

**Department of English  
Assam University**

M. Phil/ Ph. D Syllabus  
(As per new UGC Regulations, 2016)

**Course No. 501: Research Methodology**

**4 Credits**

**100 marks**

**Unit I.** Subject of Study: Scope, feasibility, arguments for choosing a particular area or topic of research.

**Unit II.** a) Nature of the Research project-historical, comparative, descriptive, interdisciplinary.

b) Data collection: field work (wherever applicable) and library work.

**Unit III.** Research Proposal: Identifying a research problem, review of related literature, sources of research materials, objective, statement of the problem, hypothesis of the study.

**Unit IV.** Presentation of research report: Dissertation/Thesis.

**Unit V.** Correlation of theory and application.

**Scheme of Examination:** Out of 2 questions from each unit, a student will have to answer one, i.e., total of five questions to be answered taking one each from a unit (5X20=100 marks)

Suggested Reading:

1. *MLA Handbook: Rethinking Documentation for the Digital Age* (MLA Handbook for writers of Research papers) , 8<sup>th</sup> edition.
2. Jonathan Anderson & Millicent Poole, *Thesis and Assignment Writing*, Wiley India, New Delhi, 2011.
3. Richard D. Altick and John J. Fenstermaker, *The Art of Literary Research*, W.W. Norton & Co., New York, 1992.
4. A. Thorat, *An Introduction to Research*, Cambridge University Press India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, 2009.
5. SMH Quadri, *The Craft of Language and Literary Research*, Atlantic, 2001.

**Course E 502: Contemporary Approaches to Literature (CC:SKN)**

100 MARKS

Credits: 4

**Unit 1:**

Marxism, New Historicism and Cultural Materialism (LH/SSM)

**Unit 2:**

Narratology, Discourse Analysis, Poststructuralism and Dialogic Criticism (RPB/ASC)

**Unit 3:**

Colonialism, Postcolonialism and Globalisation (ASC/JC)

**Unit 4:**

Gender Studies: Feminism, Masculinity and Queer Studies (DD/SKN)

**Unit 5:**

Cultural Studies: Race, Class and Ethnicity, Multiethnicity, Multiculturalism (BPS/LH)

**Recommended Reading:**

1. Abrams, M.H. & Geoffrey Galt Harpham. *A Handbook of Literary Terms*. New Delhi: Cengage, 2009.
2. Bertens, Hans. *Literary Theory: The Basics*. London: Routledge, 2003.

3. Brannigan, John. *New Historicism and Cultural Materialism*. London: Routledge, 1998.
4. Cobley, Paul. *Narrative*. London: Routledge, 2001.
5. Eagleton, Terry. *Marxism and Literary Criticism*. London: Routledge, 2002.
6. Gandhi, Leela. *Postcolonial Theory: A Critical Introduction*. Delhi: OUP, 1998.
7. Guerin, W. et al. *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*. New York: OUP, 2005.
8. Lodge, David. *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*. Delhi: Pearson 2004
9. Loomba, Ania. *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*. New Delhi: Routledge, 1998.
10. McLeod, John. *Beginning Postcolonialism*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2007.
11. Nayar, Pramod K. *Contemporary Literary and Cultural Theory*. New Delhi: Pearson, 2010.
12. Selden, Raman et al. *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory*. Delhi: Pearson, 2006.
13. Watson, G.W. *Multiculturalism*. New Delhi: Viva, 2002.
14. Waugh, Patricia. *Literary Theory and Criticism*. New Delhi: OUP, 2006.
15. Wolfreys, Julian. *Introducing Literary Theories*. New Delhi: Atlantic, 2005.

### COURSE E-503

100 MARKS

CREDITS: 4

#### OPTION A: CONTEMPORARY BRITISH LITERATURE

##### Unit 1: Poetry

Philip Larkin

Thom Gunn

Ted Hughes

(Five poems of each poet to be selected by the teacher)

##### Unit 2: Fiction I

Doris Lessing: *The Golden Notebook*.

Alan Sillitoe: *The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner*

##### Unit 3: Fiction II

Jean Rhys: *Wide Sargasso Sea*.

Alan Hollinghurst: *The Swimming-Pool Library*.

##### Unit 4: Drama I

Harold Pinter: *The Dumb Waiter*.

Tom Stoppard: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*

##### Unit 5: Drama II

Samuel Beckett: *Endgame*

Caryl Churchill: *Cloud Nine*

##### Recommended Reading:

Abrams, M.H. and Stephen Greenblatt, ed. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Vol II. New York: Norton, 2000.

Bradbury, Malcolm. *The Modern British Novel*. OUP, 1993.

Bradbury, Malcolm. *The Novel Today: Contemporary Writers on Modern Fiction*. OUP, 1997.

Corcoran, Neil. *English Poetry since 1940*. Longman: 1993.

Hayman, Ronald. *British Theatre Since 1955: A Reassessment*. OUP: 1979.

Morrison, Blake. *The Movement: English Poetry and Fiction of the 1950s*. OUP, 1980.

Sanders, Andrew. *The Short Oxford History of English Literature*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. New York: OUP, 2000.

Sinfield, Alan. *Literature, Politics and Culture in Post-War Britain*. London, 1989.

Waugh, Patricia. *Harvest of the Sixties: English Literature and its Background, 1960-1990*. London: OUP, 1995.

## **OPTION B: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN LITERATURE**

### **Unit 1: Poetry**

Adrienne Rich,  
Yusef Komunyakaa,  
Rita Dove  
Diane Wakoski  
(Five poems of each poet to be selected by the teacher)

### **Unit 2: Fiction I**

Alice Walker: "Everyday Use"  
Leslie Marmon Silko: "Lullaby"

### **Unit 3: Fiction II**

Toni Morrison: *Beloved*.  
Jhumpa Lahiri: *The Namesake*

### **Unit 4: Drama I**

Tennessee Williams: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*  
Arthur Miller: *The Archbishop's Ceiling*

### **Unit 5: Drama II**

August Wilson: *Fences*.  
Edward Albee: *The Zoo Story*

### **Recommended Reading**

Bigsby, Christopher. *Contemporary American Playwrights*. CUP. 1999.  
Chénétier, Marc. *Beyond Suspicion: New American Fiction since 1960*. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania P. 1996.  
Elliot, Emory (ed.). *The Columbia History of the American Novel*. Columbia University Press. 1991.  
Elliot, Emory (ed.). *The Columbia Literary History of the United States*. Columbia University Press. 1988.  
Hart, James D. *Oxford Companion to American Literature*. New York: OUP. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. 1983.  
Hume, Katherine. *American Dream, American Nightmare: Fiction Since 1960*. University of Illinois Press. 2000.  
Moraru, Christian. *Memorious Discourse: Reprise and Representation in Postmodernism*. Madison, Teaneck: Fairleigh Dickinson UP. 2005.  
Olster, Stacey. *The Trash Phenomenon: Contemporary Literature, Popular Culture, and the Making of the American Century*. University of Georgia Press. 2003.  
Perkins, David. *A History of Modern Poetry, Volume II, Modernism and After* (1976). Vol.2. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1976.  
Salzman, Jack. *The Cambridge Handbook of American Literature*. New York : Cambridge University Press. 1986.  
Sternlicht, Sanford. *A Reader's Guide to Modern American Drama*. Syracuse University Press. 2002.

## **OPTION C: CONTEMPORARY INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE (CC: ASC)**

### **Unit 1: Poetry I (RPB)**

Nissim Ezekiel,  
Jayanta Mahapatra,  
Kamala Das  
(Five poems of each poet to be selected by the teacher)

### **Unit 2: Poetry II (ASC)**

Vikram Seth  
Keki N Daruwalla  
A. K. Ramanujan  
(Five poems of each poet to be selected by the teacher)

**Unit 3: Fiction I (SSM/JC)**

Salman Rushdie: *Midnight's Children*.  
Amitav Ghosh: *Sea of Poppies*

**Unit 4: Fiction II (DD/BPS)**

Siddhartha Deb: *Surface*,  
Indira Goswami: *The Man from Chhinnamasta*

**Unit 5: Drama (SKN)**

Girish Karnad: *Hayavadana*  
Mahesh Dattani: *On a Muggy Night in Mumbai*.

**Recommended Reading:**

Iyengar, K.R. Srinivasa. *Indian Writing in English*. 1962. New Delhi: Sterling, 2001.  
Mehrotra, Arvind Krishna, ed. *An Illustrated History of Indian Literature in English*. Ranikhet: Permanent Black, 2008.  
Naik, M.K. *A History of Indian English Literature*. 1982. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2008.  
Naik, M.K & Shyamala A. Narayan. *Indian English Literature 1980—2000: A Critical Survey*. Delhi: Pencraft, 2007.

**OPTION D: CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN AND CANADIAN LITERATURES IN ENGLISH**

**Unit 1: Poetry I**

Margaret Atwood  
Michael Ondaatje  
Leonard Cohen  
(Five poems of each poet to be selected by the teacher)

**Unit 2: Poetry II**

A. D. Hope  
Judith Wright  
Vincent Buckley  
(Five poems of each poet to be selected by the teacher)

**Unit 3: Fiction I**

Peter Carey: *Illywhacker*.  
Sally Morgan: *My Place*.

**Unit 4: Fiction II**

Hugh MacLennan: *The Watch That Ends the Night*.  
Margaret Laurence: *The Stone Angel*.

**Unit 5: Drama**

George Ryga: *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*.  
Ray Lawler: *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*

**Recommended Reading**

Abrams, M.H. and Stephen Greenblatt. Ed. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Vol 2. New York: Norton, 2000.

King, Bruce. *New National and Postcolonial Literatures: An Introduction*. Oxford: OUP, 1996.

Loomba, Ania. *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxon: Routledge, 2005.

Loomba, Ania, et al, ed. *Postcolonial Studies and Beyond*. Durham: Duke UP, 2005.

McLeod, John. *Beginning Postcolonialism*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2007.

Narasimhaiah, C.D. *An Anthology of Commonwealth Poetry*. Chennai: Macmillan, 1990.

Patke, Rajeev S. *Postcolonial Poetry in English*. New Delhi: OUP, 2007.

Said, Edward. *Culture and Imperialism*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993.

---. *Orientalism*. 1978. New Delhi: Penguin, 2001.

----. *Reflections on Exile*. New Delhi: Penguin, 2001.

Thieme, John. *The Arnold Anthology of Post-Colonial Literatures in English*. London: Arnold, 1996.

Walsh, William. *Readings in Commonwealth Literature*. Oxford: OUP, 1973.

## **OPTION E: CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

### **Unit 1: Poetry:**

Gabriel Okara

Derek Walcott

Wole Soyinka

(Five poems of each poet to be selected by the teacher)

### **Unit 2: Fiction I**

Chinua Achebe: *Arrow of God*.

NgugiwaThiong'o: *A Grain of Wheat*.

### **Unit 3: Fiction II**

Buchi Emecheta: *The Joys of Motherhood*.

J. M. Coetzee: *Disgrace*

### **Unit 4: Drama**

Wole Soyinka: *The Lion and the Jewel*.

Ama Ata Aidoo: *The Dilemma of a Ghost*

### **Unit 5: Non-Fiction**

V. S. Naipaul: *India: A Million Mutinies Now*

NgũgĩwaThiong'o: *Decolonizing The Mind*

### **Recommended Reading**

Abrams, M.H. and Stephen Greenblatt. Ed. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Vol 2. New York: Norton, 2000.

King, Bruce. *New National and Postcolonial Literatures: An Introduction*. Oxford: OUP, 1996.

Loomba, Ania. *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxon: Routledge, 2005.

Loomba, Ania, et al, ed. *Postcolonial Studies and Beyond*. Durham: Duke UP, 2005.

McLeod, John. *Beginning Postcolonialism*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2007.

Narasimhaiah, C.D. *An Anthology of Commonwealth Poetry*. Chennai: Macmillan, 1990.

Patke, Rajeev S. *Postcolonial Poetry in English*. New Delhi: OUP, 2007.

Said, Edward. *Culture and Imperialism*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993.

---. *Orientalism*. 1978. New Delhi: Penguin, 2001.

----. *Reflections on Exile*. New Delhi: Penguin, 2001.

Thieme, John. *The Arnold Anthology of Post-Colonial Literatures in English*. London: Arnold, 1996.

Walsh, William. *Readings in Commonwealth Literature*. Oxford: OUP, 1973.

## **Option F: Theoretical Orientations to Key Concepts in English Language Teaching (ELT) Research**

### **Unit 1: Explaining Second Language Learning**

Contexts for Language Learning

Learner Characteristics

Learning Conditions

Behaviourism

The Innatist Perspective: Universal Grammar

Current Psychological Theories: The Cognitivist/Developmental perspective

The Sociocultural Perspective

## **Unit 2: Approaches and Methods in Second Language Teaching**

Methods: Integrating Theory and Practice

Communicative Language Teaching: Teaching Language for Communication

Alternative Participatory Approaches: Teaching Language through Communication

(Content-Based Instruction,  
Task-Based Instructions)

Learner Centred Approaches: Multiple Intelligences, Learner Strategy Training,  
and

Cooperative Learning

English Language Teaching in the 'Post-Method Era

Computer-Assisted Language Learning

## **Unit 3: Important Social Contexts in Research on Second Language Teaching and Learning**

Bilingual Education

English as a Second Language in Elementary, Secondary and Tertiary Education

English for Academic Purposes

Research in English for Specific Purposes

English in the Workplace

Teaching and Learning of World Englishes

## **Unit 4: Second Language Syllabus, Instructional Materials, and Testing and Assessment**

Language Syllabuses: Structural, Notional-functional, Situational, Communicative and Task-Based

The Notion of the Emergent Syllabus

The Role of Materials in ELT

Assumptions Underlying Materials: An Examination of Structurally Graded Materials,

Materials Reflecting the CLT Paradigm, Materials Appropriate for English for Specific Purposes

Purposes

Validity and Validation in Language Testing

Research Methods in Language Testing

Testing Languages for Specific Purposes

## **Unit 5: Methods in Second Language Research**

Ethnography and Ethnographic Research on Second Language Teaching and Learning

Case Study

Quantitative Research Methods

Classroom Research

Action Research

- Further reading list shall be provided by the concerned teachers as and when necessary
- Scheme of Examination: Candidates are required to answer five (05) questions (taking not more than one from each unit) carrying twenty (20) marks each. (20 x 5 = 100)

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### **Course E-504:Term Paper**

100 MARKS

Credits: 4

In this course, students may opt to study any one of the specialized areas offered by the department, and subsequently, write a term paper\* on a topic related to it:

The Research Supervisor/ Course Coordinator will give the students a detailed reading list at the beginning of the semester. The area(s) to be offered by the department in a particular semester will be decided by the Departmental Research Board.

\* The term paper must be of around 10000 words, and has to be on a topic chosen and approved by the Departmental Research Board. However, the students might wish to let the department know of their area(s) of interest.

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