

MA English and Cultural Studies - SH530

1. Objectives

This programme will serve a growing need in higher education for highly trained personnel in the area of English and Cultural Studies. The degree should prepare graduates for jobs where critical literacy and specialised training in cultural studies are required. Prospective students should hold a good honours degree in any area of Arts, Humanities and the Social Sciences. Students from other disciplines are also encouraged to apply.

2. General Entry Requirements

Successful completion of an undergraduate degree with

- at least a Second Class or 50%, whichever is applicable or
- a GPA not less than 2.5 out of 4 or equivalent, from a recognised higher education institution.

OR alternative qualifications acceptable to the University of Mauritius.

3. Programme Requirements

At least a Second Class Degree in English, History with Social Studies/International Relations/Heritage Studies, Media Studies and Communication Studies.

4. General and Programme Requirements - Special Cases

The following may be deemed to have satisfied the general and programme requirements for admission:

- (i) Applicants who do not satisfy any of the requirements as per Regulations 2 and 3 above but who submit satisfactory evidence of having passed examinations which are deemed by the Senate to be equivalent to any of those listed.
- (ii) Applicants who do not satisfy any of the requirements as per Regulations 2 and 3 above but who in the opinion of Senate submit satisfactory evidence of the capacity and attainments requisite to enable them to pursue the programme proposed.
- (iii) Applicants who hold a full practising professional qualification obtained by examination.

5. Programme Duration

	Minimum (Yr(s))	Maximum (Yrs)
Master's Degree:	2	4
Postgraduate Diploma:	2	4
Postgraduate Certificate:	1	2

6. Credits per Year

Minimum 6 credits subject to regulation 5.

7. Minimum Credits Required for Awards

	Core Modules	Dissertation	Electives	Total
Master's Degree:	12 credits	12 credits	12 credits	36 credits
Postgraduate Diploma:	12 credits	-	12 credits	24 credits
Postgraduate Certificate:	6 credits	-	6 credits	12 credits

8. Assessment

Each module will carry 100 marks and will be taught over 2 semesters and examined at the end of the academic year with details as follows (unless otherwise specified):

Written examination of 3 hours duration (at the end of the academic year) and continuous assessment carrying 10% to 40% of total marks.

Continuous assessment can be based on seminars and/or assignments and should include at least 1 class test.

For a student to pass a module, a minimum of 30% should be attained in both of Continuous Assessment and Written Examination separately, with an overall total of a minimum of 40% in that module.

No resit examinations will be organised. Instead, students will be allowed to carry forward a maximum of three modules at any point in time and will be allowed to sit for the examinations with the next cohort of students.

All modules carry their own credit value.

Submission Deadlines for Dissertation

First Draft: End of July in the Final Year.

Final Copy: Last working day of August in the Final Year.

9. Repeat and Termination of Registration

If the CPA of a student is < 40 for an academic year, s/he will have to repeat the entire academic year, and retake modules as and when offered. However, s/he will not be required, if s/he wishes, to retake module(s) for which **Grade C** or above has been obtained.

Students will be allowed to repeat **only once** over the entire duration of the Programme of Studies.

Registration of a student will be terminated if

- (i) the CPA < 40 at the end of an academic year and the student has already repeated one year of study; or
- (ii) the maximum duration allowed for completion of the Programme of Studies has been exceeded.

10. Choice of Electives

Students will be required to submit their choice of Electives in order of priority by the middle/end of Semester 1 of Year 1. The University reserves the right not to offer a given elective module if the critical number of students is not attained and/or for reasons of resource constraints.

Electives are offered in the second year of the degree programme. Students will have to choose their second year electives by the end of Semester 1 of Year 1.

Two electives have to be chosen per student. Modules will be offered as per staff availability. A minimum of five students is required for a module to be offered.

11. Programme Plan – MA English and Cultural Studies

YEAR 1

Code	Module Name	Hrs/Wk L+P	Credits
CORE			
ENG 6001Y	Introduction to Cultural Studies	3+0	6
ENG 6002Y	Contemporary Landscapes	3+0	6

YEAR 2

Code	Module Name	Hrs/Wk L+P	Credits
CORE			
ENG 6000	Dissertation	-	12
ELECTIVES CHOOSE ANY TWO			
ENG 6003Y	Feminism	3+0	6
ENG 6004Y	Urban Modernities	3+0	6
ENG 6005Y	Indian Literature	3+0	6
ENG 6006Y	Post-colonial and Multiculturalism	3+0	6
ENG 6007Y	African Literature	3+0	6
ENG 6008Y	Language and Culture	3+0	6
ENG 6009Y	American Literature	3+0	6
ENG 6010Y	Popular Cultural Studies	3+0	6

12. Outline Syllabus

ENG 6000 - DISSERTATION

The dissertation will consist of an extended research survey of 20 000 words, to be submitted at the end of the second year as partial requirement for completion of the programme. A project supervisor will be identified by the programme coordinator and the title of the project approved by the Department of English Studies.

ENG 6001Y - INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL STUDIES

Part A: Literary & Cultural Theory/Critical & Cultural Theory

This module will form a starting point for introducing the major concepts which will be discussed in the whole two year course. It aims to investigate theoretically questions of the creation of a canon, the sociology of literature, the Marxist and post-Marxist challenges to the concept of the nature of the literary as well as the function of ideology in literary structuration and reproduction. It will also introduce the question of audiences and the reception of texts.

Part B: Research Methodologies

This module will also introduce a range of approaches to research as practised in English and Cultural studies. Topics to be covered focus on three main areas: research paradigm, research strategies and data collection and analysis techniques. These topics will be explored with the aim of preparing students to design research projects of their own.

ENG 6002Y - CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPES

Part A: The Novel

This module will be a specialist exploration of the works of one postmodernist author in the specific socio-historical context which has allowed his work to come into being. Authors studied could be one of the following depending upon the instructor: Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Salman Rushdie, John Barth, Julian Barnes, Angela Carter, or others.

Part B: Modernism and Postmodernism

This module will also examine texts in a variety of genres and from different historical and cultural locations in order to look at the construction or discovery of the self. The focus is on the ways in which identities are determined by history, race, class, gender and sexuality.

ENG 6003Y - FEMINISM

Part A: Feminist Fiction

This module aims to expose students to various trends in women's writing straddling the genres of autobiography, confessional poetry as well as modes of literary empowerment through the rewriting of canonical genres such as novel and drama. Students will be made to engage with a range of texts such as Ana Akhmatova, Sylvia Plath and Kamala Das as well as more contemporary women writers addressing the notion of material construction of selves within feminist rhetoric.

Part B: Feminist Literary Criticism

This module will also consist of an overview of the history and criticism of Western feminism, with focus on selected theoretical texts. The feminist issues under study will range from the corpus of women's writing (Elaine Showalter), images of women (Kate Millet), the implied reader (Judith Fetterley), the use of Language (Helene Cixous), gynocriticism (Elaine Showalter), Psychoanalytic criticism (Kristeva/Irigaray), institutional critique (Michele Barrett), lesbian identity (Judith Butler) etc. The module will also be grounded in the study of different phases of feminist criticism.

ENG 6004Y - URBAN MODERNITIES

Part A: Consumerism and New Identities

This module takes into account the new theories of agency in the socialisation of the post-modern self in the context of new consumerist ideologies. The module aims to understand the transformation of social life under the pressure of the new spaces of modernity as they affect traditional concept of self and authority.

Part B: Urban Spaces

This module will begin with an analysis of theoretical writings on space and urbanity and then go on to examine how these theories relate to the perception and construction of urban space in architecture, poetry and in theories of postmodernity. This module will address the challenges, anxieties and interactions surrounding urban spaces in a number of texts.

ENG 6005Y - INDIAN LITERATURE

Part A: The History of Indian-English Literature

Indian Literature in English has gone through many phases, from the imitative rhetoric of the nineteenth century Bengal novelists to the revolutionary rhetoric of the independence years. In recent years we have witnessed a resurgence of interest in the new Indian novel as a 'global' novel. Students will be made to engage with the politics of language choice as well as with the implications of contemporary distribution circuits as these affect the post publication life of the Indian novel in English.

Part B: Literature of the Indian Diaspora

This module will also expect students to engage with the literary and poetic works of the two major types of Diaspora – The NRI Diaspora of the Twentieth Century and the Indentured Diaspora of the Nineteenth Century and the literature which has emerged from that migration. Selected texts from a range of geographical areas will be studied in their socio-political contexts and within a comparative perspective.

ENG 6006Y - POSTCOLONIAL AND MULTICULTURALISM

Part A: Postcolonial Cultural Studies

This module will look into the ways in which cultural policy and practices define the dynamics of Mauritian postcolonialism both from national and comparative perspectives. We will be discussing major cultural policy documents and national discourses that have contributed to the articulation of the 'pedagogies' of the

nation such as 'Mauritianisation' policy in education, modernisation, Radio and Broadcasting Acts, Oriental languages debate, etc, as well as the 'performatives' of the postcolonial nation as mediated by Music, private radio talk-shows, print media coverage, NGO documents, etc.

Part B: Critical Multiculturalism

This module also aims to make students investigate the varying models of multiculturalism which exist and the conditions of emergence of these varying models. Definitions of the French republican model as opposed to the equality within diversity model of the British state, the American, the Australian and the Indian models of multiculturalism. This will have direct repercussions on readings of changing Mauritian multiculturalism as it is aligned upon the case studies of countries with similar patterns of multicultural settlement and open or latent conflict in the wake of processes of decolonisation.

ENG 6007Y - AFRICAN LITERATURE

Part A: Defining Africa in Literature

This module looks at the various ways in which sub-Saharan Africa has been described in the literature of the Twentieth Century. It will include books written by Africans, non-Africans about Africa, pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial literary views of Africa, as well as contemporary tendencies to define literature in Africa rather than Africa in literature.

Part B: Literature of the African and the Caribbean Diaspora

This module explores issues of migrancy and exile, home and homelessness, hybridity and cultural identity in postcolonial literature by writers from the Caribbean and Africa. It introduces students to the theoretical terrain and salient issues involved in studying the literature of migration. This module foregrounds the diasporic experience and the ways in which diasporas live as part of "imagined communities", as nations unbound and deterritorialised, carrying with them "travelling cultures".

ENG 6008Y - LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Part A: Language, Ideology and Power

This module acknowledges that language is a social phenomenon: language is viewed as being in a dynamic relationship with the context in which it evolves and operates. Language will be looked at from the perspective that it has a privileged place in maintaining or subverting power relations. This will be considered by looking at overt or covert language policies, oral and written texts which are formulated written or utilised in order to keep a hold on power, and others to resist power. Gender (in)equality, school literacies, critical literacy are some of the themes that will be covered during the course.

Part B: Language in Education Policies

The aim of this module is to critically consider the language-in-education policies that have evolved in the postcolonial era, and as a result of the 1951 UNESCO declaration on the right of all individuals to be taught through their mother tongue. Some fundamental questions will be raised in relation to this, for instance, the matter of planning, implementation and evaluation; the issue of the attitudes of those people involved in the policy changes, and the questions of initial language of literacy and first/second language literacy.

ENG 6009Y - AMERICAN LITERATURE

Part A: Ethnicity/Race in the United States

In the words of Etienne Balibar "[I]t is not race which is a biological human 'memory', but it is racism which represents one of the most insistent forms of the historical memory of modern societies". This module will explore the politics of ethnicity and race in the United States and the dynamics of interethnic encounters in response to changing social, historical, political, ideological and economic conditions. It will include close study of a selection of texts that illustrate and interrogate the different ethnicities that constitute the United States.

Part B: Asian American Literature

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Asian America was constructed by U.S. immigration policies via exclusion acts and quotas that relied upon racialist discourse. This module will examine literary representations of Asian American identities in relation to questions of class, gender, ethnicity, generation, and national origin that challenge the homogenisation of ethnic identities. Topics include immigration and settlement patterns, nationalism, exclusionism, assimilation, and diasporas.

ENG 6010Y - POPULAR CULTURAL STUDIES

Part A: Popular Culture

This module will encourage students to actively engage with the concept of popular culture and its socio-political sub-texts. The focus will be the study of popular genres, including soaps, romance, thrillers, serials. Counter-cultural, sub-cultural and resistance genres will also be examined.

Part B: Popular Cinema

This module seeks to provide insights into the phenomenon of contemporary popular cinema as a specialised branch of film studies. It will first seek to expose students to contemporary methodologies of film studies (semantics, psychoanalysis, Marxism, etc.). Students will then be required to apply such methodologies to the popular visual text (including advertisement, cartoons, comics). The module will explore, among others, the success of the Brazilian soap in the world, the art/commercial dichotomy in Indian cinema, the Hollywood/national cinema debate, and so on.