

Contemporary Literature - Web course

COURSE OUTLINE

The course aims to study contemporary literature in all its diversity. It examines major theories, trends, genres, contemporary innovations, poetics, plays, and key concepts in contemporary literature. Designed to develop advanced understanding of cultural, social, intellectual and aesthetic contexts, it allows students to engage with some of the most exciting writings of the post WWII era.

COURSE DETAIL

Lecture No.	Topic
1	Introduction to Drama-I
2	Introduction to Drama-II
3	Beginnings of the 20th Century Drama
4	20th Century Drama
5	Theatre of the Absurd
6	Metatheatre
7	Asian-American Theatre
8	Experimental Theatre - I
9	Experimental Theatre - II
10	Modernism and Literature
11	Modernism and Theatre
12	Modernism and Cinema
13	<i>Defining the Postmodern-I</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction



NP-TEL

NPTEL

<http://nptel.iitm.ac.in>

Humanities and Social Sciences

Pre-requisites:

Familiarity with contemporary world literature.

Additional Reading:

Selected literature

1. Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1985.
2. Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. London: Heinemann, 1958.
3. Baldwin, James. *Giovanni's Room*. NY: Dial Press, 1956.
4. Barth, John. *Goat Boy*. NY: Doubleday, 1966.
5. Coetze, J. M. *Disgrace*. London: Secker & Warburg, 1999.
6. Calvino, Italo. *If On a Winter's Night a Traveller*, trans. William Weaver, London: Picador, 1982.
7. Eco, Umberto. *The Name of the Rose*, trans. William Weaver. New York:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Postmodern Literature • People and works 	
14	<i>Defining the Postmodern-II</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Postmodern literature • People and works 	
15	The Postmodern Film	
16	<i>Counterculture Movement</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • People and works 	
17	<i>Literary Devices & Ideas-I</i>	
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key concepts <i>Literary Devices & Ideas-II</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key concepts 	
19	Understanding Narrative-I	
20	Understanding Narrative II	
21	Marxist Theory & Criticism-I	
22	Marxist Theory & Criticism-II	
23	Psychoanalytic Theory & Criticism	
24	<i>American Literary Theory & Criticism -I</i>	
25	<i>American Literary Theory & Criticism -II</i>	
26	Understanding Film Theory -I	
27	Understanding Film Theory -II	
28	Understanding Film Theory -III	
29	<i>Feminist Writings</i>	
30	<i>Feminist Theory and Criticism</i>	
31	<i>Defining the Postcolonial</i> <i>The English Patient</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life & works of Michael Ondaatje 	
32	The English Patient (contd...) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Themes • Technique 	
33	<i>Cracking India</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life & works of Bapsi Sidhwa 	

Warner Books, 1984.

8. Garcia, Marquez. One Hundred Years of Solitude, trans. Gregory Rabassa. London: Picador, 1982.
9. Golding, William. Lord of the Flies. London: Faber & Faber, 1963.
10. Gibson, William. Neuromancer. NY: Ace Books, 1984.
11. Irving, John. The Cider House Rules. NY: W. Morrow, 1985.
12. Kerouac, Jack. On the Road. NY: Viking Press, 1957.
13. Kundera, Milan. The Unbearable Lightness of Being, trans. Michael Henry Heim. London: Faber & Faber, 1989.
14. McEwan, Ian. Saturday. NY: Doubleday, 2006.
15. Nabokov, Vladimir. Pale Fire. NY: Putnam, 1962.
16. Oz, Amos. A Perfect Peace. London: Vintage, 1993.
17. Pynchon, Thomas. V. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1963.
18. Rushdie, Salman. The Moor's Last Sigh. London: Vintage, 1996.
19. Stoppard, Tom. Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead. New York, Grove Press, 1967.
20. Seth, Vikram. A Suitable Boy. London: Phoenix House, 1993.

Selected criticism

Ashcroft, Bill, et al. The Empire writes back. 2nd edition. London: Routledge, 1989.

Bakhtin, Mikhail. The Dialogic Imagination: Four Essays, trans. Caryl Emerson & Michael Holquist. Austin: Texas University Press, 1981.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plot and themes
34	<p>Asian-American Writings in English: The Early Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction/Historical Background <p>People and works</p>
35	<p>Asian American Writings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>An overview of literary works</i>
36	<p>Harold Pinter : The Dramatist & His World</p>
37	<p>Arthur Miller : The Playwright and His Moral Imperative</p>
38	<p><i>Short story</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction People and works
39	<p><i>Science Fiction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction People and works
40	<p><i>Pulp Fiction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction People and works

Bentley, Eric. *The Theory of the Modern Stage*. London: Penguin, 1968.

Bigsby, Christopher. *The Cambridge Companion to Modern American Culture*. Cambridge: CUP, 2006.

Bradbury, Malcolm. *The Novel Today: Contemporary Writers on Modern Fiction*. London: Fontana Press, 1990.

Cassuto, Leonard et al (eds.). *The Cambridge History of The American Novel*. Cambridge: CUP, 2011.

Cohan, Steven and Shires, Linda M (eds). *Telling Stories: A Theoretical Analysis of Narrative Fiction*. New York: Routledge, 1988.

Currie, Mark (ed). *Metafiction*. London: Longman, 1995.

Genette, Gerard. *Narrative Discourse: An Essay in Method*, trans. Jane E. Lewin. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1980.

Hawthorn, Jeremy. *A Glossary of Contemporary Literary Theory*. NY: Bloomsbury, 2000.

Jameson, Fredric. *Postmodernism, or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*. London: Verso, 1991.

-----Signatures of the Visible. London: Routledge, 1992.

Lodge, David (ed). *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*. Essex: Pearson Education Ltd., 1988.

McHale, Brian. *Postmodernist Fiction*. London: Methuen, 1987.

Ricoeur, Paul. "Narrative Time". *Critical Inquiry* 7, 1: 169-190, 1980.

References:

- Miller, Arthur. *Plays: Four*. London: Methuen, 1981.
- Ondaatje, Michael. *The English Patient*. London: Picador, 1992.
- Pinter, Harold. *Complete Works of Harold Pinter*. Vol 1&II . New York: Grove, 1994.
- Sidhwa, Bapsi. *Cracking India*. Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 1991.
- Tan, Amy. *The Joy Luck Club*. New York: Vintage, 1998.

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