

UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
Open Course in ENGLISH & COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH
for the 5th semester students of CBCSS First Degree Programmes in subjects
other than BA English & Communicative English

SYLLABUS

Semester: 5
Course Code: CG1551.1
Instruction Hours/Week: 3

Type of course: **Open Course**
Course Name: **CREATIVE WRITING**
Number of credits: 2

Aims

1. To make the students aware of the various aspects of Creative Writing.
2. To expose and familiarise the students to representative English writers and their works.
3. To equip the students to attempt at practical creative writing.
4. To strengthen the creative talents and writing skills.

Objectives

1. To identify different poetic forms.
2. To analyse and appreciate poems and short stories.
3. To write book and film reviews.
4. To appreciate literary works.

Course Outline

MODULE 1

Poetry - introduction: Chief elements: theme, structure, imagery and symbols, rhythm – reference to major poetic forms [with representative/select examples] like lyric, sonnet, ode, ballad, epic, dramatic monologue, and free verse.

Practice sessions: critical appreciation of the given poems - emphasis on theme, structure, style, symbols, images, rhythm and diction.

- William Blake - “The Lamb”
- Emily Dickinson – “I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died”
- Wole Soyinka – “Telephone Conversation”
- Rabindranath Tagore – “Where the Mind is Without Fear”
- Kamala Das – “A Hot Noon in Malabar”

Poetry writing sessions: based on common/everyday themes in various forms – to initiate students into poetry writing.

MODULE 2

Short Story - introduction: Characteristic features of short stories in general – plot construction, characterization, narration, local colour, atmosphere and title.

Short story appreciation: critical appreciation of the given stories and their authors - emphasis on theme, structure, style, images and dialogue.

- Edgar Allan Poe – “The Oval Portrait”
- Chinua Achebe – “The Voter”
- A.C. Doyle: The Adventure of the Speckled Band
- Kushwanth Singh – “The Portrait of my Grandmother”

Short story writing sessions: based on topics/themes - to be given in the class - from everyday life and situations.

MODULE 3

(a) Writing for Children: Varieties – themes – fantasy - language – imparting values and morals – illustrative examples.

Required reading:

- Lewis Carroll – *Alice in Wonderland* [Abridged version]
- C. S. Lewis - *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.
- Khyrunnisa A – *Howzzat Butterfingers!* Puffin Books, 2010.

(b) Science Fiction: Characteristic features – characterization - plot construction – setting – title - impact on films – representative examples: R.L.Stevenson: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, H.G. Wells: *Time Machine*, Jules Verne: *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

MODULE 4

Book and Film reviewing: Elements of book/film reviewing – pertinent questions that a good review must answer – aim/purpose of book and film reviews - sample book/film reviews from newspapers and magazines.

Practice sessions: Writing book and film reviews - of classics and recently published/released books/films.

Books for general reference

1. Abrams, M.H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. Seventh Edition.
2. Prasad, B. *A Background to the Study of English Literature*. Macmillan.
3. Bernays, Anne and Pamela Painter. *What If?: Writing Exercises for Fiction Writers*. William Morrow & Company, Nov 1991.

Direction to the Teachers

- Focus should be on the main points mentioned in the contents of the syllabus. These are to be illustrated with the examples mentioned in the respective modules.
- Practice sessions should be arranged within the classroom to enable the students to try their hands at the various categories mentioned within each module. Multiple examples may also be mentioned in the class.
- **Questions are not to be asked from any of the individual titles/works mentioned and will only be on general comprehension: on the contents of the course structure mentioned in each module, including the writers mentioned in the syllabus.**

PS: This is only a copy of the syllabus of the course, published by the University and is primarily intended to provide an easy reference to the students of the course. As the University is the final authority, as far as the syllabus of a course is concerned, the students are advised to verify that the University has not made subsequent changes in the syllabus of the course.