

INTRODUCING LITERATURE

COURSE CODE	ENG1B01
TITLE OF THE COURSE	INTRODUCING LITERATURE
SEMESTER IN WHICH THE COURSE IS TO BE TAUGHT	1
NO. OF CREDITS	5
NO. OF CONTACT HOURS	108 hrs (6 hrs per week)

AIM OF THE COURSE: To introduce students to literary texts and their unique conventions and contours – the linguistic, the social, the cultural and the political. The course is more of a search for the ‘why’ and ‘how’ rather than the ‘what’ of literature. Creative texts are analysed organically in participatory classrooms with teachers and students dialoguing with the texts.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

- a. To introduce students to the language of literature, i.e., the meaning-making devices, verb phrases, collocations, linkers, sense groups and their functions in the literary text.
- b. To train the students to identify the linguistic structures of poetic texts: symbols, metaphors, and other tropes and equip them in poetic conventions.
- c. To recognize diverse points of view within a single text and to understand the rationale of polyphony.
- d. To prepare students in reading literary/cultural texts closely, beyond the literal.
- e. To enable students to recognize the dominant voice/s within the text and its agendas.
- f. To encourage questioning the text in order to perceive marginalized voices - the voices of the child, Dalit, transgender and female.
- g. To comprehend how the subaltern perspectives question and counter the privileged voices in the mainstream texts.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A. COURSE SUMMARY

Module 1: 18 hrs

Module 2: 18 hrs

Module 3: 30 hrs

Module4: 30 hrs

Evaluation: 12 hrs

Total: 108 hours

B. COURSE DETAILS:

Module 1: Language and its Literary Nuances

Signifying Devices

The Syntax: Verb Phrases, Adjuncts, Collocations, Linkers, Sense Groups

The Poetic: Comparisons, Exaggerations, Images, Symbols, Iamb, Trochee, Caesura, Enjambment.

Texts:

1. Ruskin Bond "Eyes of the Cat"
2. Anton Chekhov "The Death of a Clerk"
3. Alfred Lord Tennyson "The Oak"
4. Langston Hughes "Dreams"
5. Emily Dickinson "Because I could not Stop for Death"

Module 2: Polyphonic Texts

Point of view (diegesis), polyphony and its rationale, single perspective and its dangers

Texts:

1. Freya Stark Winter in Arabia (excerpts)
2. Laura Bohannon "Shakespeare in the Bush"
3. Akira Kurosawa dir. Rashomon

Module 3: Literature and Ideology

The workings of power structures in literature; explication of the terms -ideology, hegemony, interpellation, discourse, grand narratives, little narratives – using literary texts; literary devices like irony and paradox and their role in reinforcing ideology.

Texts:

1. Arundhati Roy "The God of Small Things"
2. Charlotte Bronte "Jane Eyre"
3. George Orwell "A Hanging"
4. Hansda Sowvendra Shekhars "The Adivasi will not Dance"

Module 4: Perspective of the Subaltern

Dominant voices, marginalized voices, subaltern identities, resisting the norm/authority

Texts:

1. RK Narayan Swami and Friends (Excerpt from Chapter XI “In Father’s Presence”)
2. Arun Kamble “Which language should I Speak?” and FM Shinde “Habit”
3. The Letter Q: Ely Shipley <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/text/letter-q-ely-shipley>
4. Maxine Hong Kingston “No Name Woman”

READING LIST:

CORE TEXT: A text containing the above lessons will be made available

FURTHER READING:

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. Penguin, 1994.

Angelou, Maya. *I know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Bantam, 1971.

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. Penguin, 2003.

Bond, Ruskin. “The Night the Roof Blew Off” *Tigers Forever: Poems and Stories*. RatnaSagar, Delhi, 1996.

Chekhov, Anton. *Selected Stories of Anton Chekhov*. Trans. Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky. RHUS, 2000.

Childs, Peter and Roger Fowler. *The Routledge Dictionary of Literary Terms*. Routledge, 2006.

Dasan, M, et al ed. *Oxford India Anthology of Malayalam Dalit Writing*. OUP India, 2012.

Eagleton, Terry. *How to Read a Poem*. Blackwell, 2007.

Fry, Stephen. *The Ode Less Travelled: Unlocking the Poet Within*. Arrow, 2007.

Garner, James Finn. *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories*. Wheeler, 1995.

Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*. Penguin, 1954.

Hemingway, Ernest. “Hills like White Elephants” *Men without Women*. Amereon, 1940.

McCarthy, Michael and Felicity O'Dell. *English Collocations in Use Advanced Book with Answers: How*

Words Work Together for Fluent and Natural English (Vocabulary in Use). Cambridge UP, 2017.

McCarthy, Michael and Felicity O'Dell. *English Phrasal Verbs in Use Advanced*. Cambridge UP, 2007.

Noys, Benjamin. *Introducing Theory: A Practical Guide*. Continuum, 2007.

Orwell, George. 1984. General Press, 2017.

Popkin, Cathy, ed. Anton Chekhov's Selected Stories (Norton Critical Edition). WW Norton & Co Inc, 2014.

Roy, Arundhati. The God of Small Things. Penguin, 2017.

Seidman, Steven, Nancy Fischer and Chet Meeks. Introducing the New Sexuality Studies. Routledge, 2011.

Shakespeare, William. Hamlet. Barron's Educational Series, 1986.

Shamsie, Kamila. Home Fire. Bloomsbury, 2017.

Shekhar, Hansda Sowvendra. The Adivasi will not Dance: Stories. Speaking Tiger Publishing Private Limited, 2017.

Swan, Michael. Practical English Usage. Oxford, 2017.

Wilde, Oscar. "The Happy Prince" The Young King and Other Stories. Penguin, 2000.

Wilkie-Stibbs, Christine. The Outside Child: In and out of the Book. Routledge, 2008.

Woolf, Virginia. "Jane Eyre and Wuthering Heights". The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women: The

Tradition in English, edited by Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, W.W. Norton & Company, 1985, pp. 1345-49.

Web Resources:

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. "The Danger of a Single Story." TED: Ideas Worth Spreading, 7 Oct. 2009.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9Ihs241zeg.

Ananthamurthy, UR. "Dalit Contribution to Indian Literature." YouTube, 9 Dec. 2010,

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SajALSSbNKw.

"Collocations in English: Vocabulary Lesson." YouTube, 10 Nov. 2014.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssTWkruGar8.

"100 Common Phrasal Verbs." YouTube, 19 July 2016,

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIUwXYEtL_o

"English Grammar: Connectors and Linkers." YouTube, 14 Apr. 2016,

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkccaI0A7N8.

"Phrasal Verbs in Daily English Conversations." YouTube, 25 Sept. 2013,

www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHwxdT302I.

“Rashomon.” YouTube, 12 Oct. 2017, www.youtube.com/watch?v=18MNCJ8YWg4.

“Transitive and Intransitive Verbs:English Grammar.” YouTube, 26 Nov. 2015,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpL2o3jjfoA.

“Useful Everyday Life Collocations in English Lessons.” YouTube, 22 Mar. 2017,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmRaYoqWGms.