

Bengaluru Central University
M.A English Studies (2018-19)
4 Semesters, Minimum 72 Credits

First Semester -- 20 credits minimum

- 1.1: Critical Approaches (Aristotle to New Criticism)
- 1.2: British Literature: Chaucer to Arnold
- 1.3: Indian Literature in English and in English Translation
- 1.4: American Literatures (Elective)
- 1.5: Introduction to Language and Linguistics

Second Semester – 20 credits minimum

- 2.1: Literary Theory (Formalism to New Historicism)
- 2.2: British Literature: Modern to Contemporary
- 2.3: Gender Studies
- 2.4: European Literature in English Translation (Elective)
- 2.5: Translation Studies: Theory and Practice

Third Semester – 20 credits minimum

- 3.1: Critical Reading and Critical Thinking
- 3.2: Emergent Literatures in English Translation
- 3.3: Academic Writing and Research Methodology
- 3.4: Kannada Texts in English Translation (Elective)
- 3.5: Postcolonial Studies

Fourth Semester – 20 credits minimum

4.1: Cultural Studies

4.2: Media and Film Studies

4.3: Subaltern Narratives

4.4: Indigenous Literatures / South Asian Literatures (Elective)

4.5: Dissertation / Project

The Question Paper Pattern and the Evaluation Method will be the same for all papers except the Project.

Theory Paper: 70 marks

Internal Assessment: 30 marks

Theory Paper:

Short Notes: (5 marks each) 4 x 5 = 20 (Students may attempt 4 out of 7)

Essays: (10 marks each) 10 x 5 = 50 (Students may attempt 5 out of 8)

Internal Assessment:

There is a uniform pattern for this in the BCU Regulations. That shall be followed.

1.1 Critical Approaches

Aristotle to Eliot

UNIT –I

Major concepts in classical criticism

- Idealism v/s Materialism
- Aristotle on tragedy (three unities, plot and catharsis)
- The status of poets in Plato's *Republic*
- Longinus on the sublime (page 143-150)

UNIT –II

The English Critical Tradition

- Sydney on poetry, poetic truth
- Dryden on dramatic poetry
- Dr. Johnson on the Metaphysical Poets
- Wordsworth : *Preface to the Lyrical Ballads*
- Coleridge on *Fancy and Imagination*
- Matthew Arnold : *The Study of Poetry*
- T.S. Eliot: *Tradition and Individual Talent*
- F.R. Leavis: 'Sociology and Literature', from *The Common Pursuit*.

UNIT –III

Towards New Criticism

- Structure, Organic form, poetry as verbal icon
- The intentional fallacy, the heresy of paraphrase
- Practical criticism, close verbal analysis
- Complexity, ambiguity and irony, objective correlative

Suggested Reading

1. Wimsatt W.K. and Cleanth Brooks. Literary criticism: A Short History.
2. Daiches, David Critical Approaches to Literature.
3. Plato, The Dialogues.
4. Aristotle Poetics.
5. Habib, M.A.R. A History of Literary Criticism and Theory. Malden: Blackwell, 2005.
6. Culler, Jonathan. Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction, OUP, 1997.
7. Eagleton, Terry. Literary Theory.
8. Eliot, T.S. Selected Essays, London: Faber and Faber.
9. Rice, Phillip and Patricia Waugh: Modern Literary Theory. London's Hodder Arnold, 1989.
10. Lodge, David. Modern Literary Criticism.

1.2 British Literature: From Chaucer to Arnold

The paper aims at teaching students how to study British culture through literary and other texts. While introducing students to major intellectual developments, from Renaissance through Enlightenment to Romanticism, an attempt will be made to develop in students a certain degree of academic competence related to close reading, thinking through and with texts, and scholarly writing. Students shall work on background themes on their own, and the prescribed texts will be read in class with specific questions in mind. On completion of the course, students are expected to have developed an idea of Europe, especially English life, through reading, writing and discussion exercises.

Unit I: Geoffrey Chaucer, The Renaissance, The Puritan Culture

- Selections from Chaucer's *The Prologue*- The Squire, Wife of Bath
- Elizabethan Poetry: A Short Introduction from David Daiches.
- Stephen Greenblatt's 'Introduction' in *Renaissance Self-fashioning*
- The English Theatre: University Wits and the Shakespeare Phenomenon
Shakespeare's *Hamlet*
- John Milton's *Paradise Lost* (selections from Book 1- Satan's Speeches 1&2)
- Restoration Theatre: Congreve's *The Way of the World*

Unit II: Enlightenment and the Romantics.

- Immanuel Kant's "What is Enlightenment?"
- Pope's *An Essay on Man*
- The Age of Reason and Prose: Selections from Addison and Steele - "Roger's Family Portrait" & "The Little Sermon on Economy"
- The Birth of the English Novel: Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*
- William Blake : "The Tyger" and "Milton"
- Coleridge : "The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner"
- P B Shelley : 'Defense of Poetry' and "Ode to the West Wind"
- John Keats : "Ode on a Grecian Urn" and "Ode to a Nightingale"

Unit III: The Victorians

- Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species* (Selections)- Chapter 4 - "Natural Selection...."
- Victorian Poetry: Tennyson's "Lotus Eaters", Browning's "My Last Duchess"
 - Arnold: The Poet and Critic,; Dover Beach and Selections from *Culture and Anarchy*. (Sweetness and Light, Hebraism and Hellenism)
- Victorian Novel: George Eliot's *Silas Marner*
- Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*

1.3 Modern Indian Literatures in English and in English Translation

OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce students to the major, representative writings in English and in the bhashas in English translation.
2. To help them interpret these texts in the context of Indian society in the modern period.
3. To make students understand the major concerns, themes and motifs in modern Indian literature such as traditions, modernity, gender, caste and cultural politics through the reading of representative texts.

UNIT I

Theorising Indian literature

1. Aijaz Ahmed, selections from *In Theory* - Critique on Frederic Jameson's 'Third World Literatures'
2. Ganesh Devy, *After Amnesia* (Introductory Chapter)
3. Selections from the writings of Meenakshi Mukharjee - *Twice Born Fiction* (First two Chapters)

UNIT II

Nation, Gender, Caste

1. Tagore: Rabindranath. *Gora*.
2. Raja Rao: *Kanthapura*
3. U R Ananthamurthy: *Bharathipura*
4. Rokeya Sakhawat Hussain : *Sultana's Dream*
5. Kamala Das: *My Grandmother's House*
6. Pratibha Nandakuma: *Erotica*
7. Volga: *'I am Reading and Reading'*
8. Amrita Pritam, : *A letter, A Meeting*.
9. Meena Kandaswamy: *Evil Spirits, Fire*

10. Ismat Chughtai: *The Quilt*

11. Vaidehi: *Akku*

12. LalitambikaAntanjanam: *The Revenge Goddess (from 'Women Writing in Indi', Ed. Susie Tharu and K Lalitha)*

13. Bama: *Karukku*

14. Mogalli Ganesh: *The Paddy Harvest*

UNIT III (Drama and Theatre as social critique)

1. Vijay Tendulkar : *Ghashiram Kotwal*

2. Girish Karnad: *Taledanda*

1.4 American Literatures

Objectives: to orient students to the many forms of writing that have emanated from America, and to acquaint students with the literature produced by Native-American, African-American, Jewish-American and other diasporic populations in America.

Rationale: The pluralistic quality of American Literature in the socio-cultural context of America as a melting pot is addressed by the selections. Hence, along with the mainstream tradition, literary contributions by populations who have contributed to the idea of American culture are included.

Unit – I: American Transcendentalism

Emerson: *Self Reliance*, 'Brahma'

Thoreau: "Civil Disobedience"

Whitman: "O Much of Life"

Unit – II: Mainstream American Literature

Robert Frost's "Mending Wall"

Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*

Emile Dickinson's "I Felt a Funeral in my ..."

Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*

Hawthorne's "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment"

Melville: "Bartleby, the Scrivener"

Anne Sexton's "Wanting to Die"

Unit – III: 20th C Multicultural Experiences

Langston Hughes' "Dream Deferred"

Toni Morrison's "Sula"

Maya Angelou's "Journey through Africa and America"

Maxine Hong Kingston's "The Woman Warrior"

Zitkala – SA's "Why I am a pagan"

Norman Mailer's "The Armies of the Night"

Martin Luther King's "Letter from Prison" (Letter from Birmingham Jail)

Malcolm X's "Ballot or Bullet?"

Jhumpa Lahari's "The Interpreter of Maladies"

1.5 Introduction to Language and Linguistics

Objectives

- To introduce students to a scientific study of language
- To introduce students to the main branches of modern linguistics
- To introduce students to the basics of socio-linguistics
- To provide practice to students in the analysis of language at phonetic, syntactic and semantic analysis of language.
- To introduce students to the basic theoretical concepts of linguistics.

Unit I

- What is language? Its definitions, characteristics, functions and its constituent elements.
- Language and communication. Nature of linguistic communication and its differences from other forms of communication.

Unit II

- Introduction to modern linguistics.
- Linguistics as the scientific study of language
- Other definitions
- Branches of linguistics
- Brief introduction to Ferdinand de Saussure's major concepts and to structuralist linguistics.
- Behaviorist and cognitive linguistic theories. Introduction to Noam Chomsky's Theories.

Unit III

Phonetics and Phonology

- Phonetics: Speech; Speech Mechanism; the articulatory systems.
- Classification of speech sounds.
- Segmentals and suprasegmentals
- Study of vowels and consonants Classification and description
- Stress and intonation

- Phonology: Phonetics and allophones
- Phonetic analysis
- Syllabic structure

Unit IV

Morphology and Syntax

- Morph: Morpheme and allomorph
- Morphemic analysis
- Types, definitions and Word formation
- Syntax – definition
- Introduction to Syntactic analysis and IC analysis
- Phrase structure grammar and
- Transformative generative grammar

Unit V

Semantics

- Types of meanings. Synonyms, homonyms, anonyms; the notion of

Unit VI

Sociolinguistics

Language variations – idiolect, dialect and sociolect, registers

Dialect boundaries and maps

Nature of language change

Pidgin and Creole.

Suggested Reading

1. Krishnaswamy N. and S.K.Verma Modern Linguistics: An Introduction. New Delhi: OUP, 2005.
2. Balasubramanian T. A Textbook of English Phonetics: For Indian Students Macmillan, 2000.
3. Terence Godon W. SujanWillmarth Linguistics for Beginners (Amazon.com Book)
4. Rahman Tariq. Linguistics for Beginners. OUP.
5. Yule, George. The Study of Language.

2.1 Literary Theory: Formalism to New Historicism

Unit I

1. Russian Formalism, Structuralism and Semiotics: An Introduction
2. Post-Structuralism: Derrida and Deconstruction
3. Post-modernism

Unit II

1. Neo-Marxist theories
2. Mikhail Bakhtin
3. Cultural Materialism and Cultural Studies
4. Feminist literary theories

Unit III

1. Queer Studies
2. Reader Response Theory
3. Postcolonial theories.
4. New Historicism

2.2 British Literature: Modern to Contemporary

Objectives: 1) to give a general idea to students of the modernist age in literature by introducing them to representative pieces of modernist writing from the English and Irish literary traditions 2) to give students a flavor of post-modernist writing by guiding them through models of such writing, and introducing them to the contemporary British literary scene.

Note: It is expected that instructors would take students through the socio-literary movements of Modernism and Post-modernism and help them arrive at the ‘Contemporary’.

1. Modernist Moments:

Yeats’ “The Second Coming”

T. S. Eliot’s “The love song of J. Alfred Prufrock” and
The Burial of the Dead Section in “The Wasteland”.

Virginia Woolf’s essay, “Modern Fiction”.

D.H. Lawrence’s short story, “Odour of Chrysanthemums”.

1st Chapter of James Joyce’s Ulysses.

2. The Postmodern Turn:

Jean-Francois Lyotard’s “Defining the Postmodern”.

(from The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism)

Samuel Beckett’s Waiting for Godot.

Extract from John Fowles’s The French Lieutenant’s Woman

Extract from Kingsley Amis’ Lucky Jim

3. Contemporary British Fiction:

Kazuo Ishiguro’s A Pale View of Hills

Jeanette Winterson’s Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit

1. Intermittent Spaces

Other significant voices have also emerged in-between,
leaving their mark on these movements and phases.

Sylvia Plath’s “Daddy”

Ted Hughes’ “Thought –Fox”,

Auden’s ”In Memory of W.B. Yeats”

J.M. Synge’s Riders to the Sea

Seamus Heaney’s “Digging”

are some such samples to be taught as an integral part of 20th century English thought.

2.3 Gender Studies

Objectives: to help students understand the operations of Gender and gender hierarchies in the societies they live in; to sensitise students to variant forms of gender and sexuality, and equip them to analyse representations of these in cultural forms.

Note: The paper addresses the conventional classification of gender in terms of the male-female binary. But it also interrogates this binary and posits theoretical stands that project multiple gender identities and sexualities. The figurations of these are evident in the texts selected for study here.

I. **Key Concepts:**

- a) Patriarchy
- b) Sexuality
- c) Feminisms
- d) Gender and Language
- e) Body
- f) Queer Theory
- g) Stereotype
- h) Post-feminism

II. **Theoretical Essays:**

Kate Millett's "Theory of Sexual Politics".

Judith Butler's "Preface to the 1999 Edition of Gender Trouble".

III. **Texts, Representations:**

Extracts from Suniti Namjoshi's Feminist Fables.

Baburao Bagul's "Mother".

Alice Walker's "In My Mother's Gardens".

Mahaswetha Devi's story, "Rudali".

Girish Kasaravalli's Ghattashraddha (film text).

Lingadevaru's Naanu Avanalla Avalu (film text)

Ismat Chughtai's "The Quilt".

The Shikhandin Story from The Mahabharata (from the text, Same-Sex Love in India)

Extract from A. Revathi's The Truth About Me.

2.4 European Literature in English Translation

Objectives: The title brings students to the realization that though identified with the classical canon, these texts are also translated pieces. It introduces them to a few texts that have always been identified with the European Canon. It invites students to redraw the histories that produced them and to seek the significance of reading these texts in contemporary times.

Note: The focus of the paper is mainly on 19th and 20th century European classics, though the beginnings of European literature is invoked by the inclusion of a Greek component.

I. The Greek Beginnings:

Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*

Sappho's lyrics

An extract each from *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*

II. Spotlight on the 19th and 20th Centuries

Madame Bovary (film directed by Claude Chebrol)

Ibsen's *The Doll's House*

Kafka's *The Trial*

Extract from Simone de Beauvoir's *Adieu: Letters to Sartre*

Camus' *The Myth of Sisyphus*

Nietzsche's *Thus Spake Zarathushtra* (a two-page extract from the beginning of the book)

Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*

An extract from Gunter Grass' *The Tin Drum*

2.5 Translation Studies : Theory and Practice

UNIT I:

1. Introduction to basic concepts in translation theories such as fidelity, correspondence and equivalence, literary translation and translation of non literary texts (such as knowledge texts); source language and source texts. Target language and target culture; translation as 'loss' and 'recovery'.
2. Brief Introduction to major theories of translation; linguistic and cultural approaches to translation; Translation in the colonial context: The translation of texts from various domains (such as science, advertising, etc).

UNIT II: Selected Readings on Translation .

1. Jakobson, Roman, 'On Linguistic Aspects of Translation'
2. Nida Eugene: 'Principles of Correspondence'
3. Toury Gideon: The Nature and Role of Norms in Translation.
4. Brisset, Annie: The Search for Native Language: Translation and cultural identity.
5. Niranjana, Tejaswini: Introduction to Siting Translation.

UNIT III: Translation practice

1. Strategies in translation ; lexical, syntactic and semantic issues.
2. Comparison and analysis of translated texts.
3. Translation and cultural unfamiliarity.
4. Using dictionaries and glossaries.
5. Evaluating translation.

UNIT IV: Translation exercises

- a) Translation from the domains of journalism, science and advertisements. Students will take up assignments in which they will be required to produce translations of passages taken from these domains.
- b) Short translation project: Each student will be required to select and translate a piece of continuous writing of substantial length. The translation can be from any Indian language to English (depending on the resources available at the department / centre.)

Suggested Reading:

1. Bassnett, Susan Translation Studies, 1994.

2. Cafford, C.J. A Linguistic Theory of Translation, 1965.
3. Devy, G.N. In Another Tongue, 1993.
4. Mukherjee, Sujith. Translation as Discovery, 1994.
5. Menezes, Armando. Thus Spake Basava.
6. Nida, Eugene. Toward a Science of Translating, 1964.
7. Niranjana, Tejaswini. Siting Translation: History, Post-structuralism and Colonial Context, 1994.
8. Ramanujan, A.K. Speaking of Siva, 1973.
9. Steiner, George. After Babel, 1975.
10. Trivedi, Harish. Colonial Transactions, 1993.
11. Venuti, Lawrence. Rethinking Translation, 1991.