Department of English 2011

2. M.Phil. ENGLISH
COURSE and SYLLABUS

Eligibility: A Postgraduate degree in English Literature from any University with a minimum of 50% marks in the qualifying examination.
Duration of Course: 1 Year (Two Semesters)
Credit Requirements: In order to qualify for the M.Phil Degree in English, a student will have to earn a minimum of 36 credits.
[4 Regular Courses of 3 credits each would fetch 12 credits. Special focus, area Studies (4credits), Dissertation (16credits) and Viva-Voce (4 credits) will together come to 36 credits]

[For further details see the Choice Based Credit System—Regulations of the Pondicherry University or consult the Head of the Department]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
SYLLABUS
(M.Phil Course)

ENGL 651 CONTEMPORARY POETRY
Credits 3
Course Coordinator: Murali Sivaramakrishnan, Professor and Head

Course Description: An overview of Poetry available in English. Representative voices from Britain, United States, Australia, Africa, India and major European languages. Includes also writings in translation and the voices of the diaspora.

Objectives: The major objective of this course is to familiarize the students with the significant voices and poetic movements in world poetry of recent times. My choice of poems/poets have been for the most decided by:
1. availability in the English language
2. abiding significance and relevance to the present
3. being read widely

The map of Contemporary poetry is complicated and quite difficult to define. The course intends to focus on poetry from the modernist to the postmodernist phase.

The students who appear for M Phil are expected to have read poetry up to TS Eliot and thus the emphasis would be on the post-Eliotian scene in Anglo American Poetry. I have made it a point to include as many representative poets from various languages, continents and cultures. This is because it is self evident to me that “in trying to understand what poetry does, can and cannot do, one must draw one’s exemplars from as wide a range of it as possible.” (Michael Hamburger, 1982)

The course programme will include Seminars, class-room discussions, expert lectures and if time permits, workshops over and above routine lecture classes.

Detailed Syllabus: Note: Instead of the usual practice of studying only isolated poetry samples, I intend to involve the students in getting exposed to a variety of poets drawn from various languages and cultures.

Post Eliotian voices—the Auden generation and the contributuiion of the Movement and New Lines poets. W H Auden—two poems, Ted Hughes and Seamus Heaney two poems each; Philip Larkin a couple of representative pieces. The American Modernists— Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams and Wallace Stevens—the interrelationship of poetry and the other arts, especially painting. Roethke, Lowell and Sylvia Plath—a poem each. Imagism, Vorticism, Expresionism and Surrealism.

Poetry in our own times still exhibits many of the concerns, themes and inquiries of the modernists. Hence the following aspects of the recent poetic concerns will be reexamined critically in the class:

Themes for Discussion

Texts for Class work:
WH Auden Mussee des beaux arts; In Memory of WB Yeats
Ted Hughes The Thoughtfox; Hawk Roosting; Thrushes; Pike
Sylvia Plath: Mirror, Lady Lazarus
Philip Larkin: Toads; Next Please
Seamus Heaney: Digging
Archibald MacLeish: Ars Poetica
William Carlos Williams: The Red Wheelbarrow
Wallace Stevens: Anecdote of the Jar
Karl Shapiro: Tennyson
Les Murray: The Widower in the Country
Kamala Das: My Grandmother’s House; Introduction
Sri Aurobindo: Revelation; Transformation; A Dream of Surreal Science
Nissim Ezekiel: The Night of the Scorpion
Pablo Neruda: From the Heights of Macchu Pichu
Jayanta Mahapatra: The whorehouse in a Calcutta Street
Miroslav Holub: Poem Technology
Janos Pilinszky: Fable
Sharon Olds: The Moment the Two Worlds Meet
Michael Ondaatje: The Cinnamon Peeler
Sudesh Misra: The Loving Song of R J Tangaya

Other Recommended Reading and References:
The Penguin Book of Contemporary British Poetry edited by Blake Morrison and Andrew Motion (Penguin 1982)
Parthasarathy, R. Ten Twentieth Century Indian Poets (1976)
Ramamurti, K S. Ed Twenty Five Indian Poets in English, Macmillan, 1995.
ENGL652: POSTMODERN FICTION
Credits: 3
Course Teacher: Dr. Clement Lourdes

Aims and Objectives:
* To develop knowledge and understanding of some of the key concepts and theories of postmodernism.
* To introduce students to a range of postmodern literary forms
* To interrogate the relationship between fictional and theoretical texts
* To refine students skills in the close reading and analysis of critical and literary texts.
Syllabus
The module examines the concept of postmodernity as a socio-economic, political and cultural condition and postmodernism as an aesthetic, intellectual and theoretical project. Students will be made aware of the relationship between modernism and postmodernism and will encounter critical perspectives which both oppose and celebrate its form. Students will be introduced to key concepts and theories of postmodernism and their theories will be closely related to fictional texts in order to examine the interdependent nature of literature and theory in postmodern culture. Students will be introduced to central textual devices of postmodernism such as self-reflexivity, irony, parody and pastiche, intertextuality and hybridization of fictional forms. The course focuses primarily on novels written by European, British, American, Latin American and Indian writers. The novels on this course are often technically difficult and challenging and students will be expected to engage with a range of complex texts. Consequently the course is designed to enable students to develop their own critical skills in application of key concepts and theories to fictional forms.

Learning Outcomes
To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of postmodern fictional texts within the critical and historical context of postmodernism and post modernity. To engage with and apply concepts and theories of postmodernism to a number of postmodernist fictional texts. To use with understanding an appropriate scholarly discourse. To demonstrate their ability to analyze meanings and formal qualities of individual texts and group of texts.

Required Texts:
1. Umberto Eco, Foucault's Pendulum
2. Thomas Pynchon, The Gravity's Rainbow
3. Borges, The Book of Sand
4. Marquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude
5. Ken Kesey, One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest
6. Italo Calvino, Cosmi cosmics
7. Salman Rushdie, The Moor's Last Sigh

References:
Barker Francis, Peter Hume, and Margaret Iveson, eds. Postmodernism and the Rereading of Modernity. Manchester: Manchester UP, 1992
ENGL 653 LITERARY THEORY AND CRITICISM

Credits-3

Course Teacher: Dr. N Natarajan

0.1 The course will acquaint the MPhil scholars with the developments in literary theory and criticism from the classical through the modern to the postmodern times. The complex issues concerning the nature, form and function of literature in various schools of thought and their place in practical criticism will be dealt with in detail with a view to equipping the scholars for advanced literary research. All the sections will promote interaction among/between scholars and the teacher with assignments, seminars, discussions and lectures.

1.0 Introductory remarks:

Various Critical Approaches to Literature

2.0 Classical and Modern Formalism:
Aristotle Poetics
Shklovsky Art as Technique
Cleanth Brooks The Language of Paradox
Elder Olson Sailing to Byzantium: Prolegomena to a Poetics of the Lyric

3.0 Psychoanalytical and Myth/Archetypal Approaches:
Ernest Jones Hamlet: the Psychoanalytical Solution
Neil Hertz--Dora's Secrets, Freud's Techniques
Jung Archetypes of the Collective Unconscious
Gilbert Murray Orestes and Hamlet

4.0 Sociological, Marxist and New Historicist Approaches:
Joseph Wood Krutch The Tragic Fallacy
Christopher Caudwell English Poets at the time of the Industrial Revolution
Raymond Williams Alignment and Commitment
Stephen Greenblatt Resonance and Wonder

5.0 Feminist and Gender Studies:
Elaine Showalter Towards a Feminist Poetics
Simon de Beauvoir Breton or Poetry
John Goode Sue Bridehead and the New Woman

6.0 Structuralist Analysis:
Jonathan Culler-- Structuralism and Literature
Levi Strauss Incest and Myth
Todorov The Structural Analysis of Literature: The Tales of Henry James

7.0 Deconstructive Analysis:
Derrida Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences
Paul de Man Semiology and Rhetoric

8.0 Affective and Reader Response Theories:
Georges Poulet Phenomenology of Reading
Stanley Fish Is there a text in this Class?
Iser The Role of the Reader in Fielding's Joseph Andrews and Tom Jones
9.0 Concluding Remarks: (For Reference only)
Gerald Graff The Future of Theory in the Teaching of Literature
Christopher Butler The Future of Theory: Saving the Reader
Susan Sontag Against Interpretation

10.0 Scheme of Evaluation: In addition to attendance requirements, the following scheme will be followed:
1. Internal Assessment : 40 Marks [ Seminar -10 Assignments -10 Test-20 ]
2. End Semester Exam : 60 Marks

11.0 References:
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Eco, Umberto 1990: Limits of Interpretation. Indiana Univ. Press.
Lodge, David ed., 1981: Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader. Longman.
Millet, Kate 1970: Sexual Politics. Doubleday.
White, Hayden : The Content of the Form: Narrative Discourse and Historical Representation. The Johns Hopkins Univ.
ENGL 654: POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES
Credits: 3

Course Teacher: Dr. Sujatha Vijayaraghavan.

This course introduces the student to the ideological, theoretical and literary issues in Postcolonial studies. The following comprise the components of the course:

1. The important theories and concepts in the field of Postcolonial studies with reference not only to post-colonial writings in literature but also from related areas of Education, Subaltern Studies, Third World Feminism, Dalit Ideology, Political history and anticolonial discourse so as to justify the title of the course that it is not confined merely to Postcolonial literature and criticism but that it encompasses by means of selective examples the wide range of Postcolonial studies;

2. Some relevant textual examples of literary texts wherever appropriate are cited for discussion in class;

3. The study of sixteen essays in detail to locate the actual critical locus. These essays have been grouped under five sections to make the task convenient for the learner. Apart from the essays four literary texts have been selected for illustrative reference in class. Besides this, the student has to select one text in the field, approved by the teacher, not prescribed, of his or her own choice and present a seminar on it in class. The completion of every section will be followed by a summing up by students.

I General introduction:
2. Stephen Selmon, Postcolonial Critical Theories

II Colonial Discourses, Counter-discourses & Critique:
1. Edward Said, Orientalism (extract)
2. Chinua Achebe, An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad’s Heart of Darkness
3. Homi Bhabha, Mimicry and Ambivalence

(Summing up and critique by students) First Internal assessment test - 1 hr for 10 marks

III Language & Education:
1. Ngugi wa Thiongo, The Language of African Literature
2. E.K. Brathwaite, Nation Language
3. Philip Altbach, Education and Neocolonialism

Illustrative reference: Macaulay’s Minute & Gabriel Okara’s Voice
(Summing up and critique by students)

IV Postcolonial Discourse and Feminism:
1. Gayatri Spivak, Three Women’s Text & A Critique of Imperialism
2. Chandra Mohanty, Under Western Eyes

Illustrative reference: Jean Rhys Wide Sargasso Sea, Mahasweta Devi’s Breast Stories
(Summing up and critique by students) Second Int. test - 1 hr for 10 marks

V Nation-idea, Subaltern Studies & Dalit writings:
1. Frantz Fanon, On National Cultures
2. Partha Chatterjee, Nationalism as a Problem
3. A. Limbale, Dalit Aesthetics (extract)
VI Diaspora Writing:
1. Salman Rushdie, Imaginary Homelands
2. Helen Tiffin, The Body in the Library
(Summing up and critique by students) Third Int. test -1hr for 10 marks
Mode of Evaluation = Internal assessment 40% + End-Semster Examination 60%
Total = 100
Texts for study:
Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin, eds.
(Available in Central Library)
References:
(All these books are available in the Central library, Pondicherry University)

For Further Details contact
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Professor and Head
Department of English
Pondicherry University
Pondicherry 605014
English Courses 2011-2012. General descriptions of these courses are always available on the UTM Calendar webpage at https://registrar.utm.utoronto.ca/regcal/. * The Course Schedules below are subject to change, pending enrolment pattern changes. Â

The attached Proposal form must be submitted to the departmentâ€™s Undergraduate Advisor (Room 289) by May 15th.

Prerequisite: 3.0 credits in English. ENG391YSY Individual Studies (Creative) A project in creative writing chosen by the student and supervised by a member of the staff. The form of the project and the manner of its execution will be determined in consultation with the supervisor. The attached Proposal form must be submitted to the departmentâ€™s Undergraduate Advisor (Room 289) by May 15th.