

B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies

Course Title	:	The Language of Literature
Course Code	:	ENG384
Recommended Study Year	:	2 nd & 3 rd Year
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	:	Disciplinary Elective
Prerequisite(s)	:	N/A
Co-requisite(s)	:	N/A
Exclusion(s)	:	N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	:	N/A

Brief Course Description

This course introduces the student to stylistics, that is analysis of the linguistic and pragmatic choices made by writers to produce literary texts. It builds on the linguistic descriptive and productive skills acquired in years 1 and 2. The course will also introduce students to a number of computer applications such as semantic coding software to analyse textual patterning.

Aims

The course 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, and to allow students to experiment in creating their own literary texts.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will:

1. Be aware of the linguistic and pragmatic features which might distinguish literary from non-literary texts;
2. Be aware of the kinds of linguistic and pragmatic patterning associated with poetry, advertising, fiction and drama;
3. Be able to use concordancing and other IT software to investigate stylistic patterns in texts;
4. Have practised the production and rewriting of texts in different styles.

Indicative Content

1. Stylistics in its historical context
2. Phonological and lexical patterning in poetry and advertising
3. Concordancing software for investigating lexical patterning
4. Grammatical patterns in prose
5. Semantic and stylistic coding software
6. The representation of speech and thought
7. Narrative structure and point of view
8. Pragmatic patterns in drama
9. Metaphor
10. Literary and non-literary texts
11. Literary texts and other media: music, art and film
12. Parody

Teaching Method

Teaching will be in lectures, which demonstrate the linguistic and computer tools for analysis of literature, and in tutorials, where students apply these tools and relate them to literary response. Students will also be introduced to the use of relevant software.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

The presentation, tutorial and exam test the students' knowledge of the nature of literary language. Assignment (2) tests their ability to apply linguistic analytical tools to literary texts. Assignment (3) tests their competence in the creation and rewriting of texts and awareness of the stylistically significant linguistic features involved.

Assessment

60% Course work. 3 assignments:

1. A presentation of an analysis on prose or poetry
2. Written analysis of prose, poetry or drama
3. Creative writing/adaptation of a text

The first two assignments will involve use of relevant computer software and other analytical tools.

40% written examination. (2 questions: 1 stylistic analysis and interpretation of an unseen text; 1 writing task, generating appropriate style for a given purpose.)

Required Readings

Selections from the following:

- Carter, R., Goddard, A., Reah, D., Sanger, K. and Bowring, M., *Working with Text*, London: Routledge, 1997.
- Carter, R & Simpson, P. Eds., *Language, Discourse and Literature*, London: Unwin Hyman, 1989.
- Cluysenaar, A., *Introduction to Literary Stylistics*, London: Batsford, 1976.
- Cook, G., *The Discourse of Advertising*, London: Routledge, 2001.
- Fowler, R., *Linguistic Criticism*, Oxford: OUP, 1996.
- Goatly, A., *Explorations in Stylistics*, London: Equinox, 2008.
- Goatly, A., *Critical Reading and Writing*, London: Routledge, 2000.
- Goodman, S and O'Halloran, K., *The Art of English: Literary Creativity*, Basingstoke: Macmillan, 2006.
- Kowitz, J. and Carroll, D., 'Using Computer Concordances for Literary Analysis', In Johns, T. and King, P., *Classroom Concordancing, ELR Journal* vol. 4, University of Birmingham: Centre for English Language Studies, 1991.
- Leech, G.N. 'Stylistics and Functionalism', In *The Linguistics of Writing*, edited by Fabb, N., Attridge, D., Durant, A. and MacCabe, C., Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1987.
- Leech, G.N. and Short, M., *Style in Fiction*, Harlow: Longman, 1981.
- Montgomery, M., Durant, A, Fabb, N. Furniss, T. and Mills, S., *Ways of Reading*, London: Routledge, 1992.
- Nash, W., *Language in Popular Fiction*, London: Routledge, 1990.

Supplementary Readings

- Bradford, R., *Stylistics*, London: Routledge, 1997.
- Leech, G.N., *A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry*, Harlow: Longman, 1969.
- Mills, S., *Feminist Stylistics*, London: Routledge, 1995.
- Pope, R., *Textual Interventions*, London: Routledge, 1995.
- Thornborrow, J., and Wareing, S., *Patterns in Language*, London: Routledge, 1998.
- Widdowson, H., *Practical Stylistics*, Oxford: OUP, 1992.