VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Syllabus for English PG course

(w. e. f. 2013 – 2014)

Course-structure: Semester: English

The Dept. of English Vidyasagar University is offering M.A. Course in English under the Semester system with the following syllabus.

The syllabus assumes in the students an interest in higher learning and aims at equipping them for an academic career. This syllabus has been framed keeping in mind the recommendations of the CDC regarding various emerging areas in English Studies.

The Post graduate programme in this system will be divided into 16 (sixteen) courses (of 50 marks each) and will consist of Four Semesters to be covered in two years: the First and the Second Semesters in the first year, and the Third and the Fourth in the second year. For each course: Total marks: 50 (Theoretical Exam: 40; Internal Assessment: 10)

Each Course is divided into three units. .Essay type questions of 14 marks each will be set on texts from all the three units, of which a candidate will answer any two (14x2=28). A candidate will be required to write 3 comments on lines/phrases/ scenes/episodes taken from these texts, by choosing one from each unit (4x3=12).

In the 4th Semester Courses 402 and 403 will consist of 2 and Course 404, of 3 optional papers each. A candidate will choose one optional paper for each of these courses.

SEMESTER: I

Course No: 101: Poetry I (Medieval to Pre-Romantic)

Unit 01: Chaucer: *Prologue to the Canterbury Tales*; Spenser: *The Faerie Queene Bk I.*

Unit 02: Donne: 'The Canonization', 'The Exstasie'; Marvell: 'The Garden' 'An Horatian Ode Upon Cromwell's Return from Ireland'; Milton: *Paradise Lost* Book IV.

Unit 03: Pope: 'Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot'; Blake: Selections from *Songs of Innocence*

and *Songs of Experience*.

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Recommended reading:

C.S. Lewis: *The Discarded Image.*

Hardin Craig: *The Enchanted Glass.*

Douglas Bush: *Mythology and the Renaissance Tradition in English Poetry*.

Stephen Greenblatt: *Renaissance Self-fashioning.*

Basil Willey: *The Seventeenth century Background: Studies in the Thought of the Age in Relation to Poetry and Religion*

Christopher Hill: *Milton and the English Revolution.*

Ian Jack: *Augustan Satire: Intention and Idiom in English Poetry 1660-1750.*

Course No: 102: Drama I (Medieval to Romantic)

Unit 01: *Everyman*; Marlowe: *Doctor Faustus*.

Unit 02: Jonson: *Volpone*; Dryden: *All for Love*

Unit 03: Congreve: *The Way of the World*; Shelley: *Prometheus Unbound*.

Recommended reading:

E. Cassirer, P.O. Kristeller and J.H. Randall (ed): *The Renaissance Philosophy of Man.*

A. L. Rowse: *The Elizabethan Renaissance.*

L.C. Knights: *Drama and Society in the Age of Jonson.*

G.E. Bentley: *The Jacobean and Caroline Stage.*

L.J. Bredvold: *The intellectual Milieu of John Dryden.*

Raymond Williams: *The Country and the City.*

Marilyn Butler: *Romantics, Rebels and Reactionaries*

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Course No: 103: Shakespeare

Unit 01: Shakespeare's Sonnets (selections), *Richard III*

Unit 02: *The Tempest, Measure for Measure*

Unit 03: *Othello / King Lear,* Shakespearean Criticism (from the 18th century to the present)

Recommended reading:

E.K. Chambers: *William Shakespeare: A Study of Facts and Problems.*

E.K. Chambers: *The Elizabethan Stage* (in four volumes).

Stanley Wells: *Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare Studies*.

Julia Briggs: *This Stage-Play World.*

Course No: 104: (Fictional and Non-fictional Prose – 18th and 19th Centuries)

Unit 01: Defoe: *Robinson Crusoe*; Fielding: *Tom Jones*

Unit 02: George Eliot: *Middlemarc*h; Hardy: *Tess of the D'urbervilles*

Unit 03: Addison: *Coverley Papers* — selections; Dr. Johnson: *Life of Cowley*;

M. Wollstonecraft: *Vindication* [Any two]

Recommended reading:

Ian Watt: *The Rise of the Novel.*

James Clifford (ed.): *Eighteenth Century Literature: Modern Essays in Criticism.*

James Sambrook: *The Eighteenth Century: The Intellectual and Cultural Context of Literature 1700-1789.*

G.M. Trevelyan: *English Social History.*

G.M. Young: *Victorian England: Portrait of an Age.*

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SEMESTER: II

Course No: 201: Poetry II (19th Century)

Unit 01: Wordsworth: *Prelude BK I* / Coleridge: 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner', 'Kubla Khan'

Unit 02: Keats: 'Fall of Hyperion', 'Ode to Psyche', 'Ode on Melancholy' / Tennyson: *In Memoriam* (selections)

Unit 03: Browning: 'Andrea Del Sarto', 'Fra Lippo Lippi'; Hopkins: 'Felix Randal', 'The Windhover', 'I wake and feel', 'Thou art indeed Just, Lord'

Recommended reading:

Boris Ford (ed): *New Pelican Guide to English Literature* Vol. 5

E. J. Hobsbawm: *The Age of Revolutions: 1789 – 1848*

Stuart Curran: *The Cambridge Companion to British Romanticism*

Robin Gilmour: *The Victorian Period: The Intellectual and the Cultural Context of English Literature, 1830 - 1890*

Course No: 202: Drama II (19th and 20th Centuries)

Unit 01: Wilde: *Importance of Being Earnest*; Synge: *Playboy of the Western World*

Unit 02: Eliot: *Murder in the Cathedral*; Shaw: *Saint. Joan*

Unit 03: Harold Pinter: *The Birthday Party*; Stoppard: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*

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Recommended reading:

Henrik Ibsen: *A Doll's House*

Martin Esslin: *Theatre of the Absurd*

Bernard Bergonzi: *Wartime and Aftermath: English Literature and its Background*

Course No: 203: Fictional and Non-fictional Prose II (19th and 20th Century Texts)

Unit 01: Arnold: *Culture and Anarchy*—selections; Strachey: *Eminent Victorians* — selections

Unit 02: Conrad: *Heart of Darkness*; Lawrence: *Sons and Lovers*

Unit 03: Virginia Woolf: *To the Lighthouse*; James Joyce: *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*; Graham Greene: *Brighton Rock* *[any two]*

Recommended reading:

J.H.Buckle: *The Victorian Temper: A Study in Literary Culture.*

Leon Edel: *The Psychological Novel.*

Robert Humphrey: *Stream of Consciousness and the Modern Novel.*

Course No: 204: Poetry III (19th & 20th Century Texts)

Unit 01: Yeats: 'Byzantium', 'Sailing to Byzantium', 'Among School Children', 'A Coat', 'Easter 1916' [any three]; Lawrence: 'Snake', 'Bavarian Gentians'

Unit 02: Eliot: 'Marina', 'Preludes'; Auden: 'Musee des Beaux Arts'; Dylan Thomas: 'A Refusal to Mourn the Death by Fire of a Child in London'

Unit 03: Louis MacNeice: 'Meeting Point', 'Snow'; Larkin: 'Whitsun Weddings': Ted Hughes: 'Thought – Fox'; Seamus Heaney: 'Death of a Naturalist', 'Digging'

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Recommended reading:

Julian Symons: *The Thirties.*

Samuel Hynes: *The Auden Generation.*

Donald Davie: *Under Briggflatts: A History of Poetry in Great Britain: 1960-1988*.

Alan Sinfield (ed): *Society and Literature: 1945-1970*

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THIRD SEMESTER

Course 301: (Literary Criticism)

Unit I: (any three) Plato: *The Republic*, Bks. 3 & 10; Aristotle: *Poetics*; Horace: *Ars Poetica*; Longinus: *On the Sublime*

Unit 02: Sidney: *An Apology for Poetry*; Dryden: *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy*

Unit 03: (any three) Wordsworth: 'Preface' to the *Lyrical Ballads*; Coleridge: *Biographia Literaria* Chapters: 13, 14, 18; Shelley: *A Defense of Poetry*; Keats: Letters (selections)

Course 302:

Unit I: Matthew Arnold: *The Study of Poetry*; T. S. Eliot: *Tradition and the Individual Talent, The Metaphysical Poets*; I. A. Richards: *Principles of literary Criticism* (selections)

Unit 02: Critical Terms relating to modern critical theories (any ten)

Unit 03: Raymond Williams; Roman Jakobson; Roland Barthes; Derrida (any three)

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Recommended reading:

Wimsatt and Brooks: *Literary Criticism: A Short History*

David Lodge: *Twentieth Century Literary Criticism: A Reader*

Rene Wellek: *A History of Modern Criticism*

Raman Selden: *The Theory of Criticism from Plato to the Present: A Reader*

Jeremy Hawthorn: *A concise glossary of contemporary literary theory*

V. S. Seturaman (ed): *Contemporary Criticism: An Anthology*

Peter Barry: *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*

Course 303: Colonialism and Post-colonialism

Unit I: Tagore: *Nationalism* (Selections); Fanon: *Wretched of the Earth* (Selections); Ngugi: *Decolonizing the Mind* (Selections)

Unit 02: Bhabha: *Other Question* (Selections); Edward Said: *Orientalism* (Selections); Ashcroft: *Empire Writes Back* (selections)

Unit 03: Forster: *Passage to India* / Coetzee: *Foe*; Soyinka: *Dance of the Forests* or Poetry

Braithwaite; A. D. Hope; E. J. Pratt (five poems by each of the poets)

Recommended reading:

Neil Lazarus: *The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Literary Studies*

Padmini Mongia (ed): *Contemporary Postcolonial Theory: A Reader*

John Thieme (ed): *The Arnold Anthology of Post-colonial Literatures in English*

Elleke Boehmer: *Colonial and Postcolonial Literature*

Bill Ashcroft et al: *Key Concepts in Postcolonial Studies*

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Course 304: New Literatures

Unit I: Patrick White: *Voss*; Judith Wright (selections) **[Australian]**

Unit 02: Margarett Atwood: *Surfacing*; Leonard Cohen (selections) **[Canadian]**

Unit 03: V. S. Naipal: *A House for Mr. Biswas*; Derek Walcott (selections**)** **[Caribbean]**

Recommended reading:

Cimon Gikandi: *Encyclopedia of African Literature*

Abiola Irele (ed): *The Cambridge History of African and Caribbean Literature*

Ashcroft, Griffith, Tiffin (ed): *The Post-colonial Studies Reader*

Davis Jack & Bob Hodge (ed): *Aboriginal Writings Today*

Bruce Bennett & Straus (ed): *The Oxford Literary History of Australia*

William Toye: *The Oxford Companion to Canadian Literature*

James Arnold: *A History of the Literature in Caribbean*

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Fourth Semester

Course 401: American Literature

Unit I: Melville: *Moby Dick*;; Hemmingway: *The Old Man and the Sea;* Toni Morrison: *The Bluest Eye* [any two]

Unit 02: Miller: *Death of a Salesman*; Tennessee Williams: *The Glass Menagerie*

Unit 03: Whitman; Dickinson; Frost; Plath. (Five poems each by any three poets)

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Recommended reading:

Handlin, Oscar: *The Americans: A New History of the People of the United States* (two Vols.)

Lewis, Richard W.: *The American Adam*

Persons, Stow: *American Minds: A History of Ideas*

Horton. Rod W. & Herbert W. Edwards*: Backgrounds of American Literary Thought*

Cunliffe, Marcus: *The Literature of the United States*

Course 402: Special Paper — I

Option A: Indian English Literature (Fiction)

Unit I: Bankim Chandra Chatterjee: *Rajmohan's Wife*; Tagore: *Home and the World*; Gandhi: *My Experiments with Truth* (selections) [any two]

Unit 02: Raja Rao: *Kanthapura*; R. K. Narayan: *The Guide;* Mulk Raj Anand: *Coolile*; Jawaharlal Nehru: *Discovery of India* (selections) [any two]

Unit 03: U. R. Anantha Murhty: *Samskara;* Arundhati Roy: *God of Small Things;* Subhas Chandra Bose: *My Autobiography* (selections) [any two]

Recommended Reading:

Meenakshi Mukherjee: *Early Novels in India*

_____. *Twice-born Fiction*

_____. *Perishable Empire*

B.S. Naikar: *Indian Literature in English Translation*

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Option B: New Literatures

Unit I: (African)

Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart;* Doris Lessing: *The Grass is Singing*,

Wole Soyinka: *Adaptation of the Bacchae*, "Myth, Literature and the African World"

[any two]

Unit 02: (Australian)

Kim Scott: *Benang;* Sally Morgan: *My Place;* David Malouf: *Blood Relations;* Ooedgeroo (five poems) [any two]

Unit 03: (Canadian, Caribbean)

Michael Ondaatje: *The English Patient;* Jean Rhys: *Wide Sargasso Sea*, Lamming: *Pleasures of Exile;* V. S. Naipal: *India*: *A Wounded Civilization* [any two]

Recommended Reading:

Simon Gikandi: *Encyclopedia of African Literature*

Abiola Irele (ed): *The Cambridge History of African and Caribbean Literature*

Ashcroft, Griffith, Tiffin (ed): *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*

Davis Jack & Bob Hodge (ed): *Aboriginal Writings Today*

Bruce Bennett & Strauss (ed): *The Oxford Literary History of Australia*

William Toye: *The Oxford Companion to Canadian Literature*

James Arnold: *A History of the Literature in the Caribbean*

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Course 403: Special Paper — II

Option A: Indian Writing in English (Poetry & Drama)

Unit I: Toru Dutt, Sarojini Naidu, Sri Aurobindo, Nissim Ezekiel, Kamala Das (five poems each by any three poets)

Unit 02: A. K. Ramanujan, Arun Kolatkar, Keki N. Daruwalla, R. Parthasarathy, Jayanta Mahapatra (five poems each by any three poets)

Unit 03: Rabindranath Tagore: *Red Oleanders;* Girish Karnad: *Hayavadana;* Vijay Tendulkar: *Silence! The Court is in Session* [any two]

Recommended Reading:

M. K. Naik: *A History of Indian English Literature*

Makarand Paranjape: *The Penguin Aurobindo Reader*

Bruce King: *Modern Indian Poetry in English*

William Walsh: 'Small Observations on a Large Subject (Nissim Ezekiel, R. Parthasarathy, A. K. Ramanujan)' in *Aspects of Indian Writing in English,* ed. M. K. Naik

Anisur Rahaman: *Form and Value in the Poetry of Nissim Ezekiel*

Rabindranath Tagore: Three Plays (Translated and with an Introduction)

Three Modern Indian Plays (Girish Karnard: 'Tughlaq', Badal Sirkar: 'Evam Indrajit', Vijay Tendulkar: 'Silence! The Court is in Session') with an Introduction by U. R. Anantha Murthy

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Option B: American Literature

Unit I: Mark Twain: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn;* Fitzgerald: *Great Gatsby;* Steinbeck: *Grapes of Wrath* [any two]

Unit 02: Langston Hughes; Wallace Stevens; Allen Ginsberg; Gwendolyn Brooks (five poems each from any three poets)

Unit 03: Emerson*: The American Scholar;* Thoreau: Selections from *Walden;* Maxine Hongkinston: *The Woman Warrior;* Tony Morrison: *Playing in the Dark* [Any three]

Recommended Reading:

Handlin, Oscar: *The Americans: A New History of the People of the United States* (two Vols.)

Lewis, Richard W.: *The American Adam*

Persons, Stow: *American Minds: A History of Ideas*

Horton. Rod W. & Herbert W. Edwards*: Backgrounds of American Literary Thought*

Cunliffe, Marcus: *The Literature of the United States*

Course 404: Special Paper — III

Option A: Diasporic Literature

Unit I: Rohinton Mistry: *Such a Long Journey;* Bharati Mukherjee: *Jasmine;* Amitav Ghosh: *The Shadow Lines* [any two]

Unit 02: Salman Rushdie: *Midnight's Children;* Bapsi Sidhwa: *Ice Candy Man* Jhumpa Lahiri*: Interpreter of Maladies* (selections) [any two]

Unit 03: Salman Rushdie: *Imaginary Homelands* (selections)

Stuart Hal: *Cultural Identity and Diaspora*

Meenakshi Mukherjee & Harish Trivedi (ed): *Interrogating Post-colonialism* (selections)

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Recommended Reading:

A.K. Mehrotra: *An Illustrated History of Indian Literature in English*
Maleolm Bradbury: *The Atlas of Literature*
Avtar Brah: *Cartographies of Diaspora: Contested Identities*

Option B: Dalit Literature

Unit I: Bama: *Karukku / Sangati* Ompraksh Valmiki :*Joothan* / Laxman Gaikwad :*The Branded*

Unit 02: 'Dr. Ambedkar's Speech at Mahad' in *Poisoned Bread*, Sharankumar Limbale: *Towards an Aesthetic of Dalit Literature* (selections)

Unit 03: M. R. Anand & Eleanor Zelliot (eds): *An Anthology of Dalit Literature* (poems) / Arjun Dangle (ed): *Poisoned Bread* [poems and stories (selections)] / Sankar Prasad Singha & Indranil Acharya (eds): *Survival and Other Stories* (selections)

Recommended Reading:

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: *Annihilation of Caste*

_____. *Who were Shudras?*

Kancha Illaih: *Why I am not a Hindu*

N. M. Aston (ed): *Dalit Literature and African-American Literature*

Fernando Franco, Jyotsna Macwan & Suguna Ramanathan: *Journeys to Freedom: Dalit Narratives*

Murali Manohar: *Critical Essays on Dalit Literature*

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Option C: Elizabethan and Jacobean Literature (excluding Shakespeare**)**

Unit I: Elizabethan stage and audience,

Machiavelli: *The Prince* — selections; Castiglione**:** *The Courtier* (selections) **/**

Erasmus: *Praise of Folly* (selections)

Unit 02: Robert Greene: *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay;* Thomas Dekker: *The Shoemaker's Holiday*

Unit 03: Marlowe: *Jew of Malta*; Webster: *The Duchess of Malfi*

Recommended Reading:

Allardyce Nicoll. *British Drama*

E.K. Chambers. *The Elizabethan Stage*- Vol.I

M.C. Bradbrook *Themes & Convention of Elizabethan Tragedy*

---------- *The Growth and Structure of Elizabethan Comedy*

Peter Ure. *Elizabethan and Jacobean Drama: Critical Essays*

Quentin Skinner, *The Foundations of Modern Political Thought*, v. I, *The Renaissance*

Una M. Ellis Fermor: *Jacobean Drama*

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