

VANITA VISHRAM WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
SYLLABUS FOR PH. D ENTRANCE – ENGLISH
EFFECTIVE FROM A. Y. 2023 - 2024

Unit 1: English Literature from Chaucer to Present Day

- Chaucer and the Canterbury Tales: Middle English language, satire, social commentary, religious themes
- Shakespearean drama and sonnets: language, themes, characters, genre, influence
The metaphysical poets (e.g. John Donne): religious, philosophical, and scientific themes, language, style
- Restoration comedy (e.g. Congreve, Wycherley): wit, satire, gender roles, morality
Romantic poetry (e.g. Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley): nature, imagination, emotion, individualism
Victorian novels (e.g. Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights): realism, social criticism, gender roles, the Gothic
- Modernist poetry and fiction (e.g. Eliot, Woolf, Joyce): fragmentation, disillusionment, experimental language and narrative structure
- Postcolonial literature (e.g. Rushdie, Coetzee): hybridity, identity, history, language, power

Unit 2: American Literature

- Puritan writing (e.g. Anne Bradstreet): religion, gender, nature, language, identity
The American Renaissance (e.g. Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville): transcendentalism, individualism, nature, the Gothic
- Realism and Naturalism (e.g. Twain, Chopin, James): social criticism, regionalism, naturalism, determinism
- Modernism (e.g. Eliot, Stevens, Faulkner, Hemingway): fragmentation, alienation, war, consciousness
- Postmodernism and contemporary literature (e.g. Morrison, Pynchon, DeLillo): metafiction, intertextuality, postmodernism, identity

Unit 3: Indian Literature in English

- Indian English poetry (e.g. Tagore, Ezekiel): language, form, themes (e.g. nature, religion, politics)
- Indian English fiction (e.g. Mulk Raj Anand, R.K. Narayan): realism, social criticism, identity, colonialism
- Indian English drama (e.g. Girish Karnad, Mahesh Dattani): language, themes (e.g. history, myth, identity)
- Postcolonial literature and the Indian diaspora (e.g. Rushdie, Lahiri): identity, hybridity, language, power, history

Unit 4: Literary Theory and Criticism

- Formalist literary theory (e.g. New Criticism): close reading, textual analysis, form and structure
- Reader-response criticism: reader interpretation, reception theory, affective criticism
Psychoanalytic literary theory: Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis, Oedipal complex, symbolism, desire

- Marxist literary theory: ideology, power, class struggle, historical materialism
- Feminist literary theory: gender, patriarchy, representation, intersectionality
- Postcolonial literary theory: colonialism, neo-colonialism, identity, language, subalternity
- Queer theory: sexuality, gender, identity, power, representation
- Eco-criticism: nature, environment, sustainability, human relationship with nature

Unit 5: ELT (English Language Teaching)

- History of ELT: communicative approach, task-based approach, grammar-translation approach
- Approaches to teaching English (e.g. communicative language teaching, task-based language teaching): principles, techniques, advantages and disadvantages
- Language acquisition theories (e.g. Krashen's Input Hypothesis): input, output, affective filter, interaction
- Pedagogical grammar: grammar teaching, communicative grammar, form-focused