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**FIRST SEMESTER 2023-2024**

# Course Handout-Part II

Date: 11-08-2023

In addition to Part-I (General Handout for all courses appended to the timetable), this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

*Course No.* : HSS F336

## Course Title : Modern Fiction

## Instructor-in-Charge : Prof T Vijay Kumar

**Scope and Objective of the Course:** This course traces the evolution of the idea of the modern and offers an overview of modern fiction. The forms and formations of modernism, its contents and discontents will be explored through a reading of canonical fictional texts in conjunction with theoretical non-fiction. While the primary focus will be on selected fictional texts, the course will also investigate the very idea of the modern and reflect on multiple and alternative modernities. The overall objective of the course is to expose students to the polyphony in modern literary texts and to train them to read the word and the world critically.

**Textbook:**

# Butler, Christopher. *Modernism: A Very Short Introduction*. OUP UK, 2010.

## **Reference books**

1. Bradbury, Malcolm and James McFarlane. *Modernism: A Guide to European Literature 1890-1930.* Penguin Books, 1991.
2. Brooker, Peter et al. *The Oxford Handbook of Modernisms*. OUP, 2016.
3. Kapur, Geeta. *When Was Modernism: Essays on Contemporary Cultural Practice in India*. Tulika Books, 2020.
4. Latham, Sean and Gayle Rogers. *Modernism: Evolution of an Idea*. Bloomsbury Academic India, 2019.
5. Mayaram, Shail, ed. *Modernity, Its Pathologies and Reenchantments*. Orient BlackSwan, 2020.

NOTE: Text and reference books listed above will be supplemented, if and when needed, with other resources in the classroom. Students are expected to be familiar with the additional reading material as well.

**Course Plan:**

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| **Lecture No.** | **Learning objectives** | **Topics to be covered** | **Chapter in the Text**  **Book** |
| 1-6  Unit I | Introduction to the elements of fiction | Course overview; Story, plot, characters, theme, setting, point of view, narrative technique | Class notes |
| 7-17  Unit II | Introduction to literary modernism | Texts and contexts of modernism; Joseph Conrad, “An Outpost of Progress”, Virginia Woolf, “The Mark on the Wall”, Virginia Woolf, “Modern Fiction” | TB-1 and 2; The texts |
| 18 | Recap of Units I & II | | |
| 19-29  Unit III | Introduction to the modes of modern fiction | Content and forms of modernism; Nikolai Gogol, “The Nose”, Franz Kafka, The Metamorphosis, Leszek Kolakowski, “Modernity on Endless Trial” | TB-3; The texts |
| 30-39  Unit IV | Introduction to  alter-native modernities | Ideas and ideologies of modernism; Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, “Sultana's Dream”,Sadat Hasan Manto, “Toba Tek Singh”, MK Gandhi, “Civilization”, “What is True Civilization”, “Machinery” (from *Hind Swaraj or Indian Home Rule*) | TB-4; The texts |
| 40 | Recap of Units I-IV | | |

**Evaluation Scheme:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Component** | **Duration** | **Weight (%)** | **Date & Time** | **Nature of**  **Component** |
| Assignment  1 & 2 | TBA | 15 & 15 | TBA | Open Book |
| Mid-semester Test | 90 Minutes | 30 | 11/10 - 4.00 - 5.30PM | Closed Book |
| Comprehensive Examination | 3 hours | 40 | 13/12 AN | Closed Book |

**Chamber Consultation Hour:** In K-128; Thursday—11:30-12:30.

**Notices:** If any, will be posted on CMS.

**Make-up Policy:** Assignments will not berepeated.Make-up for other assessment components will be allowed only in genuine cases and on the basis of verifiable, documentary proof.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy:** Academic honesty and integrity are to be maintained by all the students throughout the semester and no type of academic dishonesty is acceptable.

T Vijay Kumar

**INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE**