

**University Department of English**  
**B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur**

**VISION**

The Vision of the University Department of English comprises a responsible reevaluation of a rich scholastic tradition and focuses on the dynamics of future challenges to build a scholarly community engaged in committed teaching, quality research, co-curricular and socially productive activities. Encouragement is provided to value scholarship, skills and wisdom with fearless intellectual integrity and artistic freedom to facilitate a microcosm of an enlightened civilization. The aim of the Department is to strike a balance between creativity and critical thinking. The focus is on the study of diverse literatures, criticism, communication of ideas and development of new perspectives through theoretically informed interpretations. The Department promotes interactive scholarship, debating intellectual pursuits to create knowledge without borders, thus investing in 'thinking', 'questioning' and 'exploring' what is beyond. The students are encouraged to use the library and access online Journals as resources of knowledge. Presentations, seminars and films are facilitated by the use of ICT.

**MISSION**

Our responsibilities to civil society are to facilitate professional competence, socially conscientious human resource, encourage leadership qualities and cultivate positive interests, attitudes and moral intellectual values. Emphasis will be laid on critical thinking and textual analysis through theoretically informed perspectives to enable a nuanced understanding of the word and the world.

Conscientising students towards gender, class, caste, race, disability and non-human ecology is a priority. Apart from critical engagement with texts, opportunities shall be provided to students to realize their potential in cultural and creative areas, encourage communicative competence, independent initiatives and use their imagination to envisage justice in the quest of building a society and a civilization that respects diversities and equality. The M.A. English syllabus comprises 14 Core courses (CC), two Elective courses (EC), One Generic Elective (GE) OR Discipline Specific Elective Course (DSE), one Ability Enhancement Course (ACE) and two Ability Enhancement Compulsory Courses (AECC) in evaluation and the teaching will be structured accordingly.

## **M.A. Programme in English**

### **Programme Outcome**

After the completion of M.A. (English) Programme, the students will be able to

- a. Acquire a comprehensive and systematic understanding of English Language and Literature, Literary Criticism and Theory, Linguistics, ELT, Film Studies, Translation Studies and other specific fields of English studies;
- b. Understand the spirit and ethos of different countries through American, African, Commonwealth, Indian literatures etc. which figure under the umbrella term 'English Literature';
- c. Inculcate analytical skills to comprehend any literary or aesthetic problem, investigate and construct logical paradigms using literary concepts and theories;
- d. Imbibe social, ethical, spiritual and cultural values through language and literature to cope with the various challenges of life;
- e. Obtain teaching and research skills in English language, literature and linguistics and evolve pedagogical tools to cater to the needs of students;
- f. Develop communicative competence for proper receptive and productive skills in English language and literature;
- g. Formulate innovative ideas and develop specialised strategies for interpretation of different types of discourse;
- h. Synthesize specialised texts and discourse for presenting theoretical insights and creativity at national and international levels;
- i. Apply advanced skills of critical thinking and research required for literary and linguistic pursuits;
- j. Demonstrate the knowledge and skills of being a competent professional in the subject of English requisite for high achievements in various types of government and public services or global workplace.

### **Semester-1**

#### **CC-1 :English Poetry from Chaucer to Milton**

**Course Outcome:** This course provides a panoramic structure of English poetry from Chaucer to Milton. It will enable the understanding and interpretation of poetic production in relation to its historicity, culture and inheritance drawn from classical Greek antiquity and diverse continental influences in relation to thematic patterns and forms.

## **CC-2 : Shakespearean Drama**

**Course Outcome:** This course will enable the learners to gain knowledge of different dramatic forms used by Shakespeare. It will also enable students to revisit, Shakespearean drama as a cultural production with relation to contemporary society and culture.

## **CC-3 : 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Century Drama**

**Course Outcome:** This course offers a spectrum of different kinds of drama beginning with a Morality play and concluding with a woman dramatist who wrote Comedy of Manners.

## **CC-4 : Late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Literature**

**Course Outcome:** This variety of selection of poetry, prose and novel is located within the enlightenment project with its rationalizing processes impacting prosodic forms in poetry and anticipating a movement towards Romanticism. It will familiarize the students with the rising culture of the bourgeoisie.

## **Semester-2**

### **CC-5 : Film and Literature**

**Course Outcome:** The course on film and Literature is to enable the understanding of the two most important cultural productions of our times. The course will examine films and texts as reflection and production of culture, ideology and history. It will encourage analytical skills related to visual literacy and its correspondences with the world framed as a structured text, familiarizing students with the techniques and grammar of films.

### **CC-6 : 19<sup>th</sup> Century Poetry**

**Course Outcome:** The close of the eighteenth century saw a wide-moving and restless spirit of change and new creation in Europe. The French revolution was the most flamboyant manifestation of this spirit. The nineteenth century movement championed not only political liberty but also freedom from conventions, social and institutional restrictions. This course will make the students familiar with aesthetic responses to the quest of freedom, as aesthetic forms liberated themselves from the rigid orthodoxies of eighteenth century forms of poetry and their expression.

### **CC-7 : Indian and British Criticism**

**Course Outcome:** Indian Literary Theory will engage students in understanding the intricacies of the craft of aesthetic production affecting a

decolonized recovery of the importance of Indian aesthetic traditions. This course will provide insight into the historical development of criticism from Aristotle to the advent of theory in the twentieth century.

### **CC-8 :Modern and Contemporary Critical Theory**

**Course Outcome:** Modern and Contemporary Critical theory is integral to how literary criticism is produced in the late 20th and 21st centuries and this form of critical literacy enhances a nuanced interpretation of literature's scope, content and form. This form of interdisciplinary critical literacy fosters different ways of thinking about and reading literature and culture. Students will find these exciting approaches immensely empowering in shaping thoughts on different ways in which literature may be read.

### **CC-9 : 19<sup>th</sup> Century Fiction and Non-fiction**

**Course outcome:** The study of Victorian literature should foster the understanding of the gradual establishment of democracy, the utilitarian attitude on account of striking material prosperity, the expansion of the British Empire, the effects of the aftermath of the industrial revolution, and the impact of Darwin's theory of Evolution that influenced the literature of the age.

## **Semester-3**

### **CC-10 : Modern and Contemporary Poetry**

**Course outcome:** The striking features of Modernism in literature are a spirit of disillusionment, reflections on the complexities of modern urban life, importance of the unconscious mind, recognition of impossibility of an absolute interpretation of reality and a feeling of ideological uncertainty. This course will help the students understand the intricacies of the aesthetic production of the age.

### **CC-11 : Modern and Contemporary Drama**

**Course outcome:** Modern drama is born out of responses to a changing world order, family structures, existential crisis and absurdity of life and totalitarian regimes and surveillance. Students will appreciate the social, historical, cultural and political matrix that was expressed in innovative forms using multiple dramatic techniques.

### **CC-12 : Modern and Contemporary Fiction**

**Course outcome:** This course will make the students understand fiction from different parts of the world covering multiple themes, styles, ideological persuasions and experiences.

### **CC-13 :Indian Literature in English & in Translation**

**Course outcome:**Decentering English literature from metropolitan Britain and the creation of visibility of Postcolonial literatures from India that is inclusive of identities of multiple constituencies is a significant national project. Students will be able to appreciate different genres of writing with which cultural affiliations are likely to be immediate.

### **CC-14 : Linguistics**

**Course Outcome:** Study of Linguistics will enable the understanding of the structural and generative aspects of language, and social, cultural, historical and political factors through which linguistic and language based context is often determined.

## **Semester-4**

### **EC-1 :**

#### **a) New Literatures**

**Course outcome-** Drawn from different geographical locations, cultures and people's aspirations, these writings encourage students to appreciate diversities across borders. These insights will foster understanding and empathy for people in an act of mediated experience of history, culture and politics.

#### **b) American Literature**

**Course outcome:** In the American Scholar address, Emerson said 'For far too long have we listened to the courtly muses of Europe' ushering in a distinctive character of American writing across genres. This course offers a broad sample of American writings covering different forms of aesthetic expressions.

#### **c) Women's Literature**

**Course Outcome:** Avoiding any claims to "universal women's experience", the content of the course includes a multicultural cross-section of women's experiences as women authors and members of diverse social groups. The objective is to analyze race, class, social identity, ethnicity, age and the intersections of these categories.

#### **d) 16<sup>th</sup>& 17<sup>th</sup> Century Prose :**

**Course Outcome:** This course will encourage students to appreciate Wisdom literature, and in terms of style, as fountainhead of English prose

covering satire, political philosophy, utopian Imagination and spiritual reawakening through prison literature.

#### **e) Cultural Studies**

**Course Outcome:** Cultural Studies is an interdisciplinary engagement with culture. It will develop among students the understanding of relationships between cultures as they intersect and interact in zones of contact. It will also make them aware of the power relations between the dominant and the disadvantage, the manufacture of consent that ensures conformity. Stuart Hall states that Cultural Studies in Britain was born as a political project that analyzed post war advanced capitalist culture.

#### **EC-2 :**

##### **a) Translation Theory and Practice**

**Course Outcome:** This course will explore different approaches to translation and help develop an understanding of the links between theory and practice. It will enable students to acquire an awareness of the wider cultural, ethical and professional contexts of translation and equip them to later specialize as professional translators.

##### **b) Partition Narratives**

**Course Outcome:** Upon the completion of the course, the students will be in a position to comprehend the severity of the partition, one of the most horrific incidents in history. They will also understand how trauma impacts the lives of people even today. They should be in a position to explore, analyse and review the immediate and long-term effects of the partition of the subcontinent. They will be able to differentiate between the political and social aspects of partition and their fallout.

##### **c) Writings in English from Bihar**

**Course Outcome:** After completing the course, the student will be able to acquaint themselves with leading writers from various genres and also the texts from Bihar. They shall be in a position to assess the rich literary heritage of writings in English from both ancient and modern writers from the state. They will be able to compare and analyse early prose narratives with the contemporary ones. At the same time, they will be able to comprehend the literary and critical terms and concepts and place them in the larger critical paradigm.