Course Title	: The Language of Literature
Course Code	: ENG3384
Recommended Study Year	: 3rd or 4th Years
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture-tutorial mode
Class Contact Hours	: 2-hour lecture per week
	1-hour tutorial per week
Category	: Disciplinary Elective
Prerequisite(s)	: Nil
Co-requisite(s)	: Nil
Exclusion(s)	: Nil
Exemption Requirement(s)	: Nil

Brief Course Description

What makes literature "literature"? How can we determine whether a play or a novel or a poem is "good"? This course offers a systematic, scientific approach to the study of literature by analyzing its "language," commonly known as stylistics or literary linguistics. It will give you a set of tools that you can use to examine both classic and contemporary literary texts, as well as to create your own.

You will be introduced to a wide range of linguistic concepts that explain how language creates meaning and readerly effects in literary texts from drama to prose fiction to poetry. More importantly, we will explore the idea of "style as choice," i.e. style as a series of conscious decisions made by the writer within a given range of linguistically possible options. To this end, you will experiment with various literary devices as you create your own literary texts.

Aims

This course takes both a critical and a creative approach to understanding the language of literature. It aims to make students aware of the distinctive qualities and patternings found in the language of literary texts at all levels from phonology through grammar to semantics and pragmatics. It also aims to give students opportunities to improve their writing by applying various stylistics and rhetorical devices to their own work.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Identify and describe various concepts and tools used in the study of literary language;
2. Explain the relationship between linguistic choices and the effects and meanings produced in a variety of genres;
3. Work collaboratively with peers to analyze texts and present their findings in both spoken and written forms;
4. Create original literary texts using their understanding of language in literature.

Indicative Contents

1. Introduction to Stylistics
2. Style as Choice
3. Foregrounding & defamiliarization
4. Architecture of dramatic discourse
5. Pragmatic patterns in drama
6. "Mind style"
7. The representation of speech and thought
8. Narrative structure and point of view
9. Narrative stylistics
10. Grammar and style
11. Metaphor, metonymy, and other figurative language
12. Rhyme, rthythm and Meter

Teaching Method

This course consists of weekly lectures, tutorial discussions, and creative writing workshops. Attendance is mandatory. I expect you to have done the assigned reading and writing before each class. You should also be prepared to talk and listen in each discussion session. In addition to in-person meetings, students are required to submit short weekly assignments to Moodle for their creative writing portfolio. Participation in both in-person discussion and online work is crucial as the overall success of this course depends on the quality of your contribution.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Assessment	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4
1. Portfolio (Part I): Creative Writing (25%)		X	X	X
2. Portfolio (Part II): Statement of Rationale (20%)	X	X		X
3. Peer-Sharing (10%)	X	X	X	X
4. Participation (10%)	X	X	X	X
5. Final Examination (open-book) (35%)	X	X		

Assessment

Course work (65%) consists of three assignments:

Portfolio (45%)
This set of assignments is part free creative exercise and part critical reflection.

1. Part I: Creative Writing (25%)

Throughout the course, you will produce three pieces of creative writing: a dramatic scene (1000 words), a short story (fictional or non-fiction, 1000 words), and a poem (20 lines). You will be given short creative writing assignments (200-300 words) at regular intervals, where you will implement the concepts learned from the class. These assignments will help you develop

the three pieces of creative writing that make up your portfolio.

At the end of the semester, you may select ONE creative work from your portfolio for assessment. You are welcome to revise your work before your final submission.

Because this course takes a practical and incremental approach, it is vital that you complete all take-home assignments in a timely manner to help you practice the techniques you have learned. Even though only one piece of creative writing will be graded, failure to complete all assignments punctually will adversely affect your grade (max: 15% less the grade of Part I).

2. Part II: Statement of Rationale (20%)

Your selected creative work should be accompanied by a 1500-word Statement of Rationale detailing:
>   1.   a problem (or set of problems) in creative writing that you want to address or improve on;
>   2.   your analysis of ONE OR MORE literary work(s) and their stylistic devices that will help you solve this creative problem;
>   3.   how you use the stylistic devices discussed in (b) in the creative writing you have submitted for assessment.

Your statement should follow one current academic writing style consistently. If you have consulted any works (critical or creative), you must include proper citations and references.

3. Peer-sharing (10%)

You will form a small group at the beginning of the semester and work closely with your peers throughout to improve your understanding of the stylistic concepts taught in class and your creative work.

From Week 7 onwards, you will lead ONE 20-min discussion session in your group, sharing your own creative work-in-progress. In this sharing session, you will:
>   a. pre-circulate your creative writing assignment (no more than 250 words);
>   b. identify one problem that you encountered in writing;
>   c. lead the group discussion in order to come up with 2-3 solutions to this problem, based on the stylistic devices we have learned in class;
>   d. Fill in the discussion template as you discuss. These notes will be monitored and used as reference for your assessment.

You should pay close attention to the tutorials in the first half of the course, and model your own peer-sharing session after them.

4. Participation (10%)

Half of your participation grade will be specifically assigned to how well you

respond to your fellow classmates during the peer-sharing sessions. You should be generous and considerate in giving feedback on others' creative work and offer not merely general advice, but suggestions based on the theoretical concepts we have covered in class and/or literary works that exemplify these concepts.

The other 5% of your participation grade goes to your general performance in class.

5. Final Examination (open-book) (35%)

For this 2-hour exam, you will be allowed to bring your notes with you. These notes should fit into ONE piece of A4-size paper ONLY, though you may utilize both sides.

Required Readings

Gibbons, A., & Whiteley, S. (2018). *Contemporary Stylistics: Language, Cognition, Interpretation*. Edinburgh University Press.

Giovanelli, M., & Mason, J. (2018) *The Language of Literature: An Introduction to Stylistics.* Cambridge University Press.

Hope, J., & Wright, L. (2002). *Stylistics: A Practical Coursebook*. Routledge.

Nørgaard, N., Busse, B., & Montoro, R. (2010). *Key Terms in Stylistics.* A&C Black.

Scott, J. (2023*). Creative Writing and Stylistics* (Revised and Expanded Edition). Bloomsbury Press.

Simpson, P. (2014). *Stylistics: A Resource Book for Students* (2nd Edition). Routledge.

Secondary Readings
General

Burke, M. (ed.) (2023). *The Routledge Handbook of Stylistics* (2nd Edition). London: Routledge

Carter, R. A. and Stockwell, P. (eds.) (2008). *The Language and Literature Reader*. London: Routledge.

Carter, R., & Simpson P. (1989) L*anguage, Discourse and Literature: An Introductory Reader in Discourse Stylistics.* London & New York: Routledge.

Jefferies, L. and McIntyre, D. (2010) *Stylistics*. Cambridge University Press.

Toolan, M. (2014). *Language in literature*. London & New York: Routledge.

van Peer, W. (ed.), (2008). *The Quality of Literature: Linguistic Studies in the Evaluation of Literary Texts.* Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

Specific Topics

Black, E. (2006). *Pragmatic Stylistics* (Vol. 1). Edinburgh University Press.

Burke, M. (ed.), (2022) *Journal of Stylistics, Special Issue: The Language, Style and Cognition of Children's Literature*

Chapman, S. and Clark, B. (2019). *Pragmatics and Literature.* Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

Culpeper, J., Short, M. and Verdonk, P. (eds.). (1998). *Exploring the Language of Drama: From Text to Context*. Routledge.

Gavins, J. and Steen, G. (eds.) (2003). *Cognitive Poetics in Practice*. London: Routledge.

Huang, L. (2015). *Style in Translation: A Corpus-Based Perspective*. Springer.

Mills, S. (2002). *Feminist Stylistics*. London: Routledge.

Nash, W. (1990). *Language in Popular Fiction,* London: Routledge.

Siemens, R., & Schreibman, S. (eds.). (2013). *A Companion to Digital Literary Studies*. Wiley-Blackwell. *Digital Literary Studies: Corpus Approaches to Poetry, Prose, and Drama.* Routledge.

Verdonk, P. (2013). *The Stylistics of Poetry: Context, Cognition, Discourse, History*. Bloomsbury.

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 course learning outcomes.

    (2)   Students shall 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. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is "the presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work". 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/.