

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

### COURSES FOR 4-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

#### **ENG1373 English in Popular Song (3 credits)** (deleted from Term 2, 2022-23)

This course is designed as an introduction to English language song across a range of periods, genres, styles and topics. From the 20<sup>th</sup> Century onwards English has become the major international language for song writing and listening. However, the close relationship between song and poetry in earlier centuries will provide a starting point and songs in Shakespeare plays will be heard and explored. Folk ballads and folk songs will also be read and listened to in order to arouse critical interest and discussion. Poet-songwriters such as Robert Burns will be introduced in order to encourage discussion on the correspondences between song and poem. Later song styles and forms will also be experienced and discussed in the course, with an emphasis on more recent and contemporary literary singer-songwriters of the 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries from Cole Porter and Muddy Waters to significant artists of today such as Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Stevie Wonder, Paul Simon, David Bowie, Alanis Morissette, Jack Johnson, Alicia Keys, k.d. Laing, Eminem and Lady Gaga. Popular song genres and styles from jazz to rock and to rap and familiar stage musical songs (e.g. Lloyd Webber's and Rice's "Cats" based on Eliot's poems) will be presented and discussed. The relationship between musical melody and song lyrics will be listened to and lyrical devices and sonic effects will also be studied. The influence of music video (MTV style) will be considered in relation to word-image juxtaposition. Students will have the opportunity to present favourite songwriters and songs in their presentation and sharing assignment. No musical experience or knowledge is required, only an open mind and a ready ear (or better still, two).

#### **ENG2020 Varieties of English (3 credits)** (deleted from 2021-22)

(Restriction: Students are not allowed to take both this course and ENG3009 Languaging: English and Creativity in Everyday Life.)

This course aims to complement the English courses offered by the Centre of English and Additional Languages, with their focus on English for Academic Purposes. It does so by helping students to engage with a variety of English texts, both academic and non-academic, with the aim of encouraging lifelong engagement with such texts. Consequently, it chooses texts which are relevant to students' everyday lives, for instance computer-mediated communication and advertisements. It aims to raise students' awareness of how texts and language vary according to social situation, and how variation may be used to express identity. In doing so it makes students aware of the parameters affecting variation, an awareness which is transferable and applicable to communication at the personal, academic, professional and global levels. In summary, the course aims to facilitate students' development of a linguistic and cultural toolkit which will expand communicative repertoires in terms of proficiency and competence, enhance confidence, and encourage life-long learning in the context of the increasing demands on effective communication in our globalised world.

#### **ENG2101 Introduction to the Study of Language** (from 2024-25)/

##### **Introduction to Language** (in 2023-24 or before) (3 credits)

This course is a comprehensive exploration of the fundamental aspects of the English language. This course delves into the structure, history, and usage of English, providing students with a solid foundation for further linguistic studies. Through a combination of theoretical concepts and practical applications, students gain a deeper understanding of the language that shapes their everyday lives. The course covers such basic questions as the nature of human language, the importance of language in society, the major perspectives

for studying language, the acquisition and use of language, as well as language variation and language change. Students are not only given an exposure to the basic concepts and theories, but they are also encouraged to examine various kinds of language data as well as use their own experience and knowledge as learners and users of language in Hong Kong to deepen their understanding of language.

**ENG2102 Practical Phonetics (3 credits)**

Phonetics is the systematic study of human speech sounds. It is concerned with how speech sounds are produced and perceived. It provides means to classify and transcribe these sounds. While phonetics can be studied in various ways, we will adopt an articulatory approach in this course, with a practical emphasis.

As an introduction to phonetics, this course assumes no prior knowledge of this field. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to some basic phonetic concepts and to deepen their understanding of the importance of phonetics in language studies. Students will learn how the sounds of English are classified and transcribed, and by the end of the course will be able to recognize and produce the most important contrasts. They will also gain insights into how their first languages influence their perception and pronunciation of English sounds.

**ENG2103 Analyzing English Grammar (from 2020-21)/  
Introduction to English Grammar (in 2019-20 or before) (3 credits)**  
(recoded to ENG3103 from 2020-21)

**ENG2106 Introduction to Literature I (from 2024-25)/  
Literary Analysis I (in 2023-24 or before) (3 credits)**

From 2024-25

This is the first part of the year-long introduction to literature and serves a dual purpose as a methodological and historical introduction to the study of literature. On the one hand, students will be introduced to fundamental questions about literature—what counts as literature and why? What is unique about reading and evaluating literary texts? What is the relationship between literature and society? In order to explore such questions, students will be introduced to the basics of literary and genre theory and to a variety of interpretative techniques. On the other hand, we will explore representative examples from a variety of periods and genres in order to gain fuller understanding of the main developments in Western literary history prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The information and skills provided in this course are essential to upper-level studies in English literature.

In 2023-24 or before

This course is the first part of a year-long introduction to the study of literature in English. Through it, we explore the formal features of prose narrative as well as its meanings in particular socio-historical contexts. Specifically, we try to understand what important roles stories can play in our everyday life and how literary techniques (point of view, plot development, characterisation and setting) enhance the effects that stories produce on readers. This course also aims to develop the basic skills of thinking, speaking and writing about literature.

**ENG2107 Introduction to Literature II (from 2024-25)/  
Literary Analysis II (in 2023-24 or before) (3 credits)**

From 2024-25

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.

#### In 2023-24 or before

This course is the second part of a year-long introduction to the study of literature in English. As opposed to prose fiction which is covered in ENG2106, the focus of this half is on drama and poetry which call for very different methods of reading and interpretation. In terms of drama, attention will be drawn not only to plot structure and character development but also to the dominant use of dialogue, stage direction and other features that are unique to the art of theatre. As to poetry, this course will explore how those special uses of language (metrics, imagery, tropes, etc.) contribute to the literary communication of meaning. Students will be asked to argue about the selected poems and plays in oral presentations or formal essays and support those arguments with evidence drawn from the texts.

#### **ENG3002 Introduction to Research Methods in English Studies (3 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to research methodology in English Studies with an aim to familiarise students with basic concepts of research. It also acts as a preparatory course for students undertaking research for their Final Year Project. The course examines current research paradigms, principles of research design, instruments of data collection, and commonly used research methods for small-scale studies, processes involved in the analysis of data, and modes of presenting research findings. By covering a range of theoretical and practical issues related to research in English language studies, the course shall equip students with an appropriate understanding of concepts, tools, and methods to conduct future research in their field of interest.

#### **ENG3003 Language, Gender and Sexuality (3 credits)**

The field of Language and Gender has seen dynamic changes since the publication of Robin Lakoff's seminal work, *Language and Woman's Place*, in 1975. Attention to language as a means of differentiating social groups has repeatedly highlighted the lower status of women in many societies and the close relationship between language and power overall. We will discuss different approaches to and historical perspectives on the study of language and gender, reviewing both qualitative and quantitative studies. We will consider gender as one of many social categories that interact with other categories such as age, race, class, ethnicity, profession, sexuality, and others.

In addition, we will examine how language shapes the way we think about social categories, including gender and sexuality. What role does language play in the empowerment or marginalization of certain groups in society? Stereotypes and biases about the sexes, standard and vernacular norms, and power and authority will also be examined in the course. Beyond gender differentiation in language structure, we also examine the role of discourse in identifying gender and sexuality as relevant social categories and how we can move away from essentialist views of these categories.

#### **ENG3004 Tragic Drama across Time and Space (3 credits)**

This course examines representative plays in the genre of tragedy from its origin in ancient Greece through its renaissance in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, its Chinese counterpart in the Yuan dynasty, to its "crisis" in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to the plays we read, theory and philosophy of tragedy will be introduced as assistance which can deepen our understanding of the form. This course also covers the cultural and intellectual contexts of the plays under discussion such as Greek mythology, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment,

and in the case of Chinese tragedy, the popular belief that “virtue will be duly rewarded and vice punished” (善惡有報). There will be interesting debates over the vital questions that are related to this particular genre of literature.

### **ENG3005 Twentieth-Century American Literature (3 credits)**

This course is designed as a survey of twentieth-century American literature. It introduces students to canonical American literary texts (poetry, prose, fiction, and nonfiction) from 1900 to the present, focusing on the issues of modernism, experimentalism, pluralism, translation, and media. It projects a picture of American literature rooted in the translocal and translingual, a literature that is not confined to national, cultural, or linguistic boundaries.

### **ENG3006 Final Year Project Preparation (3 credits) (from 2020-21 intake)**

This course will prepare students for the compulsory 6-credit Final Year Project (ENG4301) by taking a process writing approach to the major stages of the project, from proposal writing to drafting and editing. It begins by making students aware of research possibilities and methodological approaches in English Studies, and then takes them through the stages of proposal writing and development. This classroom-based course will enable students to gain greater benefit from the supervised stage of their project in the following semester or academic year.

### **ENG3007 Picturing Language: Literary Studies in Ekphrasis (3 credits)**

This course takes a historical, analytical, and creative approach to the partnership of words and images. Throughout the term, we will explore the ongoing kinship and tension between the sister arts through the role of paintings and portraits in literary texts across periods and genres. By studying the presence of visual artifacts in poetry and prose, as well as in new media, we will come to understand how they are more than mere descriptions of works of visual art; they also function as expressions of identity and class, as sexually charged and politicized acts, and as evocations of time, memory, and mortality. Moving from epic poetry to modernism to the contemporary novel to digital technologies, we will arrive at a deeper recognition of the power of ekphrasis in literary representation, material and virtual. In the process, we will also revisit the provenance and evolving usage of the term “ekphrasis” by artists and scholars. In cases where the images being written about actually exist, we will consider the original alongside the text to note differences and similarities in the translation from one medium to the other. The course will also give you the opportunity to create your own works of ekphrasis in order to demonstrate your knowledge.

### **ENG3008 English as a Global Language (3 credits)**

We often hear that English is a global language, but what does this actually mean? What are the observable phenomena, and how are they being discussed in both scholarly and public discourse about language? What are some of the consequences, for language users in different contexts? This course will take both a descriptive and a critical view on the expansion of the language beyond its original confines. It will engage with research topics in applied linguistics, such as World Englishes and English as a lingua franca, but will also identify the language ideologies that underpin the assumptions of separate varieties. Similarly, it will examine media discourse on the subject of contemporary English from a language-ideological perspective that seeks to tease out the prevailing assumptions and agendas. For example, why do people in many places (including Hong Kong) contend that standards of English are falling, and what does this reveal about the interaction between language practices and societal beliefs about language? Students will be encouraged to consider how the discourses of global English have affected their lives, and will have the opportunity to reflect upon their own language practices and experiences using the descriptive and critical lenses introduced during the course.

### **ENG3009 Linguaging: English and Creativity in Everyday Life (3 credits)**

(Restriction: Students are not allowed to take both this course and ENG2020 Varieties of English.)

What do we mean by ‘using’ language? Is it like playing chess, in which each piece has a fixed value and there are agreed-upon rules? Or is it more like a dance, which people perform together but never in exactly the same way? This course aims to engage with these questions by introducing a new understanding of language as languaging, and of creativity not as the mental product of creative geniuses but as something that is present in ordinary people’s everyday language activities. From this perspective, language is not simply a readymade tool to be used but demands our creative efforts to make it happen. In this course, we will look at seemingly mundane instances of ‘making language happen’ across a broad range of contexts from conversational narrative to professional communication. The course will emphasise the importance of context and creativity when individual language-makers engage with specific audiences. We will also critically analyse ‘creative’ texts produced by various parties (e.g. advertisements) and discuss their social and moral ramifications. Overall, through cultivating students’ awareness of creativity in everyday life and heightening their sensitivity to contexts, this course seeks to enhance their contextualization skills and enable them to communicate, both creatively and appropriately, in English.

### **ENG3010 Critical Approaches to Media Discourse (from Term 2, 2022-23)/ Critical Approaches to Social Media Discourse (in Term 1, 2022-23 or before) (3 credits)**

(Prerequisite: ENG3203 Discourse Analysis)

In the course ENG3203 Discourse Analysis, we have learnt that critical discourse analysis (CDA) connects language and social context, demystifying power at play and hidden ideologies in discourses. However, amongst various CDA approaches, how should we select the appropriate one to refine our analysis, making it more critical and focused? In addition, how can we apply CDA approaches to media genres, which have been gaining increasing importance in our daily life? This course aims to answer these questions by equipping students with the knowledge and skills for conducting critical analyses in different ways. We will explore issues such as the identity work of Instagram influencers, the (de)legitimation of political leaders and policies, and the discursive representation of marginalized groups (e.g., refugees and migrants) in online commentaries.

### **ENG3011 Multimodal Writing from Paper to Screen (3 credits)**

What is writing? How does it differ from speech and what are the interrelations between writing, speech, script, and language? What are the differences between alphabetic and non-alphabetic writing systems? How has writing (and language) evolved with technologies (paper, printer, telegraph, typewriter, computer, etc.)? This course aims to engage with these questions by introducing a new semiotics of writing, which is more compatible with contemporary developments of digital writing practices. We will examine various forms and types of materialized and mediated writing, such as calligraphy, conceptual art, shop signage, emoji-filled online posts (and books), and bullet comments, to demonstrate the material, medial and semiotic differences (and interactions) between ‘traditional’ and digital forms of writing. Students will gain a historically and culturally grounded understanding of writing, as well as hands-on training in analysing multimodal features and indexicalities of written texts that they encounter in everyday life.

### **ENG3012 Making It New: Introduction to Modernism (3 credits)**

This course aims to introduce students to modernism as one of the key developments in twentieth-century literary history. We will explore both the formal properties of modernist fiction and poetry and the relationship between the rise of modernism and the social

context of the early twentieth century. We will address such questions as the role of experimental techniques and mythical allusions in both poetry and fiction, as well as modernism's relationship to the First World War and the rise of technological modernity. We will read the programmatic texts of T.S. Eliot and Virginia Woolf, poetry by Eliot and Ezra Pound, as well as the fiction of Woolf and James Joyce, among others.

**ENG3103 Pedagogical Grammar** (from 2024-25)

**Analyzing English Grammar** (from 2020-21 to 2023-24)/

**Introduction to English Grammar** (in 2019-20 or before) (3 credits)

(recoded from ENG2103 from 2020-21)

(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and ENG2103 Introduction to English Grammar.)

From 2024-25

This course provides undergraduate students with a comprehensive understanding of how to effectively teach grammar in language learning settings. Through this course, students will explore various approaches to grammar instruction, integrating theory and practice to develop practical teaching strategies. Students will delve into key linguistic concepts and their application to language teaching. The course also covers the integration of grammar instruction with other language skills, error analysis and correction techniques, and the use of technology in teaching grammar. Furthermore, students will explore the specific needs of diverse learner groups and engage in hands-on activities such as lesson planning, micro-teaching, and reflective practice. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to design engaging grammar lessons and support language learners in their grammatical development.

From 2020-21 to 2023-24

This course introduces English grammar from a scientific viewpoint. It comprises advanced analysis of grammatical constructions at three different levels: phrase, clause, and sentence. It deals with the central features of English grammar, such as ergative verbs, phrasal prepositions, clause construction and verb complementation, paying particular attention to areas that are relevant and of interest to Cantonese speaking learners of English. It equips students with useful grammar knowledge and skills to analyse English texts, helping them to build solid research skills in applied linguistics.

In 2019-20 or before

This course is a systematic introduction to English grammar from a scientific viewpoint. It deals with the central features of English grammar, such as verb and noun phrase construction, clause construction and verb complementation, paying particular attention to areas that are relevant and of interest to Cantonese-speaking learners of English.

**ENG3202 Language, Society and the Media** (from Term 2, 2021-22)/ **Foundations of Sociolinguistics** (from 2016-17 to Term 1, 2021-22)/ **Language and Society** (in 2015-16 or before) (3 credits)

The course is aimed at giving students a basic understanding of how language is used in society from both a macro and micro perspective. It encompasses traditional sociolinguistic themes as well as those from social psychology, ethnography of communication, semiotics, pragmatics, and critical linguistics. It is believed that a varied approach can give students a more comprehensive understanding of how language is essentially both a process and product of society. Apart from giving students a firm grounding in relevant theories, it also exposes them to issues arising from the use of language in contemporary society. The course covers a wide range of topics including some recent developments in sociolinguistics, which investigate language and communication in the new media and written language in the public space.

### **ENG3203 Discourse Analysis (3 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to the field of discourse analysis to demonstrate the range of tools and approaches to the study of various kinds of texts. In this course, we will explore different approaches to the study of discourse, developing tools for analysing different kinds of texts and understanding the relationship between discourse contexts, functions, and meanings. Emphasis will be placed on data analysis in the course, which will give students the opportunity to apply concepts from the lectures to workshop discussions and assignments. Some units to be covered in the course include: cohesion and coherence, genres, narrative structure, pragmatics, conversation analysis, and multimodal discourse analysis.

### **ENG3204 Critical Perspectives in Literary Studies (from 2024-25)/ Contemporary Literature in English I: Prose Fiction (in 2023-24 or before) (3 credits)**

#### From 2024-25

ENG3204 introduces students to the major questions and issues that motivate literary studies today. We will explore the theoretical frameworks that inform the analysis of literary texts and examine the ways in which literature reflects and shapes social, cultural, and historical contexts, including gender studies, postcolonial studies, Marxist and materialist approaches to literature, ecocriticism, and new methodologies using digital tools.

By the end of the course, students should be able to identify key schools of thought within literary studies and understand how they have shaped the ways in which literary texts are read and interpreted. Through close reading and analysis of texts from different literary genres, you learn to apply these frameworks to your own literary analyses and engage in scholarly conversations about literary texts. You should also be able to reflect on your own theoretical assumptions and biases and engage in critical thinking and writing about literature.

#### From 2022-23 to 2023-24

Building on students' exposure to short fiction in Literary Analysis I, ENG3204 offers an overview of 21<sup>st</sup> century global Anglophone literature across a variety of narrative forms. Students will learn about the traditions and innovations of different novelistic genres, the conditions of the global circulation of both the English language and Anglophone literature, as well as other socio-political contexts unique to our contemporary moment. We will explore issues from gender & sexual politics to the workings of global capitalism and its impact on our ecological future, focusing on how writers depict, reflect on, and engage the world and its diverse linguistic, cultural, and racial histories. Emphasis will be placed on developing skills in not only literary interpretation but also critical writing. Through lectures, tutorials, online reading responses, and peer-review writing workshops, students will learn to analyze and write about both the literature and the world today

#### In 2021-22 or before

This course builds on the exposure to short fiction provided by ENG2106 Literary Analysis I in the second year of the major programme. It gives students an overview of the twentieth-century novels by pursuing the theme of travel. The study of travel narratives has become a central field of literary criticism over the past three decades, closely paralleling the rise of postcolonial criticism, since travel involves intercultural encounters and the exploration of alternative models of selfhood. We will focus in particular upon American novels, asking whether American travel narratives differ significantly from European ones. American writers often have a dual consciousness, since they are both imperialistic, and members of a postcolonial nation.

**ENG3205 Contemporary Literature in English: Drama and Poetry** (from 2024-25)/  
**Contemporary Literature in English II: Drama and Poetry** (in 2023-24 or before) (3 credits)

This course introduces students to drama and poetry both as literary genres for private reading and as a blueprint for performance or recitation, as for example in drama productions and competitions, speech festivals and poetry festivals. The course is divided into four equal units consisting of one stage play and several poems by two or three authors related to the theme of that particular unit, and connected to the play by common themes and social or personal issues.

In the four selected plays we will study elements of drama, as exemplified by the four set texts, illustrating especially how the plots advance character as the engine of incident, and depict incident (narrative events) as an illustration of character. It will explore the ways in which themes can be developed polyphonically, through the use of different, often competing, conflicting, as well as complementary voices within the play-text and its multiple possibilities for performance and interpretation. These complementary voices may invoke other writers whose poetic works capture or parallel the experiences of the play characters, e.g. *Wit* where poems are cited as intertextual reference in the play-text.

**ENG3206 Critical Literacies (3 credits)**

This course examines literacies with a critical lens in the context of 21<sup>st</sup> century education mediated by new technologies in the globalised world. Going beyond simply training students to read, write and make meanings from texts, the course aims to facilitate students' development of critical literacies and a cultural toolkit to understand the different concepts *of* and *about* texts produced by the different discourses and cultural practices through service-learning. The course also aims to foster students' critical perspective to question the textual realities produced by some literacy practices in everyday texts such as mass media involving the workings of power at personal, institutional, and societal levels. Another aim of the course is to raise students' awareness of the importance of critical reflection upon textual inclusion and exclusion, and how texts influence and position us as members of society, which in turn affect who have access to opportunities and resources for a better life. In so doing, the course will draw upon some important concepts in language, linguistics and literacies, to examine the consumption and production of a variety of texts. The course engages students actively in critical literacy practices in the development of their critical literacy stance and identities as a life perspective in their reading, seeing and acting in the world for the purpose of making a difference to the local community and contributing to a more just society through service-learning.

**ENG3250 European and Chinese Essay Forms: Attempts at Persuasion**  
(3 credits)

The essay can be defined as 'any short composition in prose that undertakes to discuss a matter, express a point of view, persuade us to accept a thesis on any subject or simply entertain. The essay differs from a treatise or dissertation in its lack of pretension to be a systematic and complete exposition, and in being addressed to a general, rather than specialised, audience. As a consequence, the essay discusses its subject in non-technical fashion, and often with a liberal use of such devices as anecdote, striking illustration and humour to augment its appeal.' (Abrams, *A Glossary of Literary Terms*). This course represents a cross-cultural study of the essay form combining insights from both Chinese language forms of essay (*xiaopinwen* in their earlier form and *zawen* in their later modernist manifestation) and the European/North American essay, which is generally thought to have started with Montaigne. This course is conducted in English with a little Chinese, and is intended for students with or without knowledge of written and spoken Chinese. The course seeks to create synergies and parallels between discursive essay styles

and subjects, whether European, North American or Chinese in origin. Some essays will be set on the course syllabus, whilst others will be selected by students for class presentation and discussion.

**ENG3264 Asian Voices in English (Fiction and Film) (3 credits)**

This course is designed to present a number of printed fiction or non-fiction texts and films written in English by Asian writers and to encourage cross-media and cross-cultural analysis of the two creative modes of expression. The aim is to provide a stimulating and innovative approach to the voices of Asians and Asia expressed through the English language. The course exposes students to selected novels and films, but does not deal specifically with filmic or fictional adaptation.

**ENG3265 Organisational Communication (3 credits)**

This course gives students an opportunity to study language and communication in the context of organisations. Apart from drawing on students' knowledge about language and society and applying the skills of discourse analysis acquired elsewhere in the programme, students are expected to acquire other relevant theories to enhance their understanding of organisational phenomena. Such an in-depth understanding of language use in organisations will not only prepare students for organisational life; it will also facilitate their mastery of skills to formulate communication strategies in order to function more efficiently in the workplace.

**ENG3266 Psycholinguistics (3 credits)**

Psycholinguistics is the psychological study of language: the study of the structures and processes which underlie human ability to learn and speak a language. It is a subject area which links psychology and linguistics. This course will introduce and examine major theories and topics in psycholinguistics. The course will also offer a practical orientation in order to relate theory to students' possible career options in teaching, speech therapy or related disciplines.

**ENG3271 English Phonology (3 credits)**

Phonology is the study of sound patterns in language. While closely related to phonetics, phonology has a different focus: it is concerned with the function, behaviour and organisation of speech sounds as linguistic units, rather than the production, perception and classification of speech sounds as physical entities. The course has three stages. After introducing students to some foundational concepts, selected aspects of English phonology will be examined in detail. Finally, various English accents will be surveyed from a number of perspectives. Lectures will be supplemented with practical phonological problems taken from English and from other languages, where appropriate. Students are required to solve these problems using the principles introduced in the lectures.

**ENG3272 Intercultural Communication (3 credits)**

This course is designed to give students a contextual understanding of the nature and dynamics of intercultural communication. Students will be introduced to theoretical concepts and practical knowledge about intercultural communication. They will be required to apply theories to actual situations through case studies and small-scale surveys, as well as reflecting on their own experiences in dealing with issues arising from communication in intercultural and cross-cultural contexts.

**ENG3274 Literature and Adaptation (3 credits)**

This is a practical course designed to raise awareness of the nature of literature by comparison with other media and to enhance students' oral and visual communication skills. It consists of mainly workshop sessions to develop in students the awareness, skills and motivation to adapt samples of English literary texts into other genres and other media.

A key part of the course is to develop in students a practical orientation to understanding the way that texts are constructed by transforming them into other forms and/or other media. The development of language skills under stimulating and creative circumstances is also very important.

### **ENG3277 English Drama Performance (3 credits)**

This practical course in English language production explores techniques of presentation and vocal delivery in drama, verse speaking, oral storytelling and other kinds of performance. Whilst clearly oriented towards students with an interest in learning performative language, it is equally relevant to those wishing to enhance skills such as diction, articulation and vocal projection for non-specialised language purposes. The course is constructed as a process-product experience for participants. They will devise and adapt, rehearse and refine chosen texts for performance in a collaborative context. Emphasis will be placed on important delivery skills such as vocal inflection, paralanguage and body language as well as appropriate and accurate pronunciation. The use of various media, including video and audio-recording, in addition to live performance will be exploited. The final product will be a live performance on campus as an assessment piece at the end of the course, but participation in the annual English Drama Production in April will be strongly encouraged.

### **ENG3303 Professional Communication (from 2016-17)/ Professional Communication Skills (in 2015-16 or before) (3 credits)**

The course aims to help students to develop a high level of language awareness and communicative competence in professional English. It will help students develop a deep understanding of the role and importance of language and communication in business and other professional settings. It will also enable students to effectively apply their oral and written professional communication skills in their future employment.

### **ENG3304 The Graphic Novel (3 credits)**

The course introduces students to the graphic novel (book-length comics) as a relatively "new" genre of contemporary literature. The course consists of a survey of key texts and provides students with the necessary critical toolkit used to analyse visual literatures. Over the course of the semester, we will focus on the "form" of the graphic novel and how it creates arguments about gender, class, sexuality and race. This course will also be an introduction to the critical methods and theories used to interpret the unique relationship between text and image.

### **ENG3372 Language as Play (3 credits)**

This course is derived from the insight that language play (that is, the use of language for no obvious reason apart from enjoyment) is in fact a very pervasive and purposeful human activity, and that it is a highly motivating factor in language learning and use. More than this, it recognises that language users do not only react to language but also contribute to it.

### **ENG3374 Contemporary Poetry as Text and Experience (3 credits)**

This course is designed to present an array of contemporary and modern poetry in English and to encourage an appreciation of the craft of writing. As well as reading and appreciating texts written by others, students will be encouraged to experiment with their own writing in English. The aim is to provide a stimulating and innovative approach to the study of contemporary and modern poetry which may lead to a personal interest in creative writing. Student writing will be encouraged.

### **ENG3375 Cross-cultural Studies of Literature (3 credits)**

Investigating texts from two cultural traditions, this course introduces students to the

academic field of cross-cultural research. Readings will be selected from prose narrative, drama and poetry of the Western and Chinese canons with a view to better understanding literature as a “universal” category of human civilisation. The texts selected are organised around either a thematic topic such as romantic love, war and peace, relationship between humans and nature or a generic “constant” such as satire, allegory, and fantasy. We will explore how these texts construct and inspire lived experience in similar as well as different ways.

### **ENG3378 Words: Their Form and Meaning (3 credits)**

This course is an introduction to the study of the forms and meanings of words in the English Language. It demonstrates how the forms of words can be changed by processes like inflection, derivation and compounding, and gives practical exercises in using suffixes to recognise word-class. It discusses how meanings of words can be defined and analysed according to various dimensions of meaning, how these meanings relate to each other and depend upon grammar and reference. It explores the information about words given in dictionaries, and suggests techniques for efficiently learning vocabulary.

### **ENG3379 Introduction to Children’s Literature in English (3 credits)**

This course introduces students to the important and vast area of children’s literature in English from a contemporary point of view. As well as reviewing the various definitions of children’s literature and surveying the key texts and movements that have shaped this literature, the course will focus on selected readings from children’s fiction which will form the core experiential learning of the course. Thematic focus in the course will vary with the instructor, and may include “alternative worlds”, “children’s literature in English translation”, and so on.

### **ENG3384 The Language of Literature (3 credits)**

From 2024-25

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.

In 2023-24 or before

This course provides an introduction to the study of language in literature, also known as stylistics. Students will become familiar with aspects of linguistic analysis, including grammar, pragmatics and conversation analysis, which may be used to analyse literary texts such as poetry, prose and drama. We will discuss what makes verbal texts “literary” and what stylistic choices writers make in producing these texts for readers.

### **ENG3385 Lifewriting (3 credits)**

This course is a writing course aimed at ushering students into the complex critical creativity required for lifewriting, which includes not only autobiography and memoir but biography and journalistic profiles as well, in a variety of different genres (letters, travel writing, blogs, essays, and so on).

### **ENG3387 Theoretical Positions and Interpretive Practices (3 credits)**

This course explores a number of important theoretical positions available in contemporary English studies and demonstrates how they can be used to approach written texts in particular and to understand cultural activities in general. More specifically, this course will be examining how cultural texts in general and literary texts in particular can be interpreted from the perspectives of practical and new criticism, Marxism, cultural materialism and new historicism, feminism and gender studies, post-colonialism and multiculturalism. The emphasis of the course is on how to relate these critical theories to students' own reading and writing practices.

### **ENG3389 New Literacies in the Digital Age (3 credits)**

This course examines multiple ways of making meaning with new forms of literacy as mediated by Web 2.0 tools. It focuses on the literacy development related to new literacies readily available in everyday life to enhance efficacious learning in formal settings. This is done through practical hands-on experiences and participatory culture for creativity and collaboration. It engages our digital age learners as empowered producers rather than passive consumers of text to become more dynamic, adaptive, critical and responsive to multiple aspects of learning including personal, academic, social and professional in and out of the classroom, and in the workplace. This ultimately prepares students to effectively cope with the real-world demands in language, creativity, communication, collaboration and technological skills crucial in the 21st century education, while building a sense of control and global identities important for life-long learning across contexts and cultures.

### **ENG3399 Special Topics in English (3 credits)**

The course will offer an area of study (such as "The Short Story in English", or "American Poetry post 1954", or "An Introduction to Semantics", or "Communication Theory", *etc.*) either in the literary or linguistic fields not already covered in the approved required and elective courses of the BA (Hons) Contemporary English Studies Degree Programme.

### **ENG3399a Special Topics in English: the Musical (3 credits)**

(Note: BACES students can take this course as a discipline elective of the "Contemporary Literary Studies" strand.)

This course, which is open to all students, focuses on literary stage and screen musicals such as *Kiss Me Kate (The Taming of the Shrew)*, *West Side Story (Romeo and Juliet)*, *My Fair Lady (Pygmalion)*, *Oliver (Oliver Twist)*; *Cats (Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats)*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Wicked (The Wizard of Oz/ Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West)*, *etc.* Topics are chosen to enable discussion of the development of a genre, the changes that occur in moving a work from a piece of literature to a stage (and in some cases, screen) musical adaptation, the changing emphasis from story line to special effects, and the role of the musical as a commentator on current events and society.

### **ENG3399b Special Topics in English: Transpacific Literature (3 credits)**

This course introduces students to the emergent field of Transpacific literature, with a focus on the contemporary period (post-World War II). We will analyse literary works that criticise American assumptions of global supremacy, while advancing alternative political perspectives and defending marginalised cultures. However, we will also ask whether the political, economic, and cultural rise of East Asia complicates the notion of transpacific literary opposition. Do new transpacific success stories entail new global inequalities, and does the academic establishment of "Transpacific literature," and of "Asian literatures in English," rely upon the supposedly discredited concept of "race"?

**ENG3399c Special Topics in English: Asian American Poetry (3 credits)**

This course will give students a sense of the almost 150-year old body of English-language poetry by Asian Americans and teach them to become better readers of poetry and better writers of literary criticism. Asian American poetry, like all poetry, has never been divorced from the historical context of its making and its reception. Thus, our consideration of the poems' formal properties will necessarily take into account the history of Asian Americans, US minorities, the United States, Asia, Asians in the diaspora and issues such as US foreign policy, colonialism, the discipline of English, war, race relations and racism. Students will be exposed to ideas and methods from the fields of American studies and critical race studies. They will also be given the option of doing some creative work for their final project.

**ENG3399d Special Topics in English: The Arts, Creative Writing and Journalism (3 credits)**

In this course, we will look at aspects of creative writing and nonfiction-writing, as well as various types of journalism with a focus on arts and travel written from a personal perspective. This writing style combines the obligations of nonfiction writing (primary and secondary source research, economy, accuracy) with the craft of fiction writing (narrative, metaphor, and emotional resonance). On the journalistic side, interviews and transforming experiences into words will be of utmost importance, always with the target audience in mind. Using discussion, workshops, in-class exercises, and a variety of written examples, we will explore an array of techniques useful for creating and amplifying your own writing.

**ENG3399e Introduction to Journalism Principles & Social Media (3 credits)**  
(from 2018-19)

*Introduction to Journalism Principles & Social Media: A Class Examining Journalism Basics from Interviews, Investigative, Travel, Photojournalism, Social Media & More*

In the changing world of media, from Fake News to attacks on press freedom, to internet-based news websites and social media platforms, today's media consumers are bombarded with more news and information sources than ever. How can a news consumer sort it all out and how do journalists produce the news? Through its examination of various media and hands on projects, this class will teach students about media from two main perspectives: how to be a better more informed media consumer, and how journalists do their work. The class will examine inherent biases and sourcing issues. Students will write articles of various media types from basic journalism, to investigative, to travel journalism, to art & cultural reviews, to photojournalism which will include the creation of photo essays. The class may include group outings to see how photographers and journalists work in live environments, and local journalists working for international news organizations based in Hong Kong will be invited as guest speakers. Students will learn interview techniques, note gathering, networking and contact building and other journalism aspects. Social media will be examined from several perspectives, including news distribution, sourcing and how it can dilute and replace the news. This class will help all students regardless of major or career goals to be both better writers and media producers and become better-informed citizens with a critical understanding of both mass and social media.

**ENG3399f Rebellion and Reaction: The 1960s Counterculture in Literature and Film (3 credits)** (from 2019-20)

The United States owes many of its noblest political movements to the social energy of the 1960s. Yet these youthful rebellions were in tension with conservative responses, and in particular with multinational business, which turned the "counterculture" into a global

consumer culture. Through an analysis of fiction, essays, and films, we will explore the counterculture's divided legacy. The Sixties and its heritage not only shapes America's contemporary cultural and political landscape, but also influences other national and transnational cultural formations. Students will be encouraged to relate the course themes to literature and culture in East Asia and Hong Kong.

### **ENG3399h Transnational Feminist and Women's Writing (3 credits)**

Before our contemporary #MeToo Movement and "girlbosses," there were suffragettes and flappers, birth control advocates, sex strikers, and feminists of all kinds. In this course, we take a grand world tour to explore the emergence of the "New Woman" as a figure of gender emancipation and resistance in the twentieth century. We will begin with Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* and its famous ending, in which the protagonist, Nora, abandons her husband and children in search of an independent life. For some, Nora's exit augurs the collapse of an entire social order; for others, she is celebrated precisely because that collapse promises new liberations. How does the modern woman's self-definition against gender norms relate to the processes of modernity? And how do women's movements connect with other international workers' and anti-imperialist struggles?

Reading canonical feminist works alongside women's magazines, avant-garde art, and other genres, we will see that in her various incarnations, the "New Woman" defies any single definition. As we learn to interpret literary techniques in these texts, we will also see how the imaginative construction of alternative modes of womanhood remained a common ambition for writers and activists determined to inspire social, political, and economic change. This course will examine the challenges the New Woman offers in different global situations, and will help us discover—to quote Lu Xun upon his reading of Ibsen's play in translation—"what happens when Nora leaves home."

### **ENG3399i Special Topics in English: Children's Literature (3 credits)**

This course provides a survey of Children's Literature and Young Adult Literature in the West. Since these genres only began in the early nineteenth century, we should be able to cover the highpoints during our twelve weeks of class. We will focus on the UK and the USA and explore such themes as the nature of childhood, growing up (both physically and mentally), schools (both single sex and co-ed), parents and siblings (the home) and friends. We will also cover the dominant frameworks of thought during this time period in the West (including religion (i.e. Christianity), colonialism, the rise of the middle class, and the advent of Charles Darwin) and see these frameworks at work in the texts we read. Important historical events (especially World War I and World War II) will also be integrated into the course framework.

Given the nature of the course, we will not read any full-length texts. Instead, we will read the opening chapters and/or other excerpts from some novels (and poetry and drama) for children and young adults to get a sense of these works. You are encouraged to read further if you enjoy a particular work. The readings will be posted on the appropriate learning platform or through internet links.

### **ENG4301 Final Year Project (6 credits)**

This course aims to develop the students' ability to carry out extended investigation into a specific topic chosen by the student and approved by the English Department. Students may choose a literary, linguistic or practical topic. By producing a long paper, students will be asked to demonstrate and synthesise the subject matter knowledge, linguistic ability, academic writing skills and analytical power which they have developed over the four years of study.

**ENG4302 Final Year Project (3 credits)** (from 2020-21 intake)

(Prerequisite: ENG3006 Final Year Project Preparation)

This course aims to develop the students' ability to carry out extended investigation into a specific topic they have chosen. Students will develop, research and write up the literary, linguistic or practical topic they identified in ENG3006. By producing a long paper, students will be asked to demonstrate and synthesise the subject knowledge, linguistic ability, academic writing skills and analytical power which they have developed over their four years of study.