

MA in English Literature

Course Descriptions

ENG 531	Research Methods in Literary Studies	3 (3 + 0)
<p>The course runs in two parallel lines. One line introduces students to the value of research and teaches them how to perform it. The other familiarizes them with the MLA Handbook as a useful research manual. The two parallel lines are meant to converge in a research paper formatted and documented according to the MLA style.</p>		
ENG 539	Theories of Literary Criticism	3 (3 + 0)
<p>The course introduces students to theories of literary criticism beginning with the 1930's until the contemporary times. Making Formalism and New Criticism its starting point, it throws a retrospective light on the traditional approaches of the past to literature. It then moves onward through Structuralism, Marxist, Psychological, Mythological and Archetypal criticism to reach out to Post-structuralism, New Historicism, Feminism, Cultural Studies, and finally post-colonialism.</p>		
ENG 549	Medieval and Renaissance Literature	3 (3 + 0)
<p>This course invites students to explore the highly rich and exquisite periods in the history and development of English literature: the medieval and the Renaissance. It examines the impact of Medieval literature on the formation of Renaissance culture that produced prominent authors and thinkers. It does so through the study of major works of poetry, prose, and drama from both ages and by prominent authors and will pay special attention to their social, religious, and political contexts through the selected works.</p>		
ENG 560	American Literature to 1865	3 (3 + 0)
<p>The course deals with literature written in the United States from its earliest colonial days to its Civil War and explores the philosophical and religious orientations that shaped the American culture and the shift from 'public self' to "individualism" in the 20's of the 19th century. It also theorizes about the rise of nationalism and its effect on the US contemporary political hegemony. Old and new literary forms and types also come into focus in the course</p>		
ENG 562	American Literature after 1865	3 (3 + 0)
<p>This course examines the origin and development of American literary tradition from the end of the Civil War to the present. A range of literary texts of different genres will be studied to familiarize students with major trends and movements (Realism, Naturalism, Modernism, post- Modernism) and representative writers. The cultural, historical, social, religious, and political forces that have shaped the literature of this period will also be explored.</p>		
ENG 569	Studies in World Literature	3 (3 + 0)
<p>The course introduces students to a wide variety of representative works of world literature (Western and non-Western) and focuses on understanding the integration of literature and culture. It stresses the cross-cultural contacts and exchanges of literary movements, theories, themes, styles, and genres and the significance of critical thinking and writing, all in a selection of culturally diverse literary works.</p>		

ENG 581	Comparative Literature	3 (3 + 0)
<p>This course introduces students to the theories and practices of comparative literature. Students will be reading different theoretical and literary texts from various literatures including texts written by Arab writers. Eventually, students should be able to produce a comparative research that allows them to bridge the gap between Arabic and Western cultures.</p>		
ENG 592	18th Century and Romantic Literature	3 (3 + 0)
<p>The course engages poetry and prose writings from the eighteenth century and the Romantic age. The selected works will be read considering the two periods' historical, social, political, and philosophical backgrounds. The works' main themes and techniques will be discussed to highlight the two traditions and allow their rich variety to unfold. The shift from the eighteenth century to the Romantic age will also be discussed and emphasized.</p>		
ENG 593	Victorian and Modern Literature	3 (3 + 0)
<p>The survey of Victorian literature will take into consideration the social, economic, religious, and intellectual issues affecting the literary output of the age. It will explore the poetic forms engaged like the “Dramatic Monologue”. The literary shift to Pre-Raphaelitism towards the end of era will be indicated. The course will also acquaint students, in its second half, with the modern period and its experimentations in subject matter, form and style. The philosophical thought of post-WW1 and its anti-traditionalism will be explored. New themes and artistic strategies of the late 20th century poetry will also be emphasized.</p>		
ENG 599	Research Project	3 (3 + 0)
<p>The course instructs and trains students on how to draw on their knowledge of literature and critical theories to produce a quality research paper of publishable level. The strategy is to engage students in discussions of their areas of interest to help them select and define their topics; advise them on the most suitable critical methodology; direct them in writing, citing resources, and documenting their research projects.</p>		

Elective Courses

ENG 507	Composition and Rhetoric	3 (3 + 0)
<p>This course investigates a range of theoretical issues and concepts related to composition and rhetoric in the Western tradition. The selected topics will be situated in their specific historical, intellectual and cultural contexts, which span several periods of Western history starting with the classical rhetorical tradition up until modern and contemporary rhetorical/composition theory. A special effort will be made to examine the relation between rhetorical and critical theory, and its implications for understanding and constructing literary texts.</p>		

ENG 534	Topics in Literature	3 (3+0)
<p>The course teaches various topics in literatures that explore literary issues. Students may survey literary topics such as Literature and Popular Culture, Creative Writing, Children’s Literature, Regional Literature, and African American Literature. Alternatively, students may study a selected literary topic that deals with certain writers, literary movements, periods, theories, or literary genres.</p>		
ENG 542	History of Western Thought	3 (3 + 0)
<p>This course spans the rise of Western thought, from its Eastern roots, through to contemporary Post-modern formulations that take on a multicultural perspective. The course will follow a chronological trajectory that will familiarize students with formative trends that have shaped Western culture to this day. Continuous focus will be maintained on the intersection of Western thought with literary theory and criticism, as a means of familiarizing students with the interdisciplinary import of this course.</p>		
ENG 543	Cultural Studies	3 (3 + 0)
<p>This course introduces Cultural Studies by tracing its evolution as a discipline and field of inquiry, and by exploring its primary theories. Though the course is primarily theoretical, relevant theories will be employed in the analysis/interpretation of contemporary culture including the mass media. The course mainly aims at understanding how meaning/signification is created; how meanings are circulated/disseminated in society through various cultural texts, signs, images, symbols, and representations; and how social reality as well as subjectivity/agency are constructed through ideology and discourse. The course considers the impacts of various forms of popular culture and discuss their effects on how we see ourselves and others. It explores the ever-shifting distinctions between high, middlebrow, and low culture and analyze how power and resistance structure the production and consumption of popular texts. Topics covered include: social media influencers, reality TV, memes, celebrities, fandom, TikTok, and more! Cultural/Semiotic analysis will span a wide range of media/genres, including literature, television, film, art, photography, the press, advertisements, fashion, the internet, and social media. These examples will be covered in readings as well as in papers.</p>		
ENG 544	Postcolonial Theory and Criticism	3 (3 + 0)
<p>In this course, we will study literatures written in English from formerly colonized nations in their historical and cultural contexts. We will also examine central concepts, questions, and debates in postcolonial studies. Some questions we will consider include: What histories produce postcolonial literature as well as the field of postcolonial studies itself? What literary forms and languages do postcolonial writers use, and why? How do they negotiate between colonial and indigenous cultural traditions—and when, why, and how does that binary begin to break down? How are literary form and politics related to one another? What are some problems with the very term “postcolonial”?</p>		

Eng 549	Medieval and Renaissance Literature	3
<p>This course invites students to explore the highly rich and exquisite periods in the history and development of English literature: the medieval and the Renaissance. It examines the impact of Medieval literature on the formation of Renaissance culture that produced prominent authors and thinkers. It does so through the study of major works of poetry, prose, and drama from both ages and by prominent authors and will pay special attention to their social, religious, and political contexts through the selected works.</p>		
ENG 548	Classical Heritage	3 (3 + 0)
<p>This course explores the richness and diversity of the literature of the Greco-Roman world, viewing it in both literary and cultural contexts. Students will be introduced to a variety of Greek and Roman writers and thinkers, whose works (like dramatic traditions and epic poetry) and cultural, and philosophical thinking have historically stood as the main spring from which the whole Western thought, literature, art, and philosophy have drawn.</p>		
ENG 550	Modern and Contemporary British Poetry	3 (3 + 0)
<p>The course is divided into two sections: Modern and Contemporary British poetry. The first section traces the development of modern themes and styles in the work of selected major and minor poets beginning with the late nineteenth century till the middle of the twentieth century. The second section presents a living history of contemporary British poetry, from the 1940s to the present day and will focus on the intellectual and social contexts of the work of many contemporary poets, along with the poetic forms they employ.</p>		
ENG 551	Modern and Contemporary British Drama	3 (3 + 0)
<p>The course offers a selection of modern and contemporary plays and focuses on the sociopolitical changes that have influenced the formation of drama and informed the themes and techniques of the British theatre. The course also promotes the theoretical background that have shaped modern and contemporary drama, such as Realism, Naturalism, Expressionism, Symbolism, the Epic and the Absurd theatres and the interconnectedness of British dramatic texts with these theoretical contexts.</p>		

ENG 552	Modern and Contemporary British Novel	3 (3 + 0)
<p>The course tackles several representative novels of the modern period. It investigates the modern novelists' interest in art and the role of the artist; love and loneliness; time and consciousness; and his/her experimentation with technical aspects and point of view, and the resulting variety of third-person limited, direct, and indirect dramatic monologues, reliable and unreliable narrators, and the stream of consciousness. It examines the role of memory, the concept of time, and the relationship of the past to the present in the modern novel tradition.</p>		
ENG 554	American Multicultural Fiction	3 (3 + 0)
<p>This course is a study of American fiction from a multicultural perspective. It addresses cultural diversity through the reading and discussion of fiction by African-American, Native-American, Asian-American, and Hispanic- American fiction writers. Stereotypes, prejudices, expectations, misconceptions, and beliefs will be explored.</p>		
ENG 557	American Autobiography	3 (3 + 0)
<p>The course offers a selection of modern and contemporary plays and focuses on the sociopolitical changes that have influenced the formation of drama and informed the themes and techniques of the British theatre. The course also promotes the theoretical background that have shaped modern and contemporary drama, such as Realism, Naturalism, Expressionism, Symbolism, the Epic and the Absurd theatres and the interconnectedness of British dramatic texts with these theoretical contexts.</p>		
ENG 558	Arab American Literature	3 (3 + 0)
<p>The main idea behind this course is to trace Arab American presence/visibility in America by examining Arab American writings and reading critical arguments that have shaped and defined Arab American literature throughout the years. Specifically, the course investigates the American literature written by Arab immigrants starting with the 19th century to the present day. It highlights the role of the American Civil Rights movement in enhancing the past cultural heritage of the Arab immigrants. The course also sheds light on a host of topics like "race", "identity", "gender", "home", "exile" and the tension between East and West that molded the identity of the Arab immigrant.</p>		
ENG 559	Women and Literature	3 (3 + 0)
<p>The course proposes a chronological reading of the poetry of the 19th-century women poets, starting with the early transitional figures with Romantic leanings, to the mid-Victorians with their industrialized and Darwinian interests, and finally the late Victorians who foreshadow modernist attitudes and literary attributes. The course has contemporary prose writings in the background to set up the motivating forces and the challenges, both psychological and social, to women's creativity. It highlights the relationship between women poets in their quest for professional, social, and emotional anchor and support. It explores women poets' search for mother poets in female literary figures of the past and their rewriting of patriarchal myths about women. It traces the rich variety of themes in women's writings such as motherhood, childhood, gender relations, child labor, slavery, and all forms of social injustice.</p>		