

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

<b>Course Title</b>	:	Contemporary Fiction in English
<b>Course Code</b>	:	ENG204
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	:	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	:	3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	:	Lecture and Tutorial
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	:	2 hours Lecture/week 1 hour Tutorial/week
<b>Category in Major Programme</b>	:	Required Course
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	:	N/A

### **Brief Course Description**

This course exposes the student to a range of contemporary texts in English, using narratives which will highlight the current importance of English as a world language. The texts will vary from year to year but will share some common aspects: they will offer a bi-cultural, often bi-racial point of view and are written by authors who come from a variety of different national backgrounds. The course exposes students to the phenomenon of world writing in English.

### **Aims**

This course aims to acquaint students with representative contemporary fictions written in English and to consider the nature of fiction as a genre. In addition to exploring the particular qualities of fiction, the course also aims to develop in students a creative sympathy for literature in English that will enlarge their sensibilities. Texts will be selected with a particular emphasis on themes, emphases, and approaches that may relate to the Hong Kong student: multiculturalism, colonialism or post-colonialism, gender perspectives, and East-West issues.

### **Learning Outcomes**

The students are expected to: (1) develop an appreciation of literature as a moral and aesthetic value; (2) enhance their skills of literary analysis; (3) advance their ability to write (and speak) coherently in English; and (4) to introduce students to contemporary writing in English written from a variety of cultural positions.

## **Indicative Content**

Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*  
Kazuo Ishiguro, *A Pale View of Hills*  
J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace*  
Anita Desai, *Diamond Dust*

## **Teaching Method**

The course consists of lectures by the instructor, in which the modes and techniques of literary analysis are demonstrated. The course includes tutorials which enable the student to discuss more informally the issues raised in lecture.

## **Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

Students' progress towards the learning outcomes outlined above will be measured by continuous assessments on the students' engagement with the lectures, tutorial discussions, readings, presentations, and written assignments. In addition, students' knowledge will be assessed by a final examination at the end of the term.

## **Assessment**

Continuous Assessment: 60%  
Final Examination: 40%

## **Required Readings**

Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*  
Kazuo Ishiguro, *A Pale View of Hills*  
J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace*  
Anita Desai, *Diamond Dust*

## **Supplementary Readings**

There will be lecture notes for all the texts plus a selection of articles and reviews that are appropriate to the level of the course.