the definitions of masculine and feminine, as well as their relationships. It then studies extracts from medieval literature to analyze the implementation of a codified image of masculine behavior and feminine posture. This highlights works less frequently found in school anthologies, and discovers original voices that sing of the links between men and women. The Renaissance period is explored through a painting by a man depicting a woman: starting from this banal subject, it sees the stakes, both poetic and aesthetic, in the figuration of the symbols chosen. Crossing the Grand siècle, with its coquettes, inconstants and honest men, the course moves on to the Age of Enlightenment, where the question of gender becomes pressing, with the proposals of Poulain de la Barre, for example. The poetics of uncertain or metamorphosed genders is explored using texts from the 19th and 20th centuries: the castrato, the hermaphrodite, and transvestites are studied. The course looks at new ways of referring to these figures as they find their representation in literature. Intersexuality will thus be examined in the light of works chosen for their literary interest and the philosophical reflection they generate. Finally, it takes a closer look at representations of male and female bodies in contemporary literature, focusing on the poetics of weakness, injury and ageing, with particular reference to the motif of the gaze of a third party and that of the mirror to which one speaks of one's own body.

## **Language(s) of Instruction**

French

## **Host Institution Course Number**

6LDHE51



**Host Institution Course Title**

CULTURE LITTÉRAIRE ET PHILOSOPHIQUE

**Host Institution Course Details****Host Institution Campus**

UNIVERSITE BORDEAUX MONTAIGNE

**Host Institution Faculty**

HUMANITES

**Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

CULTURE HUMANISTE ET SCIENTIFIQUE

**Course Last Reviewed**

2024-2025

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