

Course: Modern Novel

Level: MA ENGLISH 2nd

Course Code: ELL 307

Course Description

With a background knowledge of the types of fictions, the diversity in the art of characterization, i.e. round, flat, and stock characters etc. and all the associated details students have learnt in the course of classical novel, this course focuses the novels of 20th century. Through this course on Modern fiction, the students are able to grasp different techniques used and art/literary movements used in novel writing. For instance, questioning modes of imperialism in the Heart of Darkness (1902), stream-of-consciousness technique used in Woolf and Joyce's works and, similarly, questions about cultures and humanity at large raised in the novels of Forster and Golding respectively. The basic questions raised against imperialism in works of Conrad will aid the students to study postcolonial novel in the later semesters. Students will appreciate the fact novel is the leading genre of modern literature that caters to the literary needs of modern readers. The diversity of themes explored in the novels of this course will excite the students to think critically and make them realize the importance of this genre of literature which, as is apparent from its nomenclature, has the capacity to incorporate any level of ingenuity of thought in its narrative. Course Objectives

1. This course will survey the work of novelists who represent the artistic and cultural aspects of modern narratives.
2. The students are to examine different aspects of modern novels considering the style, point of view, tone, structure, and culture which contribute to the development of modern fiction.
3. Emphasis in this course is not on teaching the students a few modern novels but to enable them for reading and analysing a modern novel.
4. The students will be acquainted and familiarized with the changing social and literary trends of 20th century as an aftermath and effects of WWI and later World War 2.

Course Contents

- Joseph Conrad *The Heart of Darkness* (1899-1902)
- E.M. Forster *A Passage to India* (1924)
- Virginia Woolf *To the Light House* (1927)
- James Joyce *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916) (Optional)
- William Golding *Lord of the Flies* (1954)

Recommended Books

1. Allen, Walter *The English Novel* 1954.
2. Baker, R. S. *The Dark Historical Page: Social Satire and Historicism in the Novels of Aldous Huxley, 1921-1939*. London, 1982.
3. Bedford, Sybille. *Aldous Huxley*, 2 vols. London, 1973-4
4. Bowering, Peter. *Aldous Huxley: A Study of the Major Novels*. London, 1969.
5. Beer, J. B. *The Achievement of Forster*. London, 1962.
6. Burgess, Anthony. *Joysprick: An Introduction to the Language of James Joyce* (1973), Harcourt (March 1975).
7. Caramagno, Thomas C. *The Flight of the Mind: Virginia Woolf's Art and Manic-Depressive Illness*. Berkeley: University of California Press, c1992 1992. <http://ark.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/ft9c600998/>
8. Cavaliero, Glen. *A Reading of E. M. Forster*. London, 1979.
9. Church, Richard *The Growth of the English Novel*. 1951.
10. Das, G. K. and Beer, John (ed.) *E. M. Forster: A Human Exploration*. London, 1979.
11. Ellmann, Richard. *James Joyce*. Oxford University Press, 1959, revised edition 1983.