Masters Program in English

2020-2021

Department of English

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Shiv Nadar University
Post office Shiv Nadar University
Gautam Buddha Nagar
Uttar Pradesh -201314
Department of English
The English Department at SNU offers graduate programs leading to M.A. and PhD degrees. The M.A. is a two-year program, while a PhD is a 4-year program. As part of a research–based university, students are encouraged to engage with the department’s areas of research.

SNU’s English faculty has wide-ranging, interdisciplinary research training reinforced by diverse learning and teaching experience in Indian and international universities. Their current research interests are in the areas of the novel, realism, translation studies, creative writing, philology, gender and sexuality, and Shakespeare studies.

This prospectus includes information about the M.A. English program for the 2020-21 academic year. Information about its PhD program will be provided separately.

The Department accepts only full-time students. M.A. students are admitted once a year in the Monsoon semester.

M.A. in English
The M.A. in English at SNU is designed to combine rigour with creativity. It will take students through the significant moments in English literary history and world literature but it also incorporates courses in critical and cultural theory, translation, creative writing and visual theory. Our pedagogy includes class room lectures designed to gradually draw a student into the complexity of texts, and also more interactive, seminar based formats possible only with small groups. Above all, our excellent student-teacher ratio has enabled us to put in place a rigorous, multi-tiered, and varied program of writing that will include compulsory courses in academic writing, good writing for the general public, writing narratives as well as an individually supervised M.A. research paper based on prescribed weekly readings. Most of these writing activities will be based on intensive one-to-one interactions between teacher and student. It is our intention to equip our M.A. students with the skills needed for a range of competitive examinations as well as for careers in publishing and the media. Most of all, however, we see potential academics in our best students and we are committed to supporting them through research careers in every possible way. Shiv Nadar University offers teaching assistantships and fee waivers which will bring down the cost of their education considerably.

Semester-wise break-up of the M.A program
The M.A. degree is awarded on the completion of sixteen courses, comprising 13 compulsory courses, 2 optional courses and 1 supervised essay of 8000-10000 words. Each of these courses carry 4 credits and candidates will need 16 x 4= 64 credits in order to successfully complete the M.A.

Courses will be spread across 4 semesters, as per the following schedule:

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Here is an overview of the courses offered:

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**Evaluation.**

Rather than fall back on the traditional 3-hour examination as the sole mode of evaluating a student’s performance in each course, the M.A program will follow multiple modes of evaluation stretching through the semester and aimed at testing the student’s knowledge of the materials studied, the development of his or her analytical abilities and his or her ability to write with clarity and coherence. Each instructor will decide on and declare his or her evaluation methods at the beginning of the course. These may include tests, seminar
presentations, participation at seminars and above all assessment of written work that students will be required to submit from time to time.

Eligibility and the Admissions Process

Eligibility
A candidate should have an undergraduate degree in any discipline from the Humanities and Social Sciences from a recognized university or institution at the time of admission with a minimum of 55%. Candidates from disciplines other than the Humanities and Social Sciences must have a minimum of 70% in their undergraduate degree at the time of admission. Third year B.A. Candidates are eligible to apply but their final admission is contingent upon fulfilling the admission criterion outlined above.

Structure of the Program
To successfully complete the Master’s program a student needs to successfully complete 14 compulsory Core courses and two Optional courses over four semesters.

Each M.A. course carries 4 credits. The minimum credit requirement for successfully completing the M.A. is 64 credits.

A student who fails in any course during the program will be expected to retake it and complete the 64 credits to graduate.

Detailed Course Descriptions

I. Advanced Writing and Research Methods: Writing as Profession

This course will introduce post-graduate students to the art of research and formal research paper writing. Expect to be taken through the nitty-gritties of research training in genres of formal writing: research proposal, research paper, conference abstract, conference presentation, MLA citation, methods of researching library catalogues (card and digital), indexes and databases and how to access and gain membership in the major research libraries in Delhi.

Unit 1: Reading to Write

3 weeks

Unit 2: Pick an area for a research paper
Make a Bibliography
Annotate the Bibliography
II. Literary Theory  4 credits

This course will familiarize the student with some key ideas in the history of literary theory and criticism. We shall read the relevant texts closely, beginning with the ancients and arriving at the first half of the twentieth century. From Plato to Fish, we will pay special attention to the epistemological and ontological presuppositions of each theorist. Students will write short papers on important areas covered in class. There will be an open-book exam at the end of the semester.

**Unit 1: Text and World: The question of mimesis**
Plato: Book X of *The Republic*
Aristotle: Excerpts from *Poetics*  

**Unit 2: Text and Author: Poetic subjectivity**
Alexander Pope: Excerpts from *An Essay on Criticism*
William Wordsworth: Excerpts from “Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*”
ST Coleridge: Excerpts from *Biographia Literaria*
TS Eliot: “Tradition and the Individual Talent”

**Unit 3: Text and Reader (A): Aesthetics**
Immanuel Kant: Excerpt from *Critique of Judgment*
Edmund Burke: “The Sublime and the Beautiful Compared”

**Unit 4: The Text Itself (A): Formalism**
Wimsatt and Beardsley: “The Intentional Fallacy”
Viktor Shklovsky: Excerpts from “Art as Technique”

**Unit 5: The Text Itself (B): Language and Semiotics**
Mikhail Bakhtin: “Heteroglossia in the Novel”
Ferdinand de Saussure: Excerpts from *Course in General Linguistics*
Roland Barthes: Excerpts from *Mythologies*

**Unit 6: Text and Reader (B): Reader Response Theory**
Roland Barthes: “Death of the Author”
Stanley Fish: “How to Recognize a Poem When You See One.”

**Evaluation**
Two assignments during the semester (2500 words each)
Final Exam (open book)
Class participation

**III. Writing Narratives**
This course is concerned with establishing a dialogue between the writing and analysis of narrative which will enable students to become better critics of their own work as well as the work of others. We will look at the fictional as well as the nonfictional narrative. While the primary texts will form the bulwark of the course, from time to time, other material will be circulated among the students by way of class handouts. The class itself will be a combination of seminar, workshopping and in-class writing. In addition, students will have to turn in homework as well as assignments for grading.

**Unit 1: Life writing and translating experience into fiction**
Vladimir Nabokov, *Speak, Memory* (Life writing),
Tim O’Brien, ‘The Man I Killed’ (short story)

**Unit 2: Fiction**
Short stories
Jhumpa Lahiri, ‘Hell-Heaven’
Anton Chekhov, ‘The Lady with the Dog’
Raymond Carver, ‘What We Talk About When We Talk About Love’
Novel

**Unit 3: Reportage**
John Carlin, *Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game*

Secondary reading:

**Evaluation**
A piece of life-writing (2000-2500 words) to be turned in at mid-term
Short story or piece of reportage (2000-2500 words) to be turned in as part of the final portfolio.
With the short story or piece of reportage the student will also submit a critical commentary that will analyse the process of creating the narrative and explain the creative decisions made in the process of composition.
This will be turned in as part of the final portfolio.
There will be an end-of-semester examination.

**IV. Translation Studies**

Students will study the various approaches to the history, theory, and criticism of literary and humanistic translation. Topics of discussion would include study of translation criticism which is the systematic study, evaluation, and interpretation of different aspects of translated works, translator’s working methods, interviews with translators, multiple translations, the changing nature of interpretive approaches, theoretical models of translation, and criteria for the evaluation of translations. It is an interdisciplinary academic field closely related to literary criticism and translation theory.

**Unit 1: Equivalence and equivalent effect**

Walter Benjamin ‘The Task of the Translator’. In L. Venuti (Ed.), *The Translation Studies Reader*, 2000

Eugene Nida ‘Principles of Translation as exemplified by Bible Translating’. R. A. Brower (ed.): *On Translation*, New York, OUP.

Swann’s Way. (À la recherche du temps perdu #1) by Marcel Proust, Lydia Davis (Translator) 2004 by Penguin Classics (first published 1913) [pp ‘Overture’]


**Unit 2: Translation Shift Approach & Linguistic approach to translation**


Zwart, K. M. van: ‘Translation and original: Similarities and Dissimilarities, I’, Target [pp 151 – 189]

**Unit 3: Translation and Post-Structuralism**

Season of Migration to the North, 2003 Penguin Classics Series


**Unit 4: Translation as a cultural act**

K Ramanujan “Three Hundred Ramayanas”


**Evaluation**

A short paper and class presentation of 1000 words on each of the Module

Final assessment: A Critical Analysis of a translated work (last week)

Class Participation and peer review

**V. The Long Renaissance**

4 credits
This course will examine in detail four quintessential moments that visibly shaped thought and knowledge in the British Renaissance. We will read a prose fantasy by a leading humanist, poetry that is mired in anxieties of love, politics and science, a play that puts self-doubt and skepticism at the heart of early modernity, and finally two books of an epic that gives aspiration, failure and the exercise of justification a grand lyric. The theme of wanting to know, sometimes more than what is obviously knowable, will underlie our reading and enquiry.

**Unit 1: Utopia by Sir Thomas More**
Stephen Greenblatt, "At the Table of the Great: More's Self-Fashioning and Self-Cancellation," in *Renaissance Self-Fashioning*  
Quentin Skinner, "Sir Thomas More's 'Utopia' and the language of Renaissance humanism”  
3 weeks

**Unit 2: “In Defense of Poesie” by Philip Sidney**
Selections of sonnets by Petrarch, Spenser, Sidney, Shakespeare, Marvel and Donne  
3 weeks

**Unit 3: Hamlet by William Shakespeare**
Peter Stallybrass, Roger Chartier, J. Franklin Mowery, and Heather Wolfe  
“Hamlet’s Tables and the Technologies of Writing in Renaissance England”  
3 weeks

**Unit 4: Book I & 2 of Paradise Lost by John Milton**
4 weeks

**Evaluation**
2 papers (2500 words each)  
1 creative response to any one of the texts or themes under discussion (this can be a set of poems, a story, a pamphlet, graphic art, anything at all). Word limit can be negotiated depending on the genre)  
1 final paper (3500-4000 words) and conference-style presentation at the end of the semester  
4 weeks

**VI. The Global 18th Century**
It is impossible to understand 18th Century Europe without understanding the 18th century as a global phenomenon. This course will be interdisciplinary and will track various strands through literary analysis, cultural studies and history. Decades of the long eighteenth century are remarkable for the prose output of essayists, diarists, pamphleteers, writers of conduct books, and travelogues. The rise of political parties, mushrooming of clubs and coffee houses, and the new publishing houses gave huge impetus to prose writings. This course will also track that particular moment of European history when the common public started asking uncomfortable questions about ‘imperialism’. From a geo-political perspective, this course will resonate deeply with 21st century political realities.  
4 credits
**Unit 1: Primary Texts**

Selections from Jonathan Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels*

Excerpts from Mary Wortley Montagu’s *Turkish Letters*

**Secondary Texts:**

Clement Hawes’ introduction to the critical edition of *Gulliver’s Travels*


Felicity Nussbaum, *Introduction to The Global Eighteenth Century*

**4 weeks**

**Unit 2: Primary Text**

Selections from Jonathan Swift’s *A Tale of Tub*

**Secondary Text:**

Excerpt from Carole Fabricant’s *Swift's Landscape*

**3 weeks**

**Unit 3: Primary Text**

Joseph Addison, *The Musical Instruments of Conversation; On Giving Advice On Long Winded People; Reflections by Richard Steele*

Excerpts from Roger De Coverley Series

Example of Conduct Literature: Lady Sarah Pennington - An Unfortunate Mother’s Advice to Her Absent Daughters

**Secondary Texts:**

Caroline Davis, "*Publishing in the Eighteenth Century: Popular Print Genres*" 2005


**3 weeks**

**Unit 4: Primary Text**

Excerpts from Pepys and Evelyn’s Diaries

**Secondary Texts:**

Dan Doll and Jessica Munnis, Essays on the Seventeenth –and Eighteenth-Century Diary and Journal, 2006

Srinivas Aravamudan’s chapter titled “Lady Mary in the Hammam” in Tropicpolitans, an excerpt from *Enlightenment Orientalism.*

**4 weeks**

**Evaluation**

Reading Comprehension in-class exam

Long paper (min. 10 double spaced pages)

Power-point presentation on long-paper

**VII. Incipient Modernities: The Nineteenth Century and the Making of the Modern** 4 credits

This course locates, in the literature of the nineteenth century, some of the most characteristic conceptual breakthroughs that have come to constitute what we, from the standpoint of the 21st century, would call the contemporary. Ranging through three continents this course focuses on issues such as the relationship between teleology and totalitarianism; the dissolution of the linear progressive notions of time; print, circulation and hybridization; the relationship between speech and silence as well as the contingency of
The course will focus on the writings of Dostoevsky, Baudelaire, Melville and Kaliprasanna Sinha, but literary material will be put in conversation with thinkers such as Walter Benjamin, Dipesh Chakrabarty and Jaques Derrida who have written on time, the universe of signs and urban modernity.

**Course Outcomes**

This course is designed to internationalize the 19th century and in this sense help students gain an entry into the domain called “World Literature” that has is becoming increasingly central to literary studies. 

The course will familiarize students with contemporary thinking on topics such as time, semiotics, urban modernity, colonial hybridity.

Students will get to read some of the greatest literature that came out of the 19th century.

**Detailed Course Description**

**Unit 1: Primary Texts**

4 weeks


Marshal Berman, *All that is Solid Melts in the Air* Section 4

**Unit 2: Primary Texts**

4 weeks


Baudelaire, “Painter of Modern Life”

Walter Benjamin, *Writer of Modern Life*

**Unit 3: Primary Texts**

4 Weeks

Herman Melville “Billy Budd, Sailor” and “Benito Cereno”

Jaques Derrida, “Signature, Event, Context”


**Unit 4: Primary Texts**

3 weeks


Dipesh Chakrabarty *Provincializing Europe* Chapter 1.

Ranajit Guha “A Colonial City and its Times”

**Evaluation**
Students will be required to four term papers based on the four units. Papers pertaining to particular units will be submitted soon after the completion of the unit.

Each term paper will be marked out of 25.

VIII. Modernism  
4 credits

This course is meant to introduce the students to the major debates of the literary movement of Modernism in the early-mid 20th century. The selection of texts represents the range of experimentation with form and content that the movement exhibited. The texts emerge from as varied a set of places as Germany and Argentina, England and Russia, and Romania and Ireland, testifying to the transcontinental nature of the movement. The background readings from Bertolt Brecht, Frederic Jameson and Henri Bergson help us understand the new equations of the formal and the thematic that Modernism brought about.

Unit 1
Bertolt Brecht, Mother Courage
Eugene Ionesco, Rhinoceros

Unit 2
Virginia Woolf - To the Lighthouse
James Joyce - The Dead (from The Dubliners)

Unit 3
T.S. Eliot - The Wasteland
Wilfred Owen – “Dulce et decorum est”, “A Terre”
W. B. Yeats – “Leda and the Swan”, “Among School Children”

Background Readings

Evaluation
Mid-semester - Written Assignment (Choice between 10 questions) - 1500 words
Final Submission - Written Assignment (Question decided individually for candidates in consultation with the instructor) - 2500 words

IX. Feminist and Queer Writing  
4 credits
This course is meant to introduce students to important feminist and queer literature produced between the late 19th and the early 21st century. Whereas the section “Feminist Interventions” is meant as an exploration of feminist subjectivities across regions and races, the section “Queer Interrogations” studies how queer expressions have used existing social discourses to make place for same-sex desire in their worlds. The background readings open up the theoretical debates about categories of ‘women’ and ‘LGBT’, explore intersectionality as an analytical force, and subject feminist and queer claims to questions of form.

**Unit 1: Feminist interventions**


7 weeks

**Unit 2: Queer interrogations**

Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*


7 weeks

Background Readings


**Evaluation**

Mid-semester - Written Assignment (Choice between 10 questions) - 1500 words

Final Submission - Written Assignment (Question decided individually for candidates in consultation with the instructor) - 2500 words

X. South Asian Writing: Production of the Popular in South Asia 4 credits

The course shall examine the ways in which forms of the popular were produced as well as received in South Asia primarily in the 19th and 20th centuries when cheap printing, production and circulation technologies became widely available in the region. The course will also unpack theoretical categories such as “popular”, “culture” and “taste” fundamental to engaging with the histories. Finally, each unit of the course will also undertake a close reading of the forms of the popular novel, music, magazine and visual culture. At the end of the course, the student shall be able to not only critically engage with the theoretical concepts of popular culture, s/he will also be demonstrate a broad understanding of the historical development of the different forms of the popular in South Asia. Finally, the student will also be able to apply these frameworks to a reading and analysis of popular texts.
Unit 1: Introduction. Conceptualising the Popular


Unit 2: Reading the novel

Primary Text: The Mysteries of London, GWM Reynolds (http://www.gutenberg.org/files/47312/47312-h/47312-h.htm)


Unit 3: Reading Periodicals

Primary Text: Femina, 1977 issue


Unit 3: Reading Religion:

4. Patricia Oberoi on Calendar Art: “‘Unity in Diversity?’ Dilemmas of Nationhood in Indian Calendar Art”, *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 36, no. 1–2 (Feb 1, 2002): 191–232.

Unit 4: Reading the English Popular:

Primary Text: Moni Mohsin, *The Diary of a Social Butterfly*


Unit 5: Reading Music

Primary Text: Sumangala Damodaran’s IPTA songs


Evaluation

Response papers and an end term long paper (4000-5000 words), each accounting for 50% of the grade.

XI Methods in the Analysis of Culture 4 credits

This course seeks to equip students from the humanities and especially the social sciences with methods which they might fruitfully deploy when engaging with problems related to culture. The course is made up of four units. The first comprises a set of readings that engage with one of the central problems in the analysis of modern culture: the deeply ambiguous role of technology in the production of culture. The second unit will address another cultural effect of modern capitalism – its capacity to produce desire. The third and fourth
sections focus on recent methodological breakthroughs that have unfolded in the key domains of women’s and post-colonial studies.

**Unit 1: Culture and Industrial Capitalism**


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**Unit 2: Desire of the insubstantial**
Marx, “On the fetishism of commodities” From *Capital* Vol. 1, Part 1, Chapter 1, Section 4.


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**Unit 3: Gendering Cultural Studies**


Supplementary Readings


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**Unit 4: Post-colonial Cultural Studies**


Supplementary Readings


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**Evaluation.**
Evaluation in this course will be continuous and conducted throughout the semester. The object of evaluation will be to test a student’s knowledge of the material taught through the course and the development of her analytical, critical and writing abilities. A final grade will be awarded on the basis of written presentations in seminars, participation in seminars and a 2,000 words term paper to be submitted at the end of the course. The course instructor may also set a short written examination to test the student’s knowledge of the texts taught.

XII. The Literary and the Visual  
This course which focuses on material drawn from Europe between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries aims to equip students with the ability to move between literary and visual forms and to track ways in which expressive strategies mutate in this process. The course will focus on formal categories such as realism and the differing ways in which chronotopes are deployed by literary and visual forms, but it will also take students through a set of paintings and novels to demonstrate how these forms can be brought into an interanimating relationship.

Unit 1: Time and Space
Mikhail Bakhtin “Forms of time and of the Chronotope in the Novel” (excerpt) from *The Dialogical Imagination* translated by Caryl Emerson and Michael Holquist.

3 weeks

Unit 2: Realism
E.H. Gombrich, *Art and Illusion* (excerpts)
Norman Bryson *Vision and Painting* (excerpts)

6 weeks

Unit 3: Painting and the Novel
Titian, “Venus of Urbino”
Vermeer “The Lace maker”
Peter de Hooch, “Woman Reading a Letter”
Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*
Hogarth, “Industry and Idleness” all 12 plates
Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*

5 weeks

Evaluation
Evaluation in this course will be continuous and conducted throughout the semester. The object of evaluation will be to test a student’s knowledge of the material taught through the course and the development of her analytical, critical and writing abilities. A final grade will be awarded on the basis of written presentations in seminars, participation in seminars and a 2,000 words term paper to be submitted at the end of the course. The course instructor may also set a short written examination to test the student’s knowledge of the texts taught.

XIII. Fairy Tale, Fantasy and Myth  

4 credits
The course is an introductory survey of the migration of traditional tales from common storytelling circles into the literary culture of mythology, the fairy tales and contemporary fantasy fiction and their adaptations in film. Topics include the heroic quest, the fantastic and sorcery and witches. Emphasis on the mythical narrative structure and on the cultural significance of specific myths and tales.

**Unit 1: The Folk Narrative**


E.T.A. Hoffmann, “The Sandman”. Tales From the German, comprising specimens from the most celebrated authors. Translated by John Oxenford and C. A. Feiling. London: chapman and hall, 186, strand. 1844. C. Whiting, Beaufort House, Strand.


**Unit 2: History and Structure**


**Unit 3: Analysis Assignment**

Choose, watch and evaluation of two of the films from the given list. This assignment would include the explanation of how the film relates to concepts and ideas from class – not just “it’s a folktale” or "it shows tradition," but a thorough discussion of its folkloristic elements.

Films Tentative list:

- *Ever After* (1998) by Andy Tennant – with Drew Barrymore in a new version of “Cinderella” (with Leonardo da Vinci as her fairy godmother)
- *The Thirteenth Warrior* (1999) by John McTiernan – Beowolf version where an Arab courtier teams up with Vikings to slay a monster
- *Pirates of the Carribean* (2003) by Gore Verbinski – A rogue (and cursed) pirate tries to save a kidnapped princess

**Evaluation**

1. Short Paper and presentation of 1000 words from Module I and Module II
2. Analysis Assignment from Module 3 (1000 words)
3. Final short paper based on folk narrative structure (1000 words)

**XIV. Conceptualizing World Literature: concepts and debates**

This course will introduce students to the concept of "world literature"; its origins and promises. In the second part of the course, students will be familiarized with various debates associated with ‘world literature’.

Students will also be taught how to critically analyze two literary texts (written in different languages and in
different historical eras). Re-naming of this field, is the latest phenomenon and final part of the course will be comprehensive discussions related to re-naming of WeltLiteratur.

**Unit 1: Anticipations**

Primary Text:
Excerpts from *Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe on World Literature*, 1827.
Eric Auerbach, “Philology and WeltLiteratur” 1952.

Secondary Text:
Rabindranath Tagore, World Literature, 1907

3 weeks

**Unit 2: Debates**

Primary Text:

Secondary Text

4 weeks

**Unit 3: Comparative Study: Victorian novel/Hindi Upanyas.**

Primary Text
Charlotte Bronte, *Shirley*

Secondary Reading:
Burkhard Niederhoff “Perspective-Point of View.”

4 weeks

**Unit 4: Renaming the field**

Primary Text:

Secondary Texts:
Francesca Orsini on *Significant Geographies*

3 weeks

**Evaluation**

Reading Comprehension in-class exam
Long paper (min. 10 double spaced pages)
Power-point presentation (on long-paper)

**XV. Postcolonial Theory**

This course is meant to introduce students to the major debates within the field of Postcolonial Theory. The debates are outlined under three subheadings which familiarize the students with, first, the field of postcolonial literature and how it responds to the long history of the Empire, second, an exploration of how Postcolonial Theory is deeply invested in revising Eurocentric discourse and studying its consequences, and third, an
investigation of how colour prejudice has been both the primary medium and the effect of the long duree of colonial domination.

**Unit 1: Writing Back**

4 weeks

**Unit 2: Changing Discourse**

5 weeks

**Unit 3: Colouring Perceptions**

5 weeks

**Evaluation**
Mid-semester - Written Assignment (Choice between 10 questions) - 1500 words
Final Submission - Written Assignment (Question decided individually for candidates in consultation with the instructor) - 2500 words

XVI. Art and Technology

The course will discuss, mainly, the relation between art and technology, where 'technology' is understood not only as the various techniques of production, fabrication and fabulation that are available at specific moments of production; but also as a condition which makes some techniques possible or impossible.

While taking a few examples from painting and sculpting and literary writing, the discussion will mainly focus on how we understand the relation between art and technology, often seen as opposites of each other.

After a discussion of the history of various techniques that available technology makes possible or impossible, we shall move on to more contemporary issues of 20th century art and 21st century art as well: graphic images made of ASCII code printing, to digital videography and 'live' coverage of events. The concept of 'virtuality' will be introduced.

**Unit 1 12 hrs**
A theoretical consideration of what technology means and does in contemporary society.

Reading:
Gilbert Simondon, 'Technical Mentality'
Walter Benjamin, 'The Work of Art in the Age of Technological Reproducibility'
Stanislaw Lem, excerpts from Summa Technologica.

Unit 2 12 hrs
A discussion of selected stories by Walter Miller Jr., and of positive and negative evaluations of 'technology', with a focus on Section One of 'A Canticle for Leibowitz'
A discussion of Ursula Le Guin's 'The World for the World is Forest'

Unit 3 13 hrs
A return to the theoretical discussion of 'technology', along with a discussion of visual material from recommended readings.
Donna Harraway, 'The Cyborg Manifesto'
Martin Heidegger, 'The Question Concerning Technology'

Compulsory Readings:
Gilbert Simondon, 'Technical Mentality'
Martin Heidegger, 'The Question Concerning Technology'
Donna Harraway, 'The Cyborg Manifesto'
Stanislaw Lem, excerpts Summa Technologica
Walter Benjamin, 'The Work of Art in the Age of Technological Reproducibility'

Recommended Readings
Philosophy
Bernard Stiegler, Technics and Time vol. 1

Fiction
Selections from fiction by Walter Miller Jr.
'Big Joe and the Nth Generation'
'Conditionally Human'

Section One of *A Canticle for Leibowitz*

Ursula Le Guin, 'The Word for the World is Forest'

**Visual Material**

Documentaries

BBC 'Life: Primates', the Chimpanzee Section

BBC 'Life: Birds'

Movies

Terminator 1-3

Solaris (Tarkovsky, 1972)

(animation)

Ghost in the Shell 1-2 (anime)

Graphic

H R Giger

Performance Art

Stellarc

Stefanie Trojan

Marina Abramovic

Ted Talks


[https://www.ted.com/talks/hugh_herr_the_new_bionics_that_let_us_run_climb_and_dance](https://www.ted.com/talks/hugh_herr_the_new_bionics_that_let_us_run_climb_and_dance)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqtiM1hK6lU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqtiM1hK6lU)

**Assessment**

Attendance and Class Participation:

Classroom Presentation:

Mid-term Assignment:
Term-end Assignment:

**XVII Imperial Possession in Victorian Literature**

Following Thomas Richards's definition of an empire as ‘a nation in overreach’, this module explores how Victorian literature engaged with and helped constitute England’s possession of ‘too many territories too far away from home to control them effectively’. It examines both the objects and processes of such imperial possession, and how they shaped metropolitan culture in the nineteenth century. We will read literary texts in juxtaposition with advertisements, illustrations, and articles from nineteenth-century imperial journals to explore the wide cultural context running through imperial possession.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, students should be able to demonstrate a broad understanding of the trajectory of British imperial expansion in the nineteenth century and the role of Victorian literature in shaping imperial culture. They should be able to apply knowledge of critical methodologies such as new historicism, postcolonial studies, gender studies, and cultural studies to the set texts. They should also be able to critically evaluate concepts of ‘free trade’, imperial networks and trans-colonial communities. They should demonstrate the ability to work effectively with a wide range of pre1900 primary material, including digital copies of Victorian periodicals.

Outline Syllabus:

**Unit 1: Introduction**

**Week 1:**
- *At Home with the Empire*, ed. by Catherine Hall and Sonya Rose (2006). Introduction
  [Draws on Arjun Appadurai’s edited volume- *The Social Life of Things*]

**Week 2:**

**Unit 2 and Introduction to Unit 3**

**Week 2:**
- Jeffrey Auerbach and Peter Hoffenberg, *Britain, the Empire, and the World at the Great Exhibition of 1851* (2008)

**Week 3:** Great Exhibition of 1851


**Week 4:** Tobacco: Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* (1861)

**Week 5:** Diamond: Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone* (1868); Daly, Suzanne, *The Empire Inside: Indian Commodities in Victorian Domestic Novels*, Chapter 3

**Week 6:** Reading Week [will use this for mid-term essay on a journal article on imperial possessions- especially at the Great Exhibition]

**Week 7:** Introduction to Unit 3
Discuss Broad Theme Imperial Expansion and Literary Genre

Unit 3: Empire Abroad: Conflict, Exploration and Emigration 7 Weeks

Week 8: Nineteenth-Century Poetry and Empire [syllabus for this week to be confirmed—will be a selection of Romantic poetry]

Week 9, 10: The Indian Rebellion
Selections of Mary Eliza Leslie’s 1858 poetry on the Rebellion from Anglophone Poetry in Colonial India, 1780-1913: A Critical Anthology, ed. by Mary Ellis Gibson
Edward Money, The Wife and the Ward; or, a Life’s Error (1859) [scanned pdf available through googlebooks]

Week 10, 12: Missionary Expeditions
David Livingstone, Missionary travels and researches in South Africa (1857) (selections)
Some representations of David Livingstone in the Missionary Magazine and Chronicle (1836-66) [Livingstone was the most of the London Missionary Society’s missionaries]

Week 13, 14: Emigration Narratives
Caroline Chisholme, The A.B.C. of Colonization (1850)
Advertisements for Colonial Emigration in British Newspapers
Anthony Trollope, Harry Heathcote of Gangoil (1873)
Illustrations of Harry Heathcote from the Graphic, wherein the novel was first published.
James Hammerton, Emigrant Gentlewomen (1979); Jude Piesse, British Settler Emigration in Print (2016); Tamara Wagner, Victorian Narratives of Failed Emigration (2016)

Evaluation
Assessment Methods:
10% - class presentations – analysis of journal articles on any of the main imperial themes discussed in class
40% - a 2000 word mid-term essay
50% - a 2500 word end-term essay

XVIII Photographic Objects: From Curation to Cultural Analysis

How do we, as ‘readers’ of photographs, understand the still image? How can these understandings be communicated through formal descriptions in the process of building digital photographic collections? This course investigates photographs from diverse contexts — from early Victorian photography to photographs on the social web (e.g. Flickr and Instagram) — in order to gain a clear idea of the choices that need to be made while creating repositories that may aid their study. Beyond theoretical paradigms, the lectures focus on computational methods that may be used to describe and analyse the digitised photographic object.

Unit 1: The image as an instance

This unit focuses on the photograph as an image and as an object in use. It explores ideas from visual studies, art history, and from material culture.


**Unit 2: Collections and Archives**

This unit considers the issues of collections and archives specifically for photographic material.


**Unit 3: Cultural Analytics**


Leonard, Peter and Douglas Duhaime. *Neural Neighbours: Capturing Image Similarity* [scholarly project]. Available at: https://yaledhlab.github.io/neural-neighbors/

Wexler, Laura, et al. *Photogrammar* [scholarly project]. Available at: http://photogrammar.yale.edu/about/team/

**Evaluation**

Students will be required to submit an essay exploring a theoretical aspect discussed in the module. Students will also present a short paper at a student-led seminar based on the course content. An individual or group project may also be assigned. 100% Continuous Assessment.
XIX American Literature

This course is centred on the nineteenth century ‘classic’ American novel, written during and after the American Renaissance and on a few twentieth century texts. It is a survey course that charts conceptual frameworks in nineteenth and twentieth century American literature, ranging from the Puritan heritage to slavery and issues of race and class, from definitions of America and what it means to be an American to interactions with European heritages and influences. The course includes poetry, a play, and essays that provide further insights into some of the issues outlined above. A close reading of literary texts will be conjoined with equally careful attention to contextual histories and ideologies that shape these texts and are in turn shaped by them. Such readings will attune us to American realities in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and enable us to understand crucial aspects of the American imagination in the twenty first century.

Unit 1: 5 weeks

Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter
Herman Melville, ‘Bartleby the Scrivener’
Kate Chopin, ‘The Awakening’
Mark Twain, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Henry James, The Portrait of a Lady
Unit 2: 3 weeks

F. Scott. Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby
Arthur Miller, The Crucible
Viet Thanh Nguyen, The Sympathizer

Unit 3: 3 weeks

Walt Whitman, ‘Song of Myself’ from Leaves of Grass
Langston Hughes, ‘Theme for English B’, ‘Madam’s Calling Cards’, ‘Dream Deferred’
Allen Ginsberg, ‘Howl’, ‘A Supermarket in California’
Elizabeth Bishop, ‘Arrival at Santos’, ‘Crusoe in England’, ‘Questions of Travel’
Claude McKay, ‘If We Must Die’
John Balaban, ‘After Our War’, ‘In Celebration of Spring’

Unit 4: 2 weeks

Contextual Readings

Hector St John de Crevecoeur, ‘Letter III’ and ‘Letter IX’ from Letters from an American Farmer
Henry David Thoreau, ‘An Essay on Civil Disobedience’
Zora Neale Hurston, ‘How It Feels To Be Coloured Me’
James Baldwin, ‘Letter to my Nephew’ from The Fire Next Time

Evaluation

Evaluation will be continuous through the semester and the final grade will be awarded on the basis of seminar presentations, class participation, and a 2,500-word term paper submitted at the end of the course.
XX. 19th Century Poetry

This course acquaints the student with some key moments in the poetry of nineteenth-century Europe and America. We begin with the English Romantics, exploring their engagement with nature, the self, and the tantalizing promise of political revolution. Next, we encounter some distinctively American poetic strains such as the transcendentalist and the gothic. Finally, we return to Europe, to Browning’s dramatic monologue and the French Symbolists, where we witness the early stirrings of the twentieth-century preoccupation with the ‘modern’.

Unit 1: The Romantics: Nature and the Imagination
3 Weeks
Primary Texts:
William Wordsworth, “Preface to Lyrical Ballads”
William Wordsworth: “The Daffodils”, “Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey”
Samuel Taylor Coleridge: “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”

Unit 2: The Romantics: The Age of Enlightenment
4 Weeks
Primary Texts:
William Blake: “London”, “Tyger”
P. B. Shelley: “Ode to the West Wind”
Secondary Texts:
Thomas Paine, The Rights of Man

Unit 3: Nineteenth Century American Poetry
3 Weeks
Primary Texts:
Walt Whitman: “Song of Myself” (1892 Edition)
Emily Dickinson: “I heard a Fly buzz - when I died”, “Because I could not stop for Death”, “The Soul selects her own society”, and other selections from Complete Poems
Secondary Texts:
Henry David Thoreau, Conclusion of Walden
Emily Dickinson, Letters of Emily Dickinson

Unit 4: Precursors to Modernist Poetry
3 Weeks
Primary Texts:
Robert Browning: “My Last Duchess”, “The Bishop Orders His Tomb”
Charles Baudelaire: “To a Passerby”, “Le Crépuscule du soir [Evening Twilight]”, (from The Flowers of Evil translated by William Aggeler)
Secondary Texts:
“The Flaneur” from The Writer of Modern Life by Walter Benjamin

Evaluation Scheme:
Discussion: (continuous and simultaneous with teaching; responses to be submitted in writing): 20% of the Course grade (5% per unit)
Mid-Term Assignment (in the form of essays): 40% of the Grade
End-Term Assignment (in the form of essays): 40% of the grade.

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