

VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Course-structure: Semester: English

For each course: Total marks: 50 ( Theoretical Exam : 40; Internal Assessment: 10)

The new M.A. Course in English under the Semester system is introduced from the academic session 2009 with a view to offering the PG students in English literature proper training at an advanced level.

Since the students at the P.G. level in this university are admitted after their having completed the Honours course, the syllabus has been prepared assuming in the students an interest in higher learning and aims at equipping them for an academic career.

This syllabus has been framed by keeping in mind the recommendations of the CDC and various emerging areas in English Studies.

The Post graduate programme in this system will be divided into 16 ( sixteen) courses ( of 50 marks each) and will consist of Four Semesters to be covered in two years: the First and the Second Semesters in the first year, and the Third and the Fourth in the second year. The structural arrangement of the courses for the first two semesters will be as follows:

**First Semester:**

**Course No: 1101: Poetry I**

**Course No: 1102: Drama I**

**Course No: 1103: Fictional & Non-fictional Prose I**

**Course No: 1104: Poetry II**

**Second Semester :**

**Course No: 1201: Drama II**

**Course No: 1202: Fictional & Non-fictional Prose II**

**Course No: 1203: Poetry III**

**Course No: 1204: Shakespeare Studies**

Each Course is divided into three units. Long questions of 10 marks each will be set on texts from all the three units The students will also be asked to write comments on lines/phrases/scenes/ episodes taken from these texts.

The marks division will be as follows:

3 (three) Long questions (each answer within 300 words): 10x3 = 30

Comments [any 4 (four) out of six alternatives] : 5x4 = 20

**Course No: 1101: Poetry I ( Medieval to Pre-Romantic)**

Unit 01: Chaucer: Prologue to The Canterbury Tales; Spenser: *The Faerie Queene* BK I .

Unit 02: Donne: *The Canonization, The Exstasie*; Herbert: *The Collar*; Marvell: *The Garden*. Milton: Paradise Lost Book IV.

Unit 03: Pope: *The Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot* ; Blake: Selections from *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience*.

**Recommended reading:**

C.S. Lewis: *The Discarded Image*.

Hardin Craig, *The Enchanted Glass*.

Douglas Bush, *Mythology and the Renaissance Tradition in English Poetry*.

Stephen Greenblatt, *Renaissance Self-fashioning*.

Basil Willey, *The Seventeenth century Background: Studies in the Thought of the Age in Relation to Poetry and Religion*.

Christopher Hill, *Milton and the English Revolution*.

Ian Jack, *Augustan Satire: Intention and Idiom in English Poetry 1660-1750*.

**Course No: 1102: Drama I ( Medieval to Romantic)**

Unit 01: Everyman; Marlowe: *Doctor Faustus*.

Unit 02: Jonson: *Volpone*; Dryden: *All for Love*.

Unit 03: Congreve: *The Way of the World*; Shelley: *Prometheus Unbound*.

**Recommended reading:**

E. Cassirer, P.O. Kristeller and J.H. Randall (ed) *The Renaissance Philosophy of Man*.

A. L. Rowse, *The Elizabethan Renaissance*.

L.C. Knights, *Drama and Society in the Age of Jonson*.

G.E. Bentley, *The Jacobean and Caroline Stage*.

L.J. Bredvold, *The intellectual Milieu of John Dryden*.

Raymond Williams, *The Country and the City*.

Marilyn Butler, *Romantics, Rebels and Reactionaries*.

**Course No: 1103: Fictional and Non-fictional Prose I ( 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Century Texts)**

Unit 01: Defoe: *Robinson Crusoe*; Fielding: *Tom Jones*.

Unit 02: George Eliot: *Middlemarch*; Hardy: *Tess of the D'urbervilles*.

Unit 03: Addison: *Coverley Papers* ( Selections); Dr. Johnson: *Life of Cowley*, Mary Wollstonecraft: *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*.

**Recommended reading:**

Ian Watt, *The Rise of the Novel*.

James Clifford (ed.) *Eighteenth Century Literature: Modern Essays in Criticism*.

James Sambrook, *The Eighteenth Century: The Intellectual and Cultural Context of Literature 1700-1789*.

G.M. Trevelyan, *English Social History*.

G.M. Young, *Victorian England: Portrait of an Age*.

**Course No: 1104: Poetry II ( 19<sup>th</sup> Century Texts)**

Unit 01 Wordsworth: *The Prelude* BK I ; Coleridge: *The Ancient Mariner, Kubla Khan*.

Unit 02 Keats: *The Fall of Hyperion, Ode to Psyche, Ode on Melancholy*; Tennyson: *In Memoriam* (Selections).

Unit 03: Browning: *Andrea Del Sarto, Fra Lippo Lippi*; Hopkins: *Felix Randal, The Windhover, I wake and feel, Thou art indeed just, Lord*.

**Recommended reading:**

Boris Ford, ed. *New Pelican Guide to English Literature*, Vol.5.

E.J. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Revolutions: 1789-1848*.

Stuart Curran, *The Cambridge Companion to British Romanticism*.

Robin Gilmour, *The Victorian Period: The Intellectual and Cultural Context of English Literature, 1830-1890*.

**Course No: 1201: Drama II ( 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Texts)**

Unit 01: Ibsen: *A Doll's House*; Shaw: *Man and Superman*.

Unit 02: Wilde: *The Importance of Being Earnest*; Eliot: *Murder in the Cathedral*.

Unit 03: Pinter: *The Birthday Party*; Tom Stoppard: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*.

**Recommended reading:**

Henrik Ibsen, *An Enemy of the People*.

Martin Esslin, *Theatre of the Absurd*.

Bernard Bergonzi, , *Wartime and Aftermath: English Literature and its Background*.

**Course No: 1202: Fictional & Non-fictional Prose II ( 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Texts )**

Unit 01: Conrad: *Heart of Darkness*; Lawrence: *Sons and Lovers*.

Unit 02: Virginia Woolf: *To the Lighthouse*; Graham Greene: *Brighton Rock*.

Unit 03: Joyce: *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*; Arnold: *Culture and Anarchy* (Selections); Strachey: *Eminent Victorians* (Selections).

**Recommended reading:**

J.H.Buckley, *The Victorian Temper: A Study in Literary Culture*.

Leon Edel, *The Psychological Novel*.

Robert Humphrey, *Stream of Consciousness and the Modern Novel*.

**Course No: 1203: Poetry III ( 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Texts)**

Unit 01: Yeats: *The Song of Wandering Aengus, Among School Children, Byzantium, Sailing to Byzantium, A Coat, Easter 1916*; Lawrence: *Snake, Bavarian Gentians*

Unit 02: Eliot: *The Wasteland*; Auden: *Musee des Beaux Arts*; Dylan Thomas: *A Refusal to Mourn the Death by Fire of a Child in London*.

Unit 03: Louis MacNeice: *Meeting Point, Snow*; Larkin: *Whitsun Weddings*, Ted Hughes: *The Crow* ( Selections), Seamus Heaney: *Death of a Naturalist, Digging*.

**Recommended reading:**

Julian Symons, *The Thirties*.

Samuel Hynes, *The Auden Generation*.

Donald Davie, *Under Briggflatts: A History of Poetry in Great Britain: 1960-1988*.

Alan Sinfield (ed) *Society and Literature: 1945-1970*

**Course No: 1204: Shakespeare Studies**

Unit 01: Shakespeare Criticism and Scholarship.

Unit 02: Shakespeare's Sonnets; *King Lear*.

Unit 03: *Measure for Measure*, *The Tempest*.

**Recommended reading:**

E.K. Chambers: *William Shakespeare: A Study of Facts and Problems*.

E.K. Chambers: *The Elizabethan Stage*.

Stanley Wells: *Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare Studies*.

Julia Briggs, *This Stage-Play World*.

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