B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies

Course Title : Literary Analysis I
Course Code : ENG2106
Recommended Study Year : 2nd Year for 4-year System
                      : 1st Year for 3-year System
No. of Credits/Term : 3
Mode of Tuition : Lecture and Tutorial
Class Contact Hours : 2 hours Lecture/week
                      : 1 hour Tutorial/week
Category in Major Programme : Required Course
Prerequisite(s) : N/A
Co-requisite(s) : N/A
Exclusion(s) : N/A
Exemption Requirement(s) : N/A

Brief Course Description

This course is the first part of a year-long introduction to the analysis of literary texts in English. It provides students with basic skills and tools required to understand prose narratives in their cultural and linguistic contexts. It also seeks to develop sophisticated analytical and critical abilities that will help students become independent readers of fiction in its various manifestations.

Aims

The course aims to achieve the following:
1. to develop an awareness of fiction as a vital form of human communication;
2. to develop the basic skills of reading and understanding fiction;
3. to enhance competence in speaking and writing about fiction;
4. to develop an appreciation of fiction in English;
5. to cultivate an independent reading habit that will enrich students’ future life.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will
1. become familiar with the assigned texts;
2. become comfortable with relevant theoretical concepts that can facilitate a structured understanding of fiction;
3. be able to analyze fiction in terms of its basic elements such as plot, point of view, characterization, setting, and theme;
4. be capable of relating a fictional text to its social and historical context;
5. be able to write well-argued critical essays that could benefit other students of fiction;
6. become a self-motivated reader of fiction
Indicative Content

1. Introduction to the literary genre of fiction;
2. Presentation of texts chosen from various sources to provide extensive and intensive practice in responding to and analyzing fictional texts;
3. Necessary background knowledge to the chosen fictional texts;
4. Presentation of the common critical vocabulary and terms used in the discussion of fiction;
5. Strategies and techniques for speaking and writing about fiction.

Teaching Method

The course meets for 3 hours per week and consists of a mixture of lectures and tutorials. In the lectures, the instructor will present the features of fiction and tools of analysis with reference to specific texts. As many, if not all, of the students have had little previous exposure to the literature of the English-speaking world, the lecture mode will offer an efficient way of providing the required layer of cultural and historical knowledge. The tutorials will encourage an exploration of what has been presented in the lectures and provide the opportunity to practice and rehearse the skills of analysis. There will be a gradual shift in the course from instruction to student-centered activities that encourage student independence and self-confidence in discussing and writing about literature.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

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

Assessment

1. Continuous Assessment: 60%

   **Assessment Task #1:** Concepts and their applications – discuss critical terms in relation to the texts which have been covered in the first unit of the course (24%)

   **Assessment Task #2:** Write a brief essay, comparing and contrasting different works written by one writer in terms of theme (content) or style (form). In addition to the primary texts, secondary sources related to the writer (autobiography, personal letters, critical essays) should also be taken into consideration. (24%)

   **Note:** Students are expected to actively participate in classroom discussions. Marks for this category will also take into account their willingness to work with their group mates as a team. (12%)
2. Final Examination: 40%

Assessment Task #3 – Final Examination:

1) Read an unseen mini-story or an extract from a long piece of literature and answer questions that are related to the understanding of common technical terms (20%)
2) Make an extensive critical response to one of the stories covered in the third stage of the course (20%)

Alignment of Learning Outcomes and Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Tasks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LO1 (become familiar with the assigned texts)</td>
<td>AT1, AT2, AT3</td>
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<tr>
<td>LO2 (become familiar with the critical terms that are related to the study of fiction)</td>
<td>AT1, AT2, AT3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LO3 (be able to analyze fiction in terms of plot, point of view, characterization, setting, and theme)</td>
<td>AT1, AT2, AT3</td>
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<tr>
<td>LO4 (be capable of relating a fictional text to its social and historical context)</td>
<td>AT2, AT3</td>
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<tr>
<td>LO5 (be able to write well-argued critical essays that could benefit other students of fiction)</td>
<td>AT2, AT3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LO6 (become a self-motivated reader of fiction)</td>
<td>AT1, AT2, AT3</td>
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Textbook

Recommended Readings