



**Department of English
Faculty of Arts
Philadelphia University**

**M.A. in English Language and Literature
Course Description
Thesis Option
2018/2019**

1. Obligatory Courses

(15 Credit Hours)

0120701 Methods of Research (3 cr. hrs)

The course introduces students to research methodology: how to state a problem, to formulate hypotheses, to review related literature, and to collect and analyze data. It introduces 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.

0120710 Schools of Linguistics (Linguistic Theory) (3 cr. hrs)

This course aims at acquainting students with the development of modern linguistics and its major theories: structuralism, transformational-generative grammar and functional grammar as well as traditional theory. The course also introduces students to the major works of the proponents of each theory.

0120780 Literary Theory (3 cr. hrs)

This course deals with modern literary theory beginning with Russian Formalism and New Criticism Post-Structuralism in an attempt to investigate the basic principles of the modern critical schools and the extent of their connection with the process of study in the analysis and the criticism of literary texts of all genres.

0120723 Stylistics in English Language (3 cr. hrs)

This course focuses on the application of linguistic knowledge to the study of style. Traditionally, stylistic analysis is mainly concerned with the analysis of literary style or the language variety of the writer's characteristics, 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.

0120760 Modern British and American Novel (3 C.H.)

A selection of Modern British and American Novels is made from 20th century. Three works are chosen for class discussion, and for the final exam. Each student should choose one work for a term paper. Selected works from 19th –20th century American fiction are introduced for class discussion. Works by Hawthorne, Melville, James, Hemingway, Steinbeck are used. Term papers on works by these or other American novelists are presented by students for class discussion

2. Electives (9 Ch Credit Hours)

A. Language

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 such as complementation, nominalization, predication, subordination, conjoining, raising, negation, modality, tense, aspect, substitution, ellipsis, will be emphasized.

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 how speakers internalize knowledge of these patterns into 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 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 their different varieties. All levels of analysis, phonetic, phonological, lexical-syntactic, and semantic are considered. The emphasis will be 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.

0120720 **Applied Linguistics** (3 cr. hrs)

This course aims to acquaint students with the recent findings in the field of linguistics, particularly first and second language acquisition and the applications of these findings to teaching English. Different linguistic schools, i.e., Grammar Translation method, Behaviouristic schools, and Cognitive schools, among others, will be introduced.

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 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. Part two is devoted to the pedagogical applications of these theoretical concepts. Students will be taught how to explore ways in which their theoretical knowledge can be put into action in order to develop discourse skills.

0120730 **History of the English Language** (3 cr. hrs)

The course comprises a detailed analysis of the origins, growth, development and varieties of English (from the Indo-European beginnings to the present time, with special emphasis on the earlier periods). Emphasis will be placed on the sources of language history; phonetic and phonological change; morphological, syntactic, lexical and semantic development; foreign influences; language contact; internal and comparative reconstruction; general principles and comparison with other languages, particularly Arabic.

0120731 **Special Topic in Language** (3 cr. hrs)

This is a detailed study of a recent linguistic theory or a certain language issue and its application to English. It can also be a synchronic description of English at a particular period.

B. Literature

(9 Ch Credit Hours)

0120740 **Medieval Literature** (3 C.H.)

A survey of major works of medieval literature, with emphasis on one theme or author like Chaucer (one major work), Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Piers Plowman, or Sir Thomas Malry's *Morte d'Arthur*. In addition to the lecture, a discussion of selections is conducted in class, shared by the students who have to prepare basic material for such discussion. Two term papers are required from each student.

0120741 **Shakespeare and the Renaissance** (3 C.H.)

Three plays (comedy-tragedy-history) are chosen for class discussions. One term paper is required from each student which should deal with the sonnets, the other poems, or with a criticism of some aspect of Shakespeare's work. These papers by each student should be discussed in class.

0120750 **Modern Poetry** (3 C.H.)

A survey of 20th century poetry, starting with Eliot. Selection from Yeats, War Poets, Graves, the Movement Poets and some modern American poetry are used for class discussion. Term papers should choose one work or a collection of poems by an author.

0120770 **Modern British and American Drama** (3 C.H.)

A selection of Modern Drama is made from 20th century works by British and American, authors. Six works are chosen for class discussion. Students choose different works for their term paper, to be presented and discussed in class. Final examination to be based on works discussed in class.

0120781 **Advanced Literary Theory** (3 C.H.)

Twentieth century developments in literary theory form the core of the survey. Emphasis is on New Criticism, Structuralism and after, and Feminist Literary Criticism. Students may choose other disciplines for their research papers, like linguistics and criticism, deconstruction, formalism, etc. Term papers may be used for class presentation and discussion.

0120782 **World Literature** (3 C.H.)

Selections from French, Italian, Russian, German and Spanish works are introduced, with emphasis on twentieth century authors: novels, plays, or poems by Andre Gide, Albert Camus; Pirandello, Umberto Eco; R.M.Rilke, B.Brecht; Lorca, and others, depending on available English translations. Class-discussions of individual works should be enriched by term papers presented for discussion in class.

0120783 **Post- Colonial Literature** (3 C.H.)

With the help of representative texts from (post-) colonial literature, theory and criticism, our course will focus on (a) the nature of the power relations between colonizer and colonized; (b) the ways in which colonial political and cultural authority is established and the ways in which this authority comes to be contested and subverted by the colonized ; (c) the complex phenomenon of nationalism and the problems attendant upon the modern post-colonial nation; (d) key philosophical and cultural questions in the post-colonial era, such as agency, identity and difference; dislocation and belonging ; nativism, mimicry, hybridity and globalization; (e) the ways in which native culture has also penetrated the west and conditioned its most important currents of modernism and postmodernism.

This course provides 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.