B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Course Title</strong></th>
<th>Discourse Analysis</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Course Code</strong></td>
<td>ENG3203 / ENG203</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recommended Study Year</strong></td>
<td>3rd Year for 4-year System  2nd Year for 3-year System</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>No. of Credits/Term</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mode of Tuition</strong></td>
<td>Lecture and Tutorial</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class Contact Hours</strong></td>
<td>2 hours Lecture/week 1 hour Tutorial/week</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Category in Major Programme</strong></td>
<td>Required Course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prerequisite(s)</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td><strong>Co-requisite(s)</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td><strong>Exclusion(s)</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td><strong>Exemption Requirement(s)</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
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**Brief Course Description**

The course investigates the ways language is used and meanings generated and organised in written and spoken texts, taking into account the social contexts of production and processing.

The course relates to ENG 2101 Introduction to Language by exploring in much greater depth the topics of cohesion/coherence, presupposition, the Co-operative Principle and speech act theory.

In its treatment of the language of conversation, this course exploits knowledge of stress and intonation introduced in ENG2102 Practical Phonetics.

In analysing the grammatical constructions in texts the course exploits knowledge of the grammatical concepts of Word-class, Subject, Mood and Modality mastered in ENG 2103, Introduction to English Grammar.

While the course touches on topics such as cohesion and coherence and inferencing explored from a language processing point of view in ENG 3266 Psycholinguistics, it emphasizes their cultural and ideological aspects, and the formalism of deductive logic in making inferences.

The course applies to non-literary texts the knowledge of metaphor, symbol and narrative structure/point of view introduced in ENG 2106 and ENG 2107, Literary Analysis I and II.

**Aims**

This course aims to give an introduction to spoken and written discourse, showing how language operates in social and ideological contexts. Taking examples from conversation
and other genres such as narratives, news and advertising, the course shows how discourse is structured, how it constructs relationships between speakers/writers and hearers/readers, and how it is used to represent and reproduce social realities. It investigates the lexical, grammatical and pragmatic means by which this is achieved, and encourages a critical perspective on modern media texts.

**Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course students should be

1. Aware of the differences between speech and writing, and of the distinctive features and structures of conversation and other media genres;
2. Aware of the ideology encoded in texts and hidden within texts;
3. Able to analyse the cohesive, interpersonal and ideational aspects of text;
4. Able to show the importance of pragmatic interpretations in comprehension and in producing ideological effects;
5. Able to adopt a critical perspective in the reading of texts.

**Indicative Content**

1. Text, Discourse and Context
2. Speech and Writing
3. Conversation and Register
4. Conversational Analysis and Pragmatics
5. Genre and Text Structure
6. Text Structure and Cohesion
7. Conceptual Meaning
8. Interpersonal Meaning
9. Politeness
10. Pragmatic Interpretation of Discourse
11. Metaphor
12. Resisting subject positions

**Teaching Method**

The course will consist of a lecture in which the key concepts and skills are introduced and a one-hour tutorial in which the students will apply the concepts and skills to analyse texts, including their own texts. Students will give presentations demonstrating the analytical abilities they have acquired.

**Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

1. 2 tests will measure the extent to which students have understood and can apply theoretical concepts (learning outcomes 1-4);
2. A portfolio will measure the extent to which students can successfully complete activities demonstrating their understanding and analytical abilities (learning outcomes 1-5);
3. A project will measure students’ abilities in applying selective concepts for the purpose of analysis and critique of texts and justification of textual features (mainly learning outcomes 3-5);
4. The exam will measure the extent to which they have understood concepts, and can critically engage with texts by showing awareness of their ideological underpinnings and representations (learning outcomes 1-5).

**Assessment**

Continuous Assessment: 60%
Final Examination: 40%

**Required Readings (selected pages)**

Goatly, A., *Critical Reading and Writing*, London: Routledge, 2000,

**Recommended Readings**