

**M.A. in English Language and Literature
Course Description
Thesis Option
2005/2006**

1. Obligatory Courses

(12 Credit Hours)

0120701 Methods of Research

(3 cr. hrs)

The course intends to teach graduate students research methodology, focusing upon the scientific method. It teaches them how to state a problem and the purpose of the study to formulate hypotheses, to review related literature and to collect and analyze data. It will also introduce students to the various types of research and research tools. Attention is further given to such other areas of academic expertise as descriptive and analytical bibliography, notetaking, editing and rewriting of manuscripts, ethics of documenting a research paper, and the evolving uses of the library in graduate study.

0120721 Sociolinguistics

(3 cr. hrs)

This course investigates the relationship between language and society and the factors that affect this relationship such as the geographical location, socio-economic status, level of education, sex, ethnicity, profession and age, etc. It also examines language varieties and dialects (BE and AE) and the variations in the same dialect.

0120722 Discourse Analysis

(3 cr. hrs)

Discourse Analysis is a graduate course that investigates the organization of language beyond the sentence level in both speech and writing. This course consists of two parts. Part one examines the major theoretical approaches to discourse analysis, macro-and micro-language functions, information packaging, speech act theory, conversational strategies, exchange structure, dimensions of discourse analysis and standards of textuality. The second part will be devoted to the

pedagogical applications of these theoretical concepts. Students will be taught now to explore ways in which their theoretical knowledge can be put into action in order to develop discourse skills.

0120723 Stylistics (3 cr. hrs)

This course will focus on the application of linguistic knowledge to the study of style. Traditionally, stylistic analysis has been mainly concerned with the analysis of literary style or the language variety characteristic of a writer, and various criteria have been set up to deal with individual or group styles in relation to biographical, psychological, social and other details reflecting the personality of its creator.

2. Electives

(12 Ch Credit Hours)

A. Language

0120710 Schools of Linguistics (3 cr. hrs)

This course aims at acquainting students with the development of modern linguistics and its major theories in the 20th century such as structuralism, transformational generative grammar and functional grammar as well as traditionalism. The course also introduces students to the major works of the proponents of each theory.

0120711 Advanced English Grammar (3 cr. hrs)

A detailed study of the Grammar of English within certain linguistic frameworks, in particular the transformational and functional frameworks. Major syntactic processes and categories will be emphasized, viz., complementation, nominalization, predication, subordination, conjoining, raising, negation, modality, tense, aspect, substitution, ellipsis, etc.

012712 **English Phonetics and Phonology** (3 cr. hrs)

This course is an in-depth study of the principles of articulatory and acoustic phonetics. The students will be trained to produce, recognize and transcribe all English sounds and their variants. It covers topics such as: description of sounds, stress, intonation, phonation, and speech mechanisms. The principles of phonological analysis with reference to English will also be highlighted. The course also introduces a subdiscipline of linguistics, phonology, which handles the organization of speech sounds in the language, how a language organizes sounds into systematic patterns and speakers internalize knowledge of these patterns a system of symbolic rules and representations. The fundamentals of the sound systems of the language are covered: segmental representation and distinctive features theory, syllable structures, prosodic domains and stress features. There is a concentration on the classical and current trends in generative phonology and there will be an introduction to the recent developments in phonological theory.

0120713 **English Semantics and Pragmatics** (3 cr. hrs)

This course examines the definitions and theories of semantics, as well as lexical and sentential properties. It also investigates some pragmatic concepts such as context, types of inferences (presupposition, entailment, implicature), speech acts and information packaging.

0120714 **Contrastive Linguistics** (3 cr. hrs)

After an introduction to the basic ideas of contrastive analysis, the course concentrates on a comparison of English and Arabic in its different varieties. All levels of analysis, phonetic, phonological, lexical-syntactic, and semantic are considered. The emphasis being on those areas where there are significant differences between the two languages. Attention will also be given to the limits of contrastive analysis in explaining language learning difficulties.

0120748

Special Topic in Literature

(3 C.H.)

This course is intended to provide a forum for in-depth discussions of major authors or issues that are not covered in other courses. For example, the course may investigate the works of a contemporary major author (i.e. Toni Morrison, John Fowles, J.M. Coetzee, Nadine Gordimer, etc.) or a major topic such as Gothicism, orientalism, postmodernism, the utilization of myth and fantasy in literature, confession literature, autobiography, etc.....