**

## (Established under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956, by notification No.F.9-12/2001-U3 Government of India) Accredited by NAAC with ‘A’ Grade­­­­­ Founder: Prof. Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, M.Sc.,Ph.D. *(Awarded Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri by President of India) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (English)*

**Sub Committee - Specialization for Curriculum Development**

**Post Graduate/ Under Graduate**

**Name of Institute:** Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

**Course Title:** Contemporary Fiction Today: A Junior Seminar Course

**Course Code:**

**(UG/PG):** UG

**Number of Credits:** 4 (60 Hrs)

**Level:** 3

**Introduction**

The field of literature studies has grown tremendously in the past couple of decades and now, the traditional discipline of English Literature taught across various Universities has become more and more interdisciplinary. This seminar course draws its methodology from this interdisciplinary nature of Literature and Comparative Literature Studies and combines it with a deep analytical approach to literary texts.

The course will examine original and translated works by major international fiction writers who have achieved both popular success and critical acclaim. The works will be placed against their local contexts as well as the global conditions in which they were produced and in which they thrive. There will be in-depth textual analysis along side with cultural and political understandings of larger issues.

**Learning Objective(s):**

1. **­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­**To identify and comprehend the arguments about the interdisciplinary nature of Literature Studies
2. To demonstrate an ability to place structural and cultural readings alongside
3. To interpret the many meanings in fiction texts
4. To apply theoretical concepts in reading
5. To produce new writings on contemporary literature

**Pedagogy:**

1. Students will be expected to read the texts and the critical literature around the texts prior to the commencement of the various topics
2. This course is a largely discussion based seminar course, where each student will present their own readings of the material
3. Students will be expected to do research and in depth readings on larger issues as well

**Pre-requisites: Students of 2nd, 3rd and 4th Years- those who are interested in humanities and social sciences**

**Course Outline**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| S.No. | Topic | Hours |
| 1. | **Introduction to an interdisciplinary approach in Literature**   * Comparative literature today * Ideology in Literature studies * How to read/What to read * Figure of the individual author | **10hrs** |
| 2. | **Nadine Gordimer: Focus on Burger’s Daughter**   * Race as a major theme * Political activism * Love * Language * Context of South Africa and apartheid laws * Comparison to Coetzee | **10 hours** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| S.No. | Topic | Hours |
| 3. | **Roberto Bolano and The Savage Detective**   * Context of Latin American writing * Aesthetics of poetry and crime * Inherent politics * Purpose of literature and its intersections with Life | **8 hours** |
| 4. | **OrhanPamuk and My Name is Red**  - Concerns of history in fiction  - Genre mixing  - Political context of Turkey  - Conflictual/ fluid identities of east and west | **8 hours** |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 5. | **Jose Saramango and Blindness**   * Specific style of writing * Subversive quality of work * Fantastic combined with a deep human understanding of realism * Connect to his entire canon of works | **8 hours** |
|  | **Haruki Murakami and Kafka on the Shore**   * Postmodernism * Plot lines * Characterization * Western influences * Japanese identity? | **8 hours** |
|  | **Individual Project**  **Choose an author and discuss major thematic/political concerns** | **8 hours** |
|  | **Total** | **60hrs** |

**Books Recommended**

* Clingman, Stephen. *The Novels of Nadine Gordimer: The History from Inside*. University of Massachusetts,1998
* Ignacio López-Calvo, ed. *Roberto Bolaño, a Less Distant Star: Critical Essays*. New York, Palgrave Macmillan Publishing, 2015.

ed. *Critical Insights: Roberto Bolaño*. Hackensack, NJ Salem Press, 2015.

* Pamuk, Orhan. *Other Colours: essays and a story*. Knolf. 2007
* Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek and Tutun Mukherjee (eds). *Companion to Comparative Literature, World Literatures, and Comparative Cultural Studies*. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press India, 2013.
* Strecher, Matthew Carl. *Dances with Sheep: The Quest for Identity in the Fiction of Murakami Haruki*. University of Michigan/Monographs in Japanese Studies, 2001
* Suter, Rebecca. *The Japanization of Modernity: Murakami Haruki Between Japan and the United States*. Harvard University Asian Center, 2008.

**Suggested Evaluation Methods:**

As per SIU Rules on Pg no. 20 – 5.1 e) III

**Benchmarked against similar courses in other national/ international universities /organizations**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** | **Name of the Course** | **Name of University where it is offered** |
| 1 | Contemporary Literature (i)(ii) | Delhi University, New Delhi, India |
| 2 | Global Cultures | Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India |
| 3 | The Contemporary | University of Kent, Kent, United Kingdom |
| 4 | Contemporary Literature: Reading and Writing | University of Queensland, Australia |

**Parallel/Similar coursesin the existing curriculum:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| S.No. | Name of the course | Institute where it was offered |
|  | NA |  |
|  | NA |  |
|  | NA |  |
|  | NA |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of Member | Gayatri Mendanha | SreeSathya Venugopal | Sujata Mukherjee |  |  |
| Designation | Asst. Professor | Asst.Professor | Visiting Faculty SSLA,Freelance |  |  |
| Org. / Inst. | SSLA | SSLA | SSLA |  |  |
| Signature |  |  |  |  |  |

Name of the Expert: SreeSathya Venugopal

Signature:

Date