

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

<b>Course Title</b>	: The Language of Literature
<b>Course Code</b>	: ENG3384
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	: 3 <sup>rd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup> Year
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	: 3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	: Lecture-tutorial mode
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	: 2-hour lecture per week 1-hour tutorial per week
<b>Category</b>	: Discipline Elective (Contemporary Language / Literary Strand)
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	: Nil
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	: Nil
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	: Nil
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	: Nil

### **Brief Course Description**

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 analyze 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.

### **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 this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe various concepts and tools used in the study of literary language;
2. Explain the relationship between linguistic choices and the effects and meanings produced in a variety of genres;
3. Work collaboratively with peers to analyze texts and present their findings in both spoken and written forms;
4. Create original literary texts using their understanding of language in literature.

### **Indicative Contents**

- Introduction to Stylistics
- Grammar and Style
- Rhythm and Meter
- Narrative Stylistics
- Style as Choice

- The representation of speech and thought
- Narrative structure and point of view
- Pragmatic patterns in drama
- Metaphor and Metonymy
- Dialogue and Discourse
- Literary and non-literary texts
- Literary texts and other media: music, art and film

### **Teaching Method**

The course will consist of lectures on Thursdays and tutorials on the following Tuesdays throughout the term. Grades will be based on 60% continuous assessment and 40% final exam.

### **Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

The presentation, tutorial and exam test the students' knowledge of the nature of literary language (Outcomes 1 and 2). Assignment (2) tests their ability to apply linguistic analytical tools to literary texts (Outcomes 2 and 3). Assignment (3) tests their competence in the creation and rewriting of texts and awareness of the stylistically significant linguistic features involved (Outcomes 2 and 4).

### **Assessment**

65% 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
- 15 % A group presentation of an analysis of a poetry "collection" (2-3 poems)—given during the tutorial slot. 20 minutes + 5-10 minutes discussion. Analyze the language of the text by relating your linguistic analysis to literary effects in your selected pieces. Both your presentation skills and the content of your presentation will be assessed. [Course objectives 1-3];
  - 20 % Written analysis of prose or drama (around 1500 words). Apply concepts from the course to a chosen piece of prose or drama. The course will furnish plenty of models for such analysis. You may choose a piece you have written on before but never analyzed from a stylistic perspective. [Course objectives 1-2];
  - 20 % This assignment is part free creative exercise and part critical reflection. You may write your own poem, short story or short play. Or you may change one genre to another, e.g. a news report into a poem or a short story into a play. In every case you should also write an introduction to your piece (around 300-500 words) describing the way in which your creation or adaptation has used, modified or responded to matters of style. This term, the English Department Writer in Residence, Sreedhevi Iyer, will be working with you on this assignment throughout the course. Some students may wish to develop their work for publication in the English Dept. Literary Magazine for the current academic year. [Course objectives 1, 2, 4].

- 10% Participation. In addition to your overall contribution to class discussions (both groupwork and whole-class discussions), Your peer responses to other students' presentations will also be assessed.

35% final examination.

### **Required Readings (selections)**

- Bakhtin, M. M. (1981). "Discourse in the Novel," in M. Holquist (ed.). *The Dialogic Imagination: Four Essays by M. M. Bakhtin*. 12<sup>th</sup> ed. Trans. by C. Emerson and M. Holquist. Austin: The University of Texas Press, pp. 259-422.
- Burke, M. (ed.) (2014). *The Routledge Handbook of Stylistics*. London: Routledge
- Carter, R. A. and Stockwell, P. (eds.) (2008). *The Language and Literature Reader*. London: Routledge.
- Fowler, R. (1996). *Linguistic Criticism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hope, J., & Wright, L. (2002). *Stylistics: A Practical Coursebook*. Routledge.
- Jefferies, L. and McIntyre, D. (2010) *Stylistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Nørgaard, N., Busse, B., & Montoro, R. (2010). *Key Terms in Stylistics*. A&C Black.
- Simpson, P. (2014). *Stylistics: A Resource Book for Students* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). London: Routledge.
- Stockwell, P. (2003) *Cognitive Poetics: An Introduction*. London: Routledge.
- van Peer, W. (ed.), (2008). *The Quality of Literature: Linguistic Studies in the Evaluation of Literary Texts*. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

### **Supplementary Readings**

- Abbott, H. P. (2008). *The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bex, T., Burke, M., and Stockwell, P. (eds) (2000). *Contextualized Stylistics*. Amsterdam: Rodopi.
- Carter, R., Goddard, A., Reah, D., Sanger, K. and Bowring, M. (1997). *Working with Texts*, London: Routledge.
- Chapman, S. and Clark, B. (2019). *Pragmatics and Literature*. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Cook, G., (2001). *The Discourse of Advertising*. London: Routledge.
- Gavins, J. and Steen, G. (eds.) (2003). *Cognitive Poetics in Practice*. London: Routledge.
- Goatly, A. (2008). *Explorations in Stylistics*. London: Equinox.
- Goodman, S and O'Halloran, K. (2006). *The Art of English: Literary Creativity*, Basingstoke: Macmillan.
- Jefferies, L. (2017). *Critical Stylistics: The Power of English*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.
- McIntyre, D. and Walker, B. (2019). *Corpus Stylistics: Theory and Practice*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Mills, S. (2002). *Feminist Stylistics*. London: Routledge.
- Nash, W. (1990). *Language in Popular Fiction*, London: Routledge.
- Thornborrow, J., and Wareing, S. (1998). *Patterns in Language*. London: Routledge.

Vught, Jasper V. (2022). “What is Videogame Formalism? Exploring the Pillars of Russian Formalism for the Study of Videogames.” *Games and Culture* 17 (2), 284–305.

Widdowson, H. (1992). *Practical Stylistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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 course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall 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. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. 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/>.