

Course Content

The following course units will be offered:

- Research Methodology
- Textual Analysis and Practice
- Sociolinguistics: Critical Approaches
- Life writing
- World Englishes
- Digital Cultures
- Beyond the Post-colonial
- Sri Lankan Writing in English

ENG 6205 - Research Methodology

This course will introduce students to research methods for English Studies including literary, linguistic and cultural approaches, and identify the skills necessary for successfully designing, implementing, and completing a research project which has a theoretical base in any of these areas. The course will focus on the formulation of a research question, identification of appropriate methods of research, familiarisation with academic conventions of writing and presentation, and the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in research in English.

The content of this course will include approaches to research methodology, an introduction to qualitative and quantitative research methods, an introduction to research environments for English studies including journals, books, electronic media, archives and other sources, disciplinarity, the appropriate citing of sources and the use of accepted academic conventions, the avoidance of plagiarism and the adherence to appropriate research ethics both in the treatment of informants and in the acknowledgment of intellectual property.

- Formulating a research question
- Methods of research and data collection
- Conventions of academic writing
- Writing and presenting a research proposal
- Using ICT and statistical methods in research
- Compiling a bibliography
- Research ethics and avoidance of plagiarism

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ENG 6102 - Textual Analysis and Practice

The reading and interpretation of different types of texts are important to the study of both language and literature. This course will explore the manner in which texts can be read, analysed and interpreted within the following broad areas of focus: Interpretive Textual Analysis, Critical Discourse Analysis and Genre Analysis.

The course content will include an introduction to the following critical theories

- Russian Formalism
- Marxism
- Structuralism
- Postcolonialism
- Feminisms
- Psychoanalysis
- Rhetorical analysis and ideological analysis of different types of texts
- The identification of different types of literary and linguistic genres and their functions

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ENG 6208 – Sociolinguistics: Critical Approaches

This course assumes knowledge and understanding of how language operates in different social situations, and will critically examine and analyse sociolinguistic issues both in local and international contexts which have an impact on ethnicity, gender, identity, education, multilingualism and multiculturalism and linguistic ideology, drawing on a variety of theoretical approaches.

The content of this course will include the connections between language, identity and gender, language contact and linguistic variation, the choice of medium of instruction for minorities in multilingual communities, issues of language rights and social equity, the establishment of standards for pedagogical purposes and the construction and deconstruction of language ideologies.

The course content will include the following:

- Language, ethnicity and identity
- Language and gender
- Language attitudes and ideologies
- Language contact

- Language policies and planning
- Linguistic discrimination
- Language rights and social equity

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ENG 6103 - Life writing

This course focuses on the field of study known as life writing which broadly encompasses autobiographical and biographical literature. Students will focus on themes related to self, identity, memory, trauma, truth, culture, ethics, power, and the division between the public and the private. The course will examine the impact of postmodern challenges to the self, to identity, and to writing about the self. It will investigate the social purpose of some of this writing.

The literature to be examined will include selections from different modes of writing which take the construction of the self as the primary focus, and which include memoirs, essays, autobiographical fiction, confessional poetry, testimonies, letters, and forms of travel writing.

The following topics will be covered:

- Introduction to life writing: the construction and contestation of life writing as a specific genre; the emergence of „Autobiography Studies“; forms of life writing; key terms.
- Debates in life writing; autobiography criticism’s theorization of the subject in a postmodern era; feminist autobiography criticism and the politics of women’s selfrepresentation; the portrayal of cultural identity in life writing, and the demarcation of sameness and difference; the ethics and aesthetics of life writing; life writing and the public sphere; electronic life writing: the “era of computer-mediated confession”; performative life writing: musical texts; autobiographical comics: a “graphic self”.
- Life writing, space, and place: the representation of lives and place (the rural, the urban, and the suburban); migrant stories; biographies of the city; personal narratives of displacement.
- Women-authored life writing: women’s autobiography and its discussion in feminist, postcolonial and postmodernist critical debates
- Postcolonial life writing: narratives of postcolonial auto/biographical subjectivity
- Queer life writing: the “sex life” as life story
- Personal narratives of injury, disability, and illness: the “literature of personal disaster” [

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ENG 6101 – World Englishes

This course outlines the worldwide emergence and acceptance of World Englishes. It combines a linguistic and literary approach in discussing the distinctive features of new varieties of English and their literatures, their current positions and future possibilities.

The content for this course will include theoretical and descriptive models of World Englishes; their distinctive morphological and structural features; issues of codification and acceptability; elite and popular culture; ideology, hegemony, attitudes and resistance, and current debates in learning, teaching and testing.

The following topics will be covered:

- Definition of World Englishes
- Historical context of World Englishes (post-colonial approaches)
- Descriptive models and theories (Kachru, Schneider, etc.)
- Linguistic features of World Englishes – phonological, syntactic, grammatical, lexical and semantic variations
- Attitudes, ideologies and beliefs about World Englishes
- Acceptance and codification of World Englishes in local educational context □ World Englishes literature

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ENG 6206- Digital Cultures

This course will focus on the development of new media, and their impact on both language and visual cultures, specifically the impact of the internet and its attendant discourses on language teaching and learning. Digital narratives and digital performance, read and understood in terms of semiotic theory, the archive, and the evolving nature of spectatorship will also be a component of this course.

This course will require students to engage with the following: new media and its technologies („Youtube“, „Facebook“, „Twitter“, „Wikipedia“); media in performance practice, photography and culture; the impact of digital cultures on language teaching and learning, and knowledge production; issues of ethics including copyright and surveillance.

The following topics will be covered:

- Differentiating between spoken, written and digital discourse
- Understanding the language of the Internet – email, chat, wikis, blogs, MUDs etc.
- The new media, alternative expression and the changing nature of writing culture, performative expression, interpretation and spectatorship

- Issues of „identity“ and „social presence“ in a context of social networking and virtual reality
- The complexity of the new „free“ media: The question of privacy
- Approaches to the production and usage of digital media: Discussing responsibility, ethics and self-reflexivity
- Digital discourses and language variation and change □ The Internet as an ELT resource

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ENG 6207 - Beyond the Post-colonial

This seminar course focuses on important debates in contemporary postcolonial studies which take as their point of departure the term „post-colonial“ itself as something much more than „after the colonial“. It introduces students to a variety of writing on the disciplinary boundaries of postcolonial studies, and on issues of time, space, and historical contingency in relation to the colonial encounter; its legacies and how it has shaped language and literature, identity and difference, and the global and the local.

Students will read key essays and literary texts, and view films that explore the following topics:
Topics covered are:

- Introduction to postcolonial studies and definition of key terms
- How the postcolonial circulates
- Key themes in postcolonial studies: Representation and Voice; History and the politics of Emergence; Decolonization and Development; Mourning; Narrative and Discourse
- Postcolonial Englishes: Languages and Communication

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ENG 6104: Sri Lankan Writing in English

This course will explore selected Sri Lankan Writing in English and situate these texts in relation to their socio-historical contexts and develop an understanding of the politics of culture in relation to these contexts. Sri Lanka's colonial history has also been a decisive shaping force on the literature in English, and since Independence Language policies, the ethnic conflict and subsequent economic developments need to be foregrounded in understanding the position of Sri Lankan English, issues relating to identity, hybridity and militarisation. The impact of the Gratiaen Prize, the establishment of writing groups and cooperatives, and the Galle Literary Festival will also be analysed.

In addition to literary texts, the course will also introduce students to essays that focus on the main debates and discourses in Sri Lankan writing in English. The use of language in relation to these texts will be explored through seminal essays by scholars of Sri Lankan English.

The following topics will be covered:

- Introduction to Sri Lankan Writing in English – post Independence scenario □ The place of English in the 1970's and 1980's and the impact on the production and publishing of writing
- Insurrectionist politics and literary responses
- The Ethnic Conflict – issues of identity, nationhood, political violence and militarization
- Language and Identity – literary language, Standard English and the place of Sri Lankan English in contemporary writing
- The 1990's – the effect of the Gratian Prize, Writing Groups, publishing houses and writing competitions and the Galle Literary Festival
- Sri Lankan Drama in English – public performances, censorship, mainstream and alternative theatre
- Sri Lankan Writing on the global stage – migrant writing and local authors

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