

# **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**

	<b>Minimum [Yr(s)]</b>	<b>Maximum [Yrs]</b>
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 30% to 40% of total marks.

Research Methodologies (Part B of Introduction to Cultural Studies) will be assessed fully by Continuous Assessment.

Continuous Assessment can be based on seminars and/or assignments and should include at least 2 assignments/tests per module.

For a student to pass a module, a minimum of 30% should be attained in both 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
<b>CORE</b>			
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
<b>CORE</b>			
ENG 6000	Dissertation	-	12
<b>ELECTIVES</b> <b>CHOOSE ANY TWO</b>			
ENG 6011Y	Indian Diasporic Studies	3+0	6
ENG 6012Y	Representations of Mauritius	3+0	6
ENG 6013Y	African Literary and Cultural Studies	3+0	6
ENG 6014Y	Asian American/Cultural Studies	3+0	6
ENG 6015Y	Globalisation: Theories and Discourses	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 6011Y – INDIAN DIASPORIC STUDIES**

### Part A: Literatures 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.

### Part B: Bollywood in the Diaspora

This part of the module seeks to explore the relationship between Bollywood film and Mauritian popular culture. Bollywood as a phenomenon will be studied in all its global diversity but Mauritius will constitute a major focus. Film will thus often be read in the context of constructions of identity in Mauritius, with possible comparisons with the reception of other types of visual texts as Hollywood, Indian Art Film, Latin American and Indian serials, advertisement, shows. Learners are expected to have attained or to acquire familiarity with theories such as Semantics, Psychoanalysis, Feminism, Queer Theory, Marxism, Postmodernism, and Postcolonialism, and to know how to apply them to texts and contexts. In addition to popular culture theorists like Stuart Hall, Michel Foucault and Jean Baudrillard, learners will be expected to acquaint themselves with film theorists like André Bazin, Mary Ann Doane, Philip Rosen and Laura Mulvey, and most particularly Bollywood film theorists such as Madhava Prasad, Y.A. Fazalbhoy, Vijay Mishra.

## **ENG 6012Y – REPRESENTATIONS OF MAURITIUS**

### Part A: Mauritius in Literature

Using scholarly work on creolisation, island narratives, diaspora, cultural geography, multiculturalism, this module aims to critically explore the representations of Mauritius from the colonial period to the present by looking at Mauritian literary productions or literary texts on Mauritius in English, French, Creole and Indian Languages (if translations are available) engaging with the multiple tropes through which the island is imagined.

### Part B: Reading Mauritius through Cultural Policies and Practices

This module will look into ways in which cultural policy and practices define Mauritian national identity. 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, multiculturalism, Radio and Broadcasting Acts, Oriental languages debate, as well as the 'performatives' of the postcolonial nation as mediated by music, private radio talk-shows, print media, internet, etc.

## **ENG 6013Y – AFRICAN LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

### Part A: Defining Africa in Literature

The first part of 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: books written by 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. Ultimately this part of the module will seek to unsettle the definability of Africa itself and argue that literature needs to be redefined when its colonial dictionary definition encounters the oral cultures of sub-Saharan Africa and African philosophies.

## Part B: Representations of Africa in Contemporary Hollywood

The second part of this module aims at exposing learners to representations of Africa in culture as evidenced through popular visual texts, most particularly Hollywood. Focus will be on hegemonic strategies that are peculiar to this cinema, which is of most resonance to the masses. Learners will be expected to have attained or acquire familiarity with some of the major film theories (Semantics, Psychoanalysis, Marxism, Feminism, Queer theory, etc...) as well as cultural theories about film by Adorno and Horkheimer, Raymond Williams, Bourdieu, Stuart Hall, McDonald, Janice Radway and Terry Eagleton. Such theories will work best in tandem with postcolonial theories, especially when related to popular perceptions of Africa.

## **ENG 6014Y – ASIAN AMERICAN/CULTURAL STUDIES**

### Part A: Ethnicity/Race in the United States

In the words of Etienne Balibar “[I]t is not race which is a biological or psychological human ‘memory’, but it is racism which represents one of the most insistent forms of the historical memory of modern societies”. (*Race, Nation, class, 1991: 44 – 5*). This course 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 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> 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, diasporas and transnationalism.

## **ENG 6015Y – GLOBALISATION**

### Part A: Hegemony and Counter-Hegemony

The first part of this module will explore the challenges and transformations attendant upon the phenomenon labeled as globalisation, its problematics and encounters with 20<sup>th</sup> c. and 21<sup>st</sup> c. geopolitics. The collapse of the Soviet Union, the rise of Asia, notably India and China, have created a new geopolitical space whose borders reflect the transformation of old peripheries into new centers. The determinist variant of the globalisation hypothesis that argues that global capitalism has ushered in a new world order characterized by homogenization has been strongly challenged by the shifting boundaries of First - and Third - World or other bi-polar categories and the unsettling of previous theoretical and discursive premises. All these contemporary changes call for new attention to the impact of the new or shifting socio-economic order on social/cultural practices, subjectivity, the environment, and sustainability/security. We will engage with the following issues: the role of nations in the era of globalisation; the implications of globalisation for the concept of community; the impact of international politics on domestic politics; the location of globalisation within the matrix of post-/neo-colonialism; the meaning of postnational communities; the relationship between the global and the local.

### Part B: Theories and Discourses

The 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries have seen globalisation write itself into contemporary literary and cultural texts. While post-WWII writing revealed shifts of power configurations within the West, the post-colonial realities following 1947 effected a decentralization of the Western subject, drawing attention to non-Western subjectivities and cultural modes. The first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has also brought with it post- 9/11 realities where reinforced ethnic and religious discourses presently clash with new post-racial arguments on the global political and social levels. The objective of this part of the module will be to situate and read texts within the framework of these changing dimensions of globalisation: American economic and cultural imperialism as it pervades both other Western nations as well as the countries of the “third-world”; postcolonialism, the movement of the diasporas to the West, and the cultural implications of these; the emergence of powerful new economies including China, India and Brazil, and their pull on global culture. While literary and filmic texts will provide the main corpus of material for this module, students will also be encouraged to explore other cultural textual forms, such as fashion, food, the press and digital texts. The main issues that will be addressed here will include economic and cultural supremacy; ideological dominance; multiculturalism, race and religion; urbanity, cosmopolitanism and post-cosmopolitanism.