

B. Com/BBA Additional English

Semester I

Introduction

The aim of the text is to introduce the students with the cultural orientation in English studies. The cultural turn, in the postcolonial era in literary studies have widened the scope of understanding various socio-cultural phenomena which were otherwise the reign of a few specialised scholarly studies distinctive to their disciplines. Keeping in mind the need of the hour, the text attempts to cater to the students the diversified areas wherein they can actively engage themselves in introspective and interrogative ways to understand their lived world better. Apparently, the three modules with their distinctive titles have one idea inherent, which is the “self” and the “emergence of the self”. The modules under this syllabus are distinctively devised keeping in mind the contemporary socio-cultural phenomena where an individual unavoidably becomes a subject/object of reciprocation. The first module ‘Literature of the Diaspora’ intends to engage the students with the narratives of displacement, relocation and cultural identity; the second module ‘Illness as Metaphor’ includes a novel on making meaning out of one’s existence while struggling with death and the essay on the power of telling one’s story (a tested piece in the classroom for last two semesters wherein the students started closely associating themselves with the art of telling their own stories) and the last module is titled ‘Narratives of Performance/Performing the Self/Other’- which in a nutshell gives the students an idea of nationalist theatre expressing the urges of replacing the colonial with the revival of one’s cultural and traditional art forms, the woman question in the public sphere and the gender in performance.

Objectives

- To look into the deeper aspects of representations of the migrants and their various challenges
- To understand and evaluate illness, impairment, and care through a variety of texts
- To understand the diversity of performance and the performing subjects

Module 1: Readings from the Diaspora

1. ‘One out of Many’ from the novel *In A free State* by V. S. Naipaul
2. ‘Fatherland’ from *The Refugees* by Viet Thanh Nguyen

Themes and issues:

- a. Nostalgia and alienation
- b. Region, race and gender

- c. Issues of ethnicity
- d. Literature and identity politics
- e. Marginality and forms of representation

References:

- Hall, Stuart. 1993. "Cultural Identity and Diaspora." In *Colonial Discourse & Postcolonial Theory: A Reader*, ed. Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman, 392-403. New York and London: Harvester Wheatsheaf
- Rushdie, Salman. *Imaginary Homelands*. London: Viking, 1991.
- Benedict Anderson's *Imagined Communities*
- Cohen, Robin. "Diasporas and the Nation-State: from victims to challengers" 1996. <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/sociology/staff/emeritus/cohenr/research/papers/diasporas.pdf>
- Koser, Khalid. *International Migration: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: OUP, 2007.
- Sahay, Anjali. *Indian Diaspora in the United States*. Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan, 2009.
- Boehmer, Elleke. *Colonial and Postcolonial Literature: Migrant Metaphors*. New Delhi: OUP, 2006.

Module 2: Illness as Metaphor

1. *When Breath Becomes Air*- Paul Kalanithi
2. The Healing Power of a Personal Narrative - May Benatar

Themes and issues:

- a. Power of storytelling vs. healing
- b. Linking individual stories to collective stories
- c. Integrated objective of medicine and literature
- d. Ethical ways of dealing with diseases and illnesses
- e. Accounting illness/depression through forms of literature like memoirs/journals/letters

References:

- Rita Charon. *Narrative Medicine: Honouring the Stories of Illness*, OUP, 2006.
- Virginia Woolf. *On Being Ill*, Mosaic Books, 2017
- Gilbert, Sandra M, and Susan Gubar. *The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000.
- Sontag, Susan. *Illness as Metaphor*, Penguin Books, 1983
- Leo Tolstoy's "The Death of Ivan Ilych"
- Lewis Mehl-Medrona. *Healing the Mind through Power of Story: The Promise of Narrative Psychiatry*, Simon and Schuster, 2010

Module 3: Paradigms of Performance

1. Bal Gandharva - Meera Kosambi
2. Contemporary Indian Theatre: Three Voices - Erin B. Mee (from Performing Arts Journal)

Themes and issues:

- a. Perspectives on theatre and performance
- b. Folk traditions and development of modern Indian theatre
- c. Politics, Social Change and the stage
- d. Gender in performance

References:

- Bhatia, Nandi. "A Historiography of Modern Indian Theatre," in *Modern Indian Theatre: A Reader*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 2011.
- Boehmer, Elleke. "Transfiguring: colonial body into postcolonial narrative", *Novel* Vol. 27(2). Pp. 268-77.1993.
- Chatterjee, Partha. "The Nationalist Resolution of the Women's Question" in Kumkum Sangari and Suresh Vaid edited *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian Colonial History*, Nueva. Brunswick: Rutgers, 1989. Pp. 233-253.
- Dhadwadker, Aparna Bhargava. *Theatres of Independence: Drama, Theory and Urban Performance in India since 1947*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2005
- Howard, Jean E. "Crossdressing, The Theatre, and Gender Struggle in Early Modern England" in *Shakespeare Quarterly*, Vol. 39, No. 4., 1988, Pp. 418-440.
- Kapur, Anuradha. "Reassembling the Modern: An Indian Theatre Map in Independence" in *Modern Indian theatre: A Reader* edited by Vasudha Dalmia. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 2009.
- Kosambi, Meera. *Gender, Culture, and Performance: Marathi Theatre and Cinema before Independence*, London: Routledge. 201

Semester II

Introduction

After a brief and introductory exposure of the students in the first semester to the wider nuances of the cultural turn in the literary studies, the second semester text specifically offers the students with articulations of resistance to the various socio-cultural and political processes which have been influential in their marginalisation. Starting from the discourse of caste, sub-nationalism and the question of asylum-seeking and granting/denial of citizenship, this text is an attempt to explore the perception of the students about issues concerning exploitation of humankind through cultural hegemony, national/regional dichotomy and the state-operated mechanism of ethnic cleansing. For this, the text is spread across a few distinctive genres- poetry, short story, film text and novella.

Objectives

- To acquaint students with the idea of ethnicity, heterogeneity, debates on nationality of the sub-nations
- To compare the idea of “nationalism” before and after independence
- To understand how war and conflict affect individuals and societies
- To relate the understanding of the idea of a nation within the literary and theoretical framework

Module 1: Echoes of Regionalism and Identity

1. Song of the Dog and the Republic-Namdeo Dhasal
2. The Wolf’s Postscript to Little Red Riding Hood-Agha Shahid Ali
3. Blood of Others-Temsula Ao
4. Refugee Blues-W H Auden

Suggested Topics:

- a) Caste identity and the narrative of the nation
- b) Religious conversion in different parts of India
- c) Tribal identity
- d) Transnationalism
- e) Dynamics of political persecution

References:

- Ashcroft, Bill, Griffiths, Gareth, and Tiffin, Helen. *The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Post Colonial Literatures*. London: Routledge, 1989. Print.
- --- (eds.) *The Post-colonial Studies Reader*. London: Routledge: 1995. Print.

- Bhabha, Homi K. (ed.) *Nation and Narration*. New York: Routledge: 1990. Print.
- Iliah, Kancha. *Buffalo Nationalism: A Critique of Spiritual Freedom*. Bhatkal & Sen. 2004

Module 2: War and Trauma Narratives

1. War-Luigi Pirandello
2. Capernaum-A Film

Suggested Topics:

- a) Memory, trauma and melancholia
- b) War and loss
- c) Right to education
- d) Displacement and childhood
- e) Negotiating with the sense of belongingness under circumstances of war/forced migration
- f) Pacifism

References:

- Todorov, Tzvetan. 'The Uses and Abuses of Memory' / Aleida Assmann, 'To Remember or To Forget?'
- LaCapra, Dominick. "Trauma, Absence, Loss," *Critical Inquiry* 25, no. 4 (1999): 696-727.
- Arendt, Hannah. "We, the Refugees," *Menorah Journal* 31, 1 (1943);
- Agamben, Giorgio "We refugees" (1994);
- _____. "Beyond Human Rights" in *Means without Ends. Notes on Politics*, (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000), pp. 15-28
- -*UNICEF, "Education under Fire: How Conflict in the Middle East is Depriving Children of their Schooling," 1-9.
- Readings from Bertrand Russell

Module 3: Metaphors of Politics and Power

1. Animal Farm-George Orwell
2. Bayen -Mahasweta Devi

Suggested Topics:

- a) Political allegory
- b) Leadership and corruption
- c) Nation and democracy

- d) Gender and subjectivity
- e) Superstitions and excommunication of women

References:

- Foucault, M. (1980a) *Prison Talk* // Foucault M. *Power/Knowledge. Selected Interviews and Other Writings. 1972-1977.* New York: Pantheon Books.
- Bhatia, Nandi. "A Historiography of Modern Indian Theatre," in *Modern Indian Theatre: A Reader*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 2011.
- Bloom, Harold (2009). *Bloom's Modern Critical Interpretations: Animal Farm - New Edition (1st ed.)*. Infobase Publishing. ISBN 1604135824.
- Sen, Nandini. *Mahasweta Devi: Critical Perspectives*. Pencraft International, 2011.
- Nandy, Ashish. *At the Edge of Psychology: Essays in Politics and Culture*. OUP. 1990.