

## 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]

Semester	Course Name of the Course	Credits	
I	ENGL 651	Contemporary Poetry	3
	ENGL 652	Postmodern Fiction	3
	ENGL 653	Literary Theory and Criticism	3
	ENGL 654	Post Colonial Studies	3

Semester	Course Name of the Course	Credits	
II	ENGL 655	Area Study	4
	ENGL 656	Dissertation	16
	ENGL 657	Viva Voce	4
	TOTAL CREDITS	36	

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 contribution 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, Expressionism 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**

The Rhetoric of Experiment --The Poetry of Sylvia Plath--The Poetry of Auden Generation—  
Poetry after Eliot--The Poetry of Ted Hughes--Larkin and his contemporaries--Seamus Heaney  
and Irish Poetry--Modernism and America--Theme of loneliness and Suffering--Self Reflexivity  
in contemporary poetry--Aboriginal-Oral Poetry--Dalit poetry--Love poetry--Feminist and  
womens voices--Regional poetry--Poetry and Mysticism--Poetry and Nature--Diasporic  
writings- Immigrant voices--Indian English Poetry

**Texts for Class work:**

WH Auden  
Ted Hughes

Mussee des beaux arts; In Memory of WB Yeats  
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 Faber Book of Modern Verse edited by Michael Roberts [first edition by Michael Roberts, and published in 1936 by Faber and Faber. Second edition (1951) edited by Anne Ridler, and a third edition (1965) edited by Donald Hall]

The Penguin Book of Contemporary British Poetry edited by Blake Morrison and Andrew Motion (Penguin 1982)

Perkins, David. A History of Modern Poetry 2 vols. Massachusetts: Cambridge, 1987

Roberts, Neil ed. A Companion to Twentieth Century Poetry. Oxford: 2001

M L Rosenthal and Sally M Gall. The Modern Poetic Sequence: The Genius of Modern Poetry. New York, 1983.

Perloff, Marjorie. Radical Artifice: Writing Poetry in the Age of Media. Chicago, 1991.

Sleeping on the Wing: An Anthology of Modern Poetry. Ed. Kenneth Koch and Kate Farrell. New York: Random House, 1982.

Pinsky, Robert. The Situation of Poetry: Contemporary Poetry and its Traditions, Princeton, 1976.

Parthasarathy, R. Ten Twentieth Century Indian Poets (1976)

Ramamurti, K S. Ed Twenty Five Indian Poets in English, Macmillan, 1995.

Aurobindo, Sri. The Future Poetry, 2nd ed 1985.

Atwood, Margaret (ed.), The New Oxford Book of Canadian Verse in English, OUP (Canada), 1982.

Bornholdt, Jenny, O'Brien, Gregory and Williams, Mark (eds.), An Anthology of New Zealand Poetry in English, OUP (New Zealand), 1998.

Buckley, Vincent (ed.), The Faber Book of Modern Australian Verse, Faber, 1991.

Corcoran, Neil, English Poetry since 1940, Longman, 1993.

Davie, Donald, Under Briggflatts: A History of Poetry in Great Britain 1960-1988, Carcanet Press, 1989.

Gray, Richard, American Poetry of the Twentieth Century, Longman, 1990.

Gregson, Ian, *Contemporary Poetry and Postmodernism*, Macmillan, 1996.

Herbert, W.N. and Hollis, Matthew (eds.), *Strong Words: Modern Poets on Modern Poetry*, Bloodaxe Books, 2000.

Jefferies, Lesley and Sansom, Peter (eds.), *Contemporary Poems: Some Critical Approaches*, Smith/Doorstop Books, 2000.

Kennedy, David, *New Relations*, Seren, 1996.

Larrissy, Edward, *Reading Twentieth-Century Poetry*, Blackwell, 1990.

Markham, E.A. (ed.), *Hinterland: Caribbean Poetry from the West Indies and Britain*, Bloodaxe, 1989.

Krishna Mehrotra, Arvind (ed.), *Twelve Modern Indian Poets*, OUP (India), 1992.

Maja-Pearce, Adewale (ed.), *The Heinemann Book of African Poetry in English*, Heinemann, 1990.

O'Brien, Sean, *The Deregulated Muse*, Bloodaxe Books, 1998.

Schmidt, Michael, *Reading Modern Poetry*, Routledge, 1989.

Shelton, Pamela (ed.), *Contemporary Women Poets*, Detroit, 1998.

*Encyclopedia of American Poetry The Nineteenth Century*. Critical essays on poets of the 19th century.

*Encyclopedia of American Poetry The Twentieth Century*. Lengthy critical essays with bibliography.

*Facts on File Companion to 20th Century American Poetry*. Brief entries on poets, poems, and other topics related to American poetry. Each entry includes a bibliography.

*Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Poets and Poetry*. A five-volume set with nine hundred alphabetically arranged entries on poets and movements. Includes entries on pre-20th century and 20th- and 21st-century poets and movements. Profiles of poets include biographical information and selected primary and secondary sources.

*The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*. Comprehensive coverage of issues related to the history, technique and criticism of international poetry. Lengthy entries with bibliographies.

*The Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Poetry in English*. Brief entries focusing on poets living in the 20th century; additional entries on literary movements and periodicals.

*Poetry Dictionary*. Brief entries, often including examples, of poetic terms, genres, movements, etc

<http://www.kristisiegel.com/theory.htm>

<http://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/display/index.cfm>

<http://www.poetryresource.org>

<http://www.cprw.com>

## **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 post modernity as a socio-economic, political and cultural condition and postmodernism as an aesthetic, intellectual and theoretical project. Students will be made aware of 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 selfreflexivity, 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 cosmos
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
- Bertens, Hans. The Idea of the Postmodern: A History. London: Routledge,1995
- Bradbury, Malcolm. The Modern American Novel. Oxford: Oxford UP,1983.
- Callincois, Alex. Against Postmodernism: A Marxist Critique. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1990.
- Curry, Mark. Postmodern Narrative Theory. Basingstoke: Macmillan,1998
- D Haen, Theo, and Hans Bertens, eds.British Postmodern Fiction. Amsterdam:Rodopi,1993.
- Docherty, Thomas,ed. Postmodernism: A Reader. Brighton: Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1993.
- Eagletons,Terry. The Illusions of Postmodernism. Oxford: Blackwell,1989.
- Harvey , David. The Condition of Postmodernism. Oxford:Blackwell, 1990
- Hutcheon, Linda. A Poetics of Postmodernism: History, Theory, Fiction. London and NewYork:Routledge,1987
- The Politics of Postmodernism. London and New York: Routledge, 1998.
- Mc Hale, Brian. Postmodernist Fiction. London:Methuen, 1987.
- Newman Charles. The Postmodern Aura: The Art of Fiction in the Age of Inflation. Evanston. IL North Western UP, 1985.

Norris, Christopher. What's Wrong with Postmodernism: Critical Theory and the Ends of Philosophy. London: Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1990.

Tester, Keith. The Life and Times of Post modernity. London: Routledge, 1993.

Waugh, Patricia. Postmodernism: A Reader. London: Edward Arnold, 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:

Atkins, JWH 1934: *Literary Criticism in Antiquity: A Sketch of its Developments*. 2 Vols. Cambridge 1952.

Auerbach, Eric 1953: *The Representation of Reality in Western Literature*. Trans. Willard Trask. Princeton Uni. Press.

Barry, Peter 1995: *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. Manchester Uni. Press.

Crane, Ronald S ed. 1952: *Critics and Criticism: Ancient and Modern*. Uni. Of Chicago Press.

Culler, Jonathan 1975: *Structuralist Poetics: Structuralism, Linguistics and the Study of Literature*. Cornell Univ. Press.

----- 1982: *On Deconstruction: Theory and Criticism after Structuralism*. Cornell Univ. Press.

Davis, Robert Con. ed. 1981: *Contemporary Literary Theory: Modernism through Postmodernism*. Longman.

De Beauvoir, Simone 1949: *The Second Sex*. Penguin. 1972.

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De Man, Paul 1979: *Allegories of Reading: Figural Language in Rousseau, Nietzsche, Rilke, and Proust*. Yale Univ. Press.

-----1983: *Blindness and Insight: Essays in the Rhetoric of Contemporary Criticism*. Univ. of Minnesota Press.

Derrida, Jacques 1967: *Of Grammatology*. Trans. Gayathri Spivak. Johns Hopkins Univ. Press.

-----1978: *Writing and Difference*. Trans. Allan Bass. Univ. of Chicago Press.

Eagleton, Mary ed. 1986: *Feminist Literary Theory: A Reader*. Blackwell.

Eagleton, Terry 1983: *Literary Criticism : An Introduction*. Univ. of Minnesota Press.

Eco, Umberto 1990: *Limits of Interpretation*. Indiana Univ. Press.

Fish, Stanley 1980: *Is There a Text in Class? : The Authority of Interpretive Communities*. 1980.

Fordham, Frieda. 1985: *An Introduction to Jung's Psychology*. Penguin Books.

Foucault, Michel 1978: *The History of Sexuality*. Trans. Robert Hurley. Pantheon Books.

Freud, Sigmund 1957: *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*. Ed & trans. James Strachey. Hogarth Press and the Institute of Psychoanalysis.

Frye, Northrop 1957: *Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays*. Atheneum.

Genette, Gerard 1980: *Narrative Discourse: An Essay in Method*. Cornell Univ. Press.

Gilbert, Sandra M and Susan Gubar 1979: *The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth Century Literary Imagination*. Yale Univ. Press.

Greenblatt, Stephen J 1980: *Renaissance Self-Fashioning : From More to Shakespeare*. Univ. of Chicago Press.

Hirsch, ED 1967: *Validity in Interpretation*. Yale Univ. Press.

Holland, Norman 1968; *Dynamics of Literary Response*. Oxford Univ. Press.

Iser, Wolfgang 1974: *The Implied Reader*. The John Hopkins Univ. Press.

Jameson, Frederic 1972: *The Prison-House of Language: A critical Account of Structuralism and Russian Formalism*. Princeton Univ. Press.

Jones, Ernest 1954: *Hamlet and Oedipus: A Classic Study in the Psychoanalysis of Literature*. Anchor Books.

Julia, Kristeva 1980: *Desire in Language: A Semiotic Approach to Literature and Art*. Columbia Univ., Press.

Jung, Carl : Jung, ed. Joseph Campbell. *The Viking Portable Library*.

Lacan, Jacques 1977: *Ecrits: A Selection*. Trans. Alan Sheridan. WW Norton.

Lentricchia, Frank 1980: *After the New Criticism*. Univ. of Chicago Press.

Levi-Strauss, Claude 1977: *Myth and Meaning*. Schocken.

Lodge, David, ed., 1981: *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*. Longman.

Lyotard, Jean-Francois 1994: *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge*. Univ. of Minnesota Press.

Macherey, Pierre 1978: *A Theory of Literary Production*. trans. Geoffrey Wall. Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Miller, Hillis J. 1987: *The Ethics of Reading*. Columbia Univ. Press.

Millett, Kate 1970: *Sexual Politics*. Doubleday.

Norris, Christopher 1982: *Deconstruction: Theory and Practice*. Routledge.

Propp, Vladimir 1970: *Mythology of the Folktale*. trans. Laurence Scott. Univ. of Texas Press

Rich, Adrienne 1976: *Of Woman Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution*. Norton.

Said, Edward 1978: *Orientalism*. Basic Books.

Scholes, Robert 1974: *Structuralism in Literature: An Introduction*. Yale Univ. Press.

Showalter, Elaine 1971: *Women's Liberation and Literature*. Harcourt.

Spacks, PM 1975: *The Female Imagination*. Knopf.

Tillyard, EMW 1944: *The Elizabethan World Picture*. Macmillan.

Todorov, Tzvetan 1977. *The Poetics of Prose*. Cornell Univ. Press.

Tompkins, Jane P. ed. *Reader-Response Criticism: From Formalism to Post-Structuralism*. The Johns Hopkins Univ. Press.

Wellek, Rene and Austin Warren 1949: *Theory of Literature*. Harcourt.

White, Hayden : *The Content of the Form : Narrative Discourse and Historical Representation*. The Johns Hopkins Univ.

Williams, Raymond 1977: *Marxism and Literature*. Oxford Univ. Press.

Wimsatt, Williams K 1954: *The Verbal Icon: Studies in the Meaning of Poetry*. Univ. of Kentucky Press.

Young, Robert. Ed. 1981: Untying the Text: A Poststructuralist Reader. Routledge and Kegan Paul.

## **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:

1. Gareth Griffiths, The Postcolonial Project: Critical Approaches
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 -1hr 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
3. Barbara Christian, The Race for Theory

Illustrative reference: Jean Rhys Wide Sargasso Sea, Mahasweta Devi's Breast Stories

(Summing up and critique by students) Second Int. test -1hr 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)

(Illustrative reference: Bama s Karukku)

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.

The Postcolonial Studies Reader. London: Routledge, 1995 .

(Available in Central Library)

Castle, Gregory. Postcolonial Discourses. Oxford: Blackwell, 2001.

References:

Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin. Postcolonial Studies:

The Key Concepts. London: Routledge, 2000.

King, Bruce. New National and Postcolonial Literatures: An Introduction.

Oxford: Clarendon, 1995.

McLeod, John. Beginning Postcolonialism. Manchester: MUP, 2000.

(All these books are available in the Central library, Pondicherry University)

For Further Details contact  
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