

B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies

Course Title	: Literary Analysis I
Course Code	: ENG2106
Recommended Study Year	: 2 nd Year
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture-tutorial mode
Class Contact Hours	: 2-hour lecture per week 1-hour tutorial per week
Category	: Required Course
Prerequisite(s)	: Nil
Co-requisite(s)	: Nil
Exclusion(s)	: Nil
Exemption Requirement(s)	: Nil

Brief Course Description

ENG2106 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, characterization 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.

Aims

The course aims to achieve the following:

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

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should:

1. be able to comprehend the assigned texts;
2. be able to use relevant theoretical concepts that can facilitate a structured understanding of prose fiction;
3. be able to analyze the formal features of prose fiction;
4. be able to relate fictional narratives to their social and historical contexts;
5. be able to write well-argued critical essays on prose fiction.

Indicative Contents

1. Introduction to the literary genre of prose fiction;
2. Presentation of texts chosen from various sources to provide extensive and intensive practice in responding to and analyzing fictional narratives;
3. Necessary background knowledge to the chosen fictional texts;
4. Presentation of the common critical vocabulary and terminology used in the discussion of prose fiction;
5. Strategies and techniques for speaking and writing about prose 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 prose 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 teacher-led instruction to student-centered activities that encourage student independence and self-confidence in discussing and writing about prose fiction.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

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

Learning Outcome	Assessment Method		
	Response Paper	Short Essay	Final Exam
Be able to comprehend the assigned texts	x	x	x
Be able to use relevant theoretical concepts that can facilitate a structured understanding of prose fiction	x	x	x
Be able to analyze the formal features of prose fiction	x	x	x
Be able to relate fictional narratives to their social and historical contexts		x	x
Be able to write well-argued critical essays on prose fiction		x	x

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

Assessment

Continuous Assessment: 60%

Participation and Team Spirit (12 points):

Students are expected to actively participate in classroom discussions. Marks for this category will also take into account students' willingness to work with their group mates as a team.

Assessment Task #1 (24 points):

Concepts and their applications – write a response paper to discuss critical terms in relation to the texts which have been covered in the first unit of the course.

Assessment Task #2 (24 points):

Write a brief essay, comparing 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.

Final Examination: 40%

Assessment Task #3

1. Answer questions that are related to one of the stories covered in Unit 3 of the course, paying special attention to one or several critical terms introduced earlier. (20 points)
2. Read an unseen mini-story or an extract of a long piece of literature and make an extensive critical response to the given topic. (20 points)

Textbook

Mays, Kelly J. 2016. *The Norton Introduction to Literature* (Shorter 12th Edition). New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Recommended Readings

- Bradford, Richard. 1996. *Introducing Literary Studies*. London: Harvester.
- Daiches, David. 1981. *Critical Approaches to Literature*. London: Longman.
- Ferster, Judith. 2005. *Arguing through Literature: a thematic anthology and guide*. Boston: McFraw-Hill Higher Education.
- James, Brown & Yarbrough, Scott D. 2005. *A Practical Introduction to Literary Study*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Longman.
- Kennedy, X. J. & Gioia, Dana. 2005. *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry & Drama*. New York: Pearson Longman.
- Klarer, Mario. 1999. *Introduction to Literary Studies*. London: Routledge.
- Lentricchia, Frank, & McLaughlin, Thomas. 1994. *Critical Terms for Literary Study*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Marsh, Nicholas. 1995. *How to Begin Studying English Literature*. London: Macmillan.
- Ousby, Ian. 1991. *The Cambridge Guide to Literature in English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Pope, Rob. 1998. *The English Studies Handbook*. London: Routledge.
- Richards, I. A. 1964. *Practical Criticism: A Study of Literary Judgement*. London: Routledge.
- Roche, Mark. 2004. *Why Literature Matters in the 21st Century*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Schilb, John & Clifford John. 2000. *Making Literature Matter: an anthology for readers and writers*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.
- Simpson, Paul. 1997. *Language through Literature: an introduction*. New York: Routledge.
- Trilling, Lionel. 1967. *The Experience of Literature*. New York: Doubleday.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the stipulated course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students should be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. For example, presentation of another person's work (including the borrowing of exact phrases, summarized ideas or even footnotes/citations) without proper acknowledgement of the source is not allowed. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.