

Postgraduate courses

MASTER 1

SEMESTER SEVEN

LITERATURE COMMON CORE

ENG 417: Contemporary Literary Theories

Objectives

The focus will be on the critical perspectives and practices shared by a number of 20th and 21st Century theories that influence current literary discourse. The course will attempt to trace the philosophical history of each theory, how it applies to particular texts and periods and the extent to which a theoretical position informs its object of study.

ENG 427: Research Methodology

Objectives

The course will introduce students to the techniques and procedures of research in literary studies, including specific aspects like field studies, collecting and analysing data, documentation techniques, techniques of research presentation, etc. It will highlight the importance of research in breaking through the frontiers of knowledge.

ENG 437: Varieties Of English

Students will be introduced the various varieties of English in the world. This will include native and non-native Englishes; their modes of existence and their particular characteristics.

ENG 447: Computer Science

This course is indispensable for students entering into the domain of research. It is intended to provide them with the basic skills with which they can use the computer to conduct research and document research projects.

SEMESTER EIGHT

SPECIALIZATION 1: STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH

ENG 412: Phonological Theories

Objectives: Introduce students to prominent phonological schools like the Prague; Copenhagen, American; and the evolution of phonological theory.

ENG 422: Morphological Theory

Students will be introduced to current theories in English morphology

ENG 432: Syntactic Theory

Focus will be on the various syntactic theories which have stood the test of time.

ENG 442: Phonotactics of English

It will focus on the significance of the different possible syllable/sound combinations in English and their productivity and the constraints that govern possible sound sequence in English and their results.

ENG 452: Contact and Grammaticalisation

Students will be introduced to the different forms that English grammar has taken as a result of language contact.

ENG 462: New Englishes

The course will focus on the Englishes of the new nations including nations in West Africa, India, East Asia etc.

SPECIALIZATION 2: SOCIOLINGUISTICS

ENG 414: Sociolinguistic Theories

The objective of this course is to highlight the various theories that have been born in sociolinguistics. An effort will be made to trace the diachronic aspect of each theory and its expansion and relevance to contemporary research. Some of such theories include: Language origin, language spread, language in contact, language use

ENG 424: Sociolinguistic Analyses

The course will show the seminal ways through which sociolinguistic data have been analysed. It will highlight the way sociolinguistic data have been analysed from the empirical/ ethnographic experimental perspective.

ENG 434: The Sociology of Language:

The course will focus on how societal structure affects language use and linguistic choices. The learners will be made to see how elements like social status, education, culture, the belief system, gender and ethnicity have a bearing on a user's language. These elements will be shown to influence language on the one hand and how language affects these social variables.

ENG 444: Pidgins and Creoles:

This course seeks to probe into the origin/existence of pidgins and creoles, their common characteristics, and their place in a multilingual setting. The course will attempt to answer questions about status, spread, survival/death of pidgins and creoles.

ENG 454: Discourse Analysis

This course will seek to show the organisation of language above the level of the grammatical sentence or phonetic utterance. Ways by which texts are held together will be examined, following previously tried models

ENG 464: Pragmatics

The budding researchers will be introduced to pragmatic theory, using the works of Austin and Searle, Fillmore, Grice, Firth, and Levinson etc.. The idea is to show how pragmatics enhances the understanding of discourse, and how these are cardinal elements in sociolinguistic analysis

SPECIALIZATION 3: BRITISH LITERATURE

ENG 416: Shakespearean Tragedy

The course will focus on four major Shakespearean tragedies – *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear* and *Macbeth* with the aim of explaining the concept of tragedy from Shakespeare's perspective, the techniques and dramatic conventions of the time and to highlight the worldview of the Elizabethan England and its preoccupations.

ENG 426: Augustan Literature

The course will highlight the conventions of Literature which governed the Augustan age in British Literature roughly between 1660 and 1789 (sometimes broadly referred to as the Neo-classical era). It will study in detail the works of major authors like Alexander Pope, Samuel Johnson, Jonathan Swift, etc.

ENG 436: Major English Romantic poets

The main thrust in the course will be to study in detail the works of the six major English Romantic poets – Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, Keats and Byron paying particular attention to the characteristics of the period as well as the unique features of each of the poets' romanticism. The course also aims at highlighting some fundamental theories of Romanticism and Romanticism's reaction against Augustanism.

ENG 446: 19th and 20th Century British Novel

The central concern here is to study in detail the development of the modern English novel and the contributions made by some selected novelists to the genre. The course will seek to distinguish between the traditional mode of writing and the modern showing the thematic concerns of the novelists as well as the development in the novelistic techniques.

ENG 456: British Poetry: 1955-1980

This will entail a study of a specific group of poets who wrote after World War Two. They include Ted Hughes, Seamus Heaney, Philip Larkin, Tony Harrison, etc. The course will therefore trace their projection of post war feelings, themes and techniques which are associated with post modernism.

ENG 466: Multicultural British Writers

Contemporary British Literature is diverse especially because of its inclusion of literature written by authors from the former British colonies. This course will therefore study the varied and diversified authors from different postcolonial and multicultural backgrounds who now are naturalised as British citizens or who become part of British Literature because of their status as former colonies. Focus will be on contemporary authors like V.S Naipaul, Buchi Emecheta, Ben Okri, Nadine Gordimer, etc.

SPECIALIZATION 4: AMERICAN AND COMMONWEALTH LITERATURES

ENG 418: American Transcendentalism

The course will centre on Transcendentalism as a philosophical, religious, social, literary and cultural movement. It will introduce students to what is arguably the first literary movement in the United States of America which grappled with the problems of literary independence. Clear differences will be established between the Puritan, the Unitarian and the transcendental world views. It will explore literature and other cultural representations that consider human relationships with the natural world.

ENG 428: American Realism and Naturalism

The focus of the course will be to examine American post Civil War literature. The socio-political as well as the economic situation in the United States and in Europe will be examined to show how these impacted on the literary sensitivity of the period and the American literary modes that emerged as a result of the Civil War. The course will study poetry, prose, and drama from 1865 to 1900.

ENG 438: Writers of the Lost Generation.

The course will focus on the study of the works of the most influential American writers of the decade that followed World War 1. It will examine the major changes in content and form that characterise these writings. This generation includes novelists such as Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, dramatist Thornton Wilder, poet Hart Crane, as well as the major writers of the Harlem Renaissance.

ENG 448: Travel Literature and Empire

The course will therefore require close textual analyses of colonial and post-colonial works that deal with migration, the role played by travel writing in the formation of the structures of imperialist dominance and resistance to such dominances. It will examine the relationship between travel writing and issues such as transculturation and global networks of modern capitalism in the centres and the margins

ENG 458: Literature of the Black Diaspora

The course investigates the imagination and culture of people who move from one country into another and settle in it. This course concentrates on the reappraisal of self, place and culture at the moment of settlement as represented in a number of Australian, Canadian, Caribbean and African literary texts, and in records of personal experience. It takes into account the material and cultural violence involved in this moment, as well as the sectarianism and the nostalgia for Home to which it is likely to give rise.

ENG 468: Postcolonial Poetry in English

The course provides a comprehensive introduction to the development of poetry in English in all the regions that were once part of the British Empire. It will investigate the patterns of literary development common to regions with a history of recent decolonization such as the development of poetic traditions in Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, and the settler colonies of Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand with the aim of exploring issues of dominance, subjection and resistance in terms of race, nationality and gender in the self-identifying practices of a range of poets.

MASTER 2

SEMESTER ONE

ENG 519: Thesis Writing

This is a seminar course which will reinforce students skills in documentation techniques, the various components of the thesis including aim of study, research problem, research question, hypothesis, methodology and theoretical considerations, review of literature, body, conclusion, bibliography etc.

ENG 529: Modernism/Postmodernism

The seminar course will study the distinctive features in subjects, forms, concepts, and styles of literature and other arts as applied to modernism and postmodernism. It will attempt to explain the origin of modernism, its decline and the surfacing of postmodernism with emphasis on popular culture or “mass culture”, as a counter concept to modernism.

ENG 539: General Linguistics

The course will focus on the general knowledge of how linguistics has functioned from the beginning. The focus will be on the history of the discipline and how the various levels of linguistics interrelate and are distinct from one another.

ENG 549: Independent Research

The seminar course will enable students to research and present write-ups on the subject of their thesis.

ENG 559: Computer Science

This will be the continuation of the course on Computer studies which will enable student to acquire basic skills to use the computer to conduct research and to document findings.

SEMESTER TWO

ENG 520: Thesis Write-Up

Objectives

Students are expected to complete and defend their thesis as part of the requirements for the award of the Master’s Degree thesis.