

Department of English
Savitribai Phule Pune
University Pune – 411 007

M.A. Syllabus valid till the Academic Year 2023

Semester-I

Core courses

EN 101 Literary Theory and Criticism I: Plato to Dryden

The course will introduce basic issues in western literary theory and criticism and will be a foundational course. The issues discussed will be: The Origins of Art/ Ritual and Art Mimesis/ Imitation/ Representation (Plato and Aristotle) Rhetoric and Art Religion and Art (Medieval Rhetoric) Renaissance in the Arts and the Recovery of Classical Values Dryden and Pope The course will expect a wide range of reading and will fundamentally depend on discussion rather than lectures. Students are expected to make presentations during the course apart from the regular internal tests and the semester-end examination. Some of the fundamental texts, e.g. Plato's and Aristotle's, will be discussed in detail.

EN 102: Basic Issues in Linguistics

The aim of this course is to acquaint the learners with basic concepts in linguistics. Linguistics is considered as a science and different systems constituting language are discussed. Students are acquainted with different branches of linguistics. Various applications of linguistics are highlighted. The course familiarizes students with the transformational-generative approach. The course enables students to tackle phenomena like ambiguity, obscurity and creativity of language.

Optional courses:

EN 103 A: Survey of English Literature 1550-1700

This course is meant to familiarize students with the history of English literature from 1550-1700. Select literary texts will be discussed in highlighting important episodes in literary history. Some topics that will be discussed are: Renaissance, Humanism, the Humanities/University, Petrarchan sonnet, Metaphysical poetry, Elizabethan/Jacobean drama, Tragedy, Epic, Milton's Satan, Reformation, Puritan Interregnum.

EN 103 B: Contemporary Shakespeare Studies

The course will introduce students to basic features of Shakespeare Studies, both interpretive and textual. Attention will also be drawn to the historical changes in Shakespeare Studies. The main focus will be on developments up to the 21st century Shakespeare studies. The course will also focus on background and Shakespeare criticism in its textual and interpretive aspects. Various transformations and translations across various media will be discussed as well.

EN 103 C: Introduction to American Literature

The course will study American writing/s from its beginning till the 19th century. It will also study literature produced by American writers in the 20th century in various genres. Sample texts of autobiographies, biographies, fiction, drama, poetry and other narratives will be prescribed for an in-depth discussion.

EN104 A: Introduction to Comparative Literature

The course is meant to introduce comparative approaches to literary studies. Along with a discussion of theories and methods, the course will also consider concrete examples of literary forms and texts in the European and Indian traditions. Thus there will be a comparative analysis of the novel as a form. Students are expected to make comparative analyses of some texts.

EN104 B: Modern European Literature in English Translation

The course will focus on significant developments in modern European literature, taking into account the cultural background to individual literary works. Literary works from the German, French, Italian and Spanish cultures will be discussed. The course is meant to familiarize students with trends, rather than texts from European literature.

EN104C: The Grammars of English

The aim of this course is to enable students to evaluate critically different grammars of English and to decide which grammars are more acceptable. The course discusses issues like what grammar is and how grammars are written. The course deals with various units of grammar— morpheme, word, phrase, clause and sentence and discourse—using an eclectic approach. It also covers concepts like grammaticality, acceptability, appropriateness and ambiguity. There is an emphasis on practical work involving independent grammatical analysis.

Semester II

Core courses

EN 201: Literary Criticism and Theory II: Wordsworth to Eliot

The course will focus on developments from the Romantics onward, up to mid- 20th century. The following will be emphasized: Wordsworth, *Preface to Lyrical Ballads*; Coleridge, selections from *Biographia Literaria*; Shelley, *A Defense of Poetry*; Arnold, selections from *Culture and Anarchy*; T.S. Eliot, *Hamlet and His Problems*.

EN202: Introduction to Schools of Linguistics

The course focuses on the readings and classroom discussion of the sample texts on the study of language. Essays and excerpts by the European and American linguists—Saussure, Roman Jakobson, Chomsky and few more will be discussed in detail. The course will enable students understand the uses of the linguistic model to the twentieth century literary and cultural theories— formalism, structuralism, etc.

Optional Courses:

EN 203 A: Survey of English Literature 1700-1900

This course is meant to familiarize students with the history of English literature from 1700 - 1900. Select literary texts will be discussed in highlighting important episodes in literary history. Background topics: Graveyard poetry, Satire, Irony, the public sphere (Habermas), Journal publication, Romantic poetry/poet, Byronic hero, Anxiety of Influence (Bloom), Victorian novel, Postcolonial readings of colonialist perspectives/writing.

EN 203B: Introduction to Literary Forms

The course is meant to introduce students to genre theory and various genres. Tragedy and Comedy, Novel/short story and many other forms will be discussed, with specific examples. Notions of closed and open forms will be discussed. Some genre theorists and practitioners to be discussed are: Paul Hernadi, Mikhail Bakhtin, Alastair Fowler, Rosalie Colie, Northrop Frye, Gayatri Spivak among others. There will be a discussion of the form of tragedy (Sophocles, *Antigone*); the form of comedy (Aristophanes, *Frogs*); the novel (Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as Young Man*); the short story through select examples.

EN 203 C: Writing for the Media

The course acquaints students with the basics in writing for newspapers, television and radio. It focuses on the two major areas of reporting, and sub-editing. It also concentrates on different kinds of writing, such as news-writing, feature-writing, and in-depth investigative reportage. The

course will also discuss the differences between print and electronic media. The course will involve practical work, to enable students to write in a variety of ways.

EN 204 A: Teaching of English Language in India

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the basic concepts in language teaching. This course views language as a skill subject and it will train prospective teachers in imparting the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing; along with the reference skills to undergraduate students. Innovations in syllabus design, teaching methodology and evaluation will be studied.

An important component of the course will be demonstration lessons by the teachers and practicum teaching sessions by students.

EN 204 B: Creative Writing

This is a creative writing course in which students will be taught to write fiction and poetry. While the principles of what makes a good poem, such as metaphor, imagery, symbolism, prosody, rhyme, meter etc., as well as styles such as free verse and formal verse will be studied, the emphasis will be on the actual writing of poetry. Students will be encouraged to keep a journal that will provide the raw material for their poems. The course will function on the assumption that while poets are born, not made; talent, where it exists, can and must be developed and cultivated. For the fiction component, aspects of good fiction, such as characterization, narrative, point of view and the need to tell a story will be studied, the emphasis will be on the actual writing of short fiction. Students will be encouraged to keep a journal that will provide the raw material for their stories. The course will function on the assumption that while poets are born, not made; talent, where it exists, can and must be developed and cultivated.

EN 204 C: Modern European Literature in English Translation

The course will focus on significant developments in modern European literature, taking into account the cultural background to individual literary works. Literary works from the German, French, Italian and Spanish cultures will be discussed. The course is meant to familiarize students with trends, rather than texts from European literature.

Semester III

Core Courses

EN 301: Trends in 20th Century Literary Theory I

The course is meant to introduce 20th century literary theory and criticism. It aims at familiarizing students with American New Criticism, Russian Formalism, and structuralism, Reader response theory among others. Sample texts will be prescribed for an in-depth discussion.

Optional courses

EN 302 A: Indian Writing in English and in English Translation

The Course analyses themes, styles and trends in post-independence Indian poetry, fiction and drama in English and in English translation. Beginning with independence, it covers work produced in the five decades of the 20th century, and the first decade of the 21st century, classifying the literature in terms of movements like modernism and post-modernism. Pre-independence Indian writing, as well as Indian literature in the regional languages will form the backdrop against which the representative texts will be discussed. Postcolonial theory will be introduced and applied to the texts in order to augment their understanding.

EN 302 B: Film Studies

The course will introduce basic concepts in films studies, and will subsequently focus on the more theoretical aspects of films studies. The basic approaches that will be discussed are psychoanalytical and sociological, there will also be some discussion of 'ideology and popular cinema' from a general Marxist point of view. Basics of cinematography will also be discussed. Students are encouraged to make short films as a part of the course.

EN 302 C: Feminism and Literature I

The course aims at a historical-feminist approach to the study of literature and will focus on pre-modern and early modern literature. The course does not necessarily deal with literature written by women, though their writing will be considered. Elementary concepts in feminism and gender studies will be introduced. The course distinguishes between women's writing, women's liberation and feminist writing and feminism. The socio-economic aspects of gender will be introduced. The focus will be on western theories on feminism and gender criticism. The course will adopt an interdisciplinary method and include film texts as a part of the discussion.

EN 303 A: History of the Book

Most of us use books, but very few people think about what a book is and how it got that way. The discipline that looks at books as made objects, is called history of the book. It investigates and discusses the human agency behind the making and selling of literary texts. It includes

everything from the study of manufacturing processes, through editing conventions and practices, right up to selling, reviewing and reception and what happens to books in the hands of readers. Conventional literary criticism has tended till recently to treat everything on the printed page as the unproblematic speech of the authorial voice, ignoring the roles of publishers, editors and readers in the formation of a text. The present course provides an overview of the history of the printed book since the coming of movable type. The main emphasis is on the European, specifically English book, with as much treatment as possible of 'diasporic' printing traditions mediated through colonial cultural encounters. The course would attempt to put equal emphasis on the actual technologies used over time, the organization of trade in various places and periods, and the wider social and political context in which books are made, sold and read.

EN 303 B: Indian English

This course will make students aware of the phenomenon of World Englishes and the concept of International English. It will view Indian English as a part of World Englishes. It will encourage students to discover aspects of various sub-systems of Indian English. They will be encouraged to pay attention to the relationship between Indian English, as a variety of English and Indian Writing of English.

EN 303 C: Alternative Literatures I: Dalit Literature

Indian Dalits are one of the exploited, subjugated and suppressed social groups. Their writing reflects their plight in the Indian social system. Hence, for study in this course, samples of texts in English from various genres will be selected. Dalit Writing from various states in India will also be incorporated.

EN 304 A: Postcolonial Studies

This is a theory based course that introduces students to issues in postcolonial literature and culture. The work of eminent postcolonial scholars like Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, Helen Tiffin, Gayatri Spivak, Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, Aijaz Ahmad and Meenakshi Mukherjee will be discussed in detail, and students will be taught to apply their philosophical reflections to actual texts that they read in class. In the bargain they will also understand the difference between Literary Theory and Literary Criticism.

EN 304 B: Translation Studies

The course is meant to familiarize students with issues in translation theory and practice. The course will take samples from 19th and 20th century translations from various languages. The course will focus on the social and political implications of translations, and will take into account non-literary translations. The implications of western theories of translation for colonial and post-colonial societies will be discussed.

EN 304 C: Introduction to Narratology

The course will focus on the theoretical approaches to the notion of narrative. It will also focus on the uses of the notion in written and other media as well. That will enable students to analyze narratives rendered in different media. It will mainly focus on 20th century narrative theory, beginning from Henry James up to Genette.

Semester IV

Core Courses

EN 401: Trends in 20th Century Literary Theory II

The course continues from the earlier semester, and introduces students to more contemporary trends in literary theory, such as post-structuralism and also introduces some inter-disciplinary thinkers like Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida and Jacques Lacan, Bakhtin.

Optional Courses

EN 402 A: Linguistics and Stylistics

The course explores specific features of the three major genres—poetry, drama and fiction—in relation to recent developments in stylistics. The stylistics of poetry concentrates on various formal features of poetry, including metre and prosody, figures of speech and ambiguity and obscurity. The stylistics of drama focuses on the dialogic mode, the use of deixis, the speech act theory, the co-operation principles and the politeness principles, and the differences between dramatic dialogue and everyday conversation. The stylistics of fiction pays particular attention to point of view, narrative strategies and narrative reports of speech acts.

EN 402 B: Alternative Literatures II: LGBT Studies

While writers of gay and lesbian sexual orientation from Britain, America and Europe are studied as part of the canon; the way their vision is influenced by their different sexual orientation is rarely addressed. With such issues coming to the forefront of political debate all over the world, it is time to examine how these writers, even when they belong to the mainstream, actually de-center and disrupt, irrespective of whether their work is overtly, or only covertly gay. The publication of two anthologies by Penguin India in the late 90s indicates that there is a body of gay and lesbian writing from within India as well. This writing will be studied both as literature, and as socially resistant. Exploring the issue of the personal as political, connections will be sought to be made with other kinds of resistant writing, such as women's literature and Dalit literature.

EN 402 C: Culture Studies

The course is meant to introduce students to Culture Studies as a relatively new and broader approach to literature and culture in general. Apart from a historical introduction, some basic trends in Culture Studies will be discussed. Individual texts will be decided by the course instructor.

EN 403 A: Marxism and Literature

The course will familiarize students with basic tenets of Marxism, and Marxist criticism and cultural theory. Prominent theorists, critics and interpreters from the 20th century, like Louis Althusser, Terry Eagleton, Georg Lukacs, Raymond Williams, Fredric Jameson, John Frow, Stuart Hall will be studied. This course will also study the general tenets of Marxist criticism, and will make an attempt to see how Marxist criticism has understood literary texts of all genres.

EN 403 B: Introduction to Digital Humanities

This course will help students develop a critical sense of the problems of the humanities in the age of digital technology. With the proliferation of digital technology and its use in every field of cultural activity, there is an increasing need to enhance the key skills in digital content management for the creation, preservation, delivery and study of cultural material. This course intends to focus on how digital technology can be used to enhance the study of the imaginative variety of cultural expression. Using theoretical methods and techniques alongside hands on practice, the present course is an important addition to the ever growing field of interdisciplinary research in the humanities.

EN 403 C: Feminism and Literature II

The course will focus on contemporary issues in feminism, and their impact on literature and literary interpretation and theory. Representative texts will be discussed in detail, and various theoretical and analytical tools will be described. The course will introduce basic concepts like sex and gender, gender performance, and their relationship with literature. Building on Feminism and Literature I, the focus for this course will be on South-Asian feminism/s at large and the Indian feminism/s in particular.

EN 404 A: Introduction to Western Aesthetics

The course is meant to introduce students to basic concepts in post-Renaissance Aesthetics. The course will mainly discuss European texts, beginning with selections from Immanuel Kant, and through a historical account of various developments, will stop with Walter Benjamin.

EN 404 B: Semantics and Pragmatics

The course tries to deal with linguistic and non-linguistic meaning. It will discuss the various meanings of the term 'meaning', and the concept of semantic entailments. It explores various

meaning relationship. The course analyzes the relationship between semantics and pragmatics and some of the latest developments in pragmatics.

EN 404C: Technical Writing

The course will concentrate on comprehension and description of writing from a variety of sources: scientific, business, IT etc. This is meant to enable students to work with texts in English, which deal with technical aspects. The skill this course seeks to impart is comprehension of non-everyday, and non-literary language use. The course aims at introducing writing skills to enable students to prepare for careers other than teaching English. The course trains students in software—Adobe RoboHelp, Adobe FrameMaker, Microsoft Word.
