

## **B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies**

<b>Course Title</b>	: Introduction to Literature II
<b>Course Code</b>	: ENG2107
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	: Lecture-tutorial mode
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	: 2-hour lecture per week 1-hour tutorial per week
<b>Category</b>	: Required Course
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	: Nil
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	: Nil
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	: Nil
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	: Nil

### **Brief Course Description**

This is the second course in the year-long introduction to literature. Like the previous course in the sequence, this course serves a dual purpose as a methodological and historical introduction into the study of literature. Students will further explore fundamental questions about literature and will be introduced to the basics of literary and genre theory and to a variety of interpretative techniques. We will also explore representative examples from a variety of periods and genres in order to gain fuller understanding of the main developments in Western literary history from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The information and skills provided in this course are essential to upper-level studies in English literature.

### **Aims**

The course aims to achieve the following:

1. to develop the skills of literary analysis and practical criticism;
2. Develop the basic skills of reading and understanding a variety of literary genres
3. to enhance student competence in speaking and writing about literature
4. Develop a command of critical terminology
5. Identify the major stages in the development of literature over the past two centuries

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the course, students should:

1. be able to comprehend the assigned texts;
2. be able to use relevant theoretical concepts that can facilitate a structured understanding of literary texts;
3. Analyze the formal features of various literary genres
4. Distinguish between works belonging to different phases of literary history
5. Produced cogent and well-supported arguments about literary texts

### **Indicative Contents**

This course will continue to refine the students' theoretical and historical understanding of literature. Topics to be covered will include: romanticism, self-expression, and the

supernatural; realism and the representation of social reality; avant-garde and modernist poetry and prose; narrative perspective and related concepts; literature and feminism; postmodernism. Texts to be covered may include:

1. Poetry and theoretical reflections of William Wordsworth
2. Theories and examples of realism, including texts by Charles Dickens, Honore de Balzac, and George Eliot
3. Virginia Woolf, “Modern Fiction” and examples of modernist fiction by Woolf, James Joyce, and others
4. Avant-Garde manifestos
5. T.S. Eliot’s poetry and essays
6. Excerpts from Virginia Woolf’s “Room of One’s Own”
7. John Barth’s and Brian McHale’s reflections of postmodernism

### Teaching Method

The instructor and students meet for large-class lectures as well as small-group tutorials. In the lectures, the instructor will present the particular features of poetry and drama and various tools of analysis with reference to the chosen texts. As many, if not all, of the students have little previous exposure to the literature of the English-speaking world, the lecture mode will offer an efficient way of providing the necessary layer of cultural and historical knowledge. The tutorials will encourage explorations beyond what has been presented in the lectures and provide opportunities to practice and rehearse the skills of analysis. There will be a gradual shift in the course from teacher-led instruction to student-centered activities that encourage student independence and self-confidence in talking and writing about poetry and drama. Students will be required to read and write about designated literary texts as course assignments.

### Measurement of Learning Outcomes

The progress of learning will be measured through class discussions, shorter papers, and a final examination.

Learning Outcome	Assessment Method			
	Participation	Response Paper	Short Paper	Final Exam
Can comprehend the assigned texts	x	x	x	x
Can use relevant theoretical concepts	x	x	x	x
Can analyze the formal features of various genres	x	x	x	x
Can distinguish between works belonging to different phases of literary history	x		x	x
Can produce cogent and well-supported arguments about literary texts		x	x	x

## Assessment

### Participation – 20%

Students are expected to actively participate in classroom discussions.

### Response Paper – 20%

Concepts and their applications – write a response paper in which you will analyze excerpts from texts by relying on relevant theoretical terms.

### Short Paper – 25%

Write a brief essay, comparing two different works in terms of theme (content) or style (form).

### Final Examination – 35%

1. Answer short questions related to the critical terms discussed in the course (15%)
2. Read an unseen shorter text or an extract of a long piece of literature and make an extensive critical response (20%)

## Required Readings

Poetry of William Wordsworth, S.T. Coleridge, T.S. Eliot, and others. Selections from prose texts by Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, J.L. Borges. Theoretical texts by Wordsworth, Balzac, Woolf, Barth, and others.

All required readings will be made available.

## Recommended Readings

Bennett, Andrew and Nicholas Royle. *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory*. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. London: Routledge, 2023.

Daiches, David. 1981. *Critical Approaches to Literature*. London: Longman.

Kennedy, X. J. & Gioia, Dana. 2005. *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry & Drama*. New York: Pearson Longman.

Klarer, Mario. 1999. *Introduction to Literary Studies*. London: Routledge. Lentricchia,

Frank, & McLaughlin, Thomas. 1994. *Critical Terms for Literary Study*.

Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Marsh, Nicholas. 1995. *How to Begin Studying English Literature*. London: Macmillan.

Mays, Kelly J. *The Norton Introduction to Literature*. 14<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 2021.

### Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the stipulated course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students should be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. For example, presentation of another person's work (including the borrowing of exact phrases,

summarized ideas or even footnotes/citations) without proper acknowledgement of the source is not allowed. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.

- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.