

# NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

## MASTER OF ARTS (LITERARY STUDIES)

### SEMESTER II, 2004-2005

#### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants should have either:

- (a) a good NUS Honours degree (second class and above) or equivalent (e.g., a four-year Bachelors degree with at least an average grade of B or equivalent) in the subject or related field; or
- (b) a good Bachelors degree (at least an average grade of B or equivalent) in the subject or related field and successful completion of a placement test; or exceptionally,
- (c) other qualifications and experience subject to approval by the Board of Graduate Studies.

#### **DURATION**

The maximum period is 36 months of full-time study or 48 months of part-time study from the commencement of the programme. The maximum periods include periods of leave of absence subject to the approval of the Head of Department.

A full-time candidate must read at least three modules (12 MCs) but no more than five modules (20 MCs) in a semester. A part-time candidate must read at least one module (4 MCs) but no more than two modules (8 MCs) in a semester.

Only those locally domiciled are eligible for part-time study.

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify for the degree of Master of Arts (Literary Studies), candidates will be required to:

1. pass a minimum of 40 modular credits (MCs) or 10 modules (each module is worth 4 MCs). The 10 modules (40 MCs) should comprise:
  - at least 8 modules (32 MCs) at level 5000 of the subject or from a related discipline subject to the approval of the Head of Department. Candidates may apply for approval from the Department to be allowed to take level 6000 modules.
  - no more than 2 modules (8 MCs) at level 4000 of the subject or from a related discipline subject to the approval of the Head of Department.

Candidates who have completed equivalent modules prior to admission to the Master of Arts (Literary Studies) may apply to the Head of Department for a transfer of MCs.

Students will be advised on the composition of their programme by the Department.

2. obtain a minimum Cumulative Average Point (CAP) of 3.00 for all examinable modules. The candidature of a student will be terminated if he/she:
  - obtains a CAP of less than 2.5 for two consecutive semesters; or
  - obtains a CAP of less than 3.0 for 3 consecutive semesters
  - fails more than two modules
3. fulfil 50% residency.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Assessment of a module shall comprise continuous assessment and an examination at the end of the semester. There may be instances when assessment of a module may comprise 100% continuous assessment.

If a student should fail a module, he/she can either retake the module and resit the examination, or take some other module in its place. However, if a module is deemed essential, then this module must be passed.

Assessment of whether the student has met the minimum CAP requirements will be based upon the best ten modules, with the proviso that these modules must include all required modules, and may not include more than two modules at level 4000 or below. A student may choose to read additional modules outside the required curriculum for enrichment purposes. Such enrichment modules will not be computed for the student's CAP.

A student may continue to be in employment if he/she is enrolled on only two examinable modules (8 MCs) in a semester, but not if he/she is enrolled on more.

## **COURSE STRUCTURE**

The modules at level 5000 belong to three groups:

<b>Concentration</b>	EN5231 Asian and Other Modernities	EN5232 Ideological Approaches to Literature	EN5233 Postcolonial Poetry in English	EN5234 The Postcolonial Novel in English
<b>Foundations</b>	EN5241 Literature and New Worlds: 1590-1750	EN5242 Women Novelists	EN5243 The Birth of the Critic	
<b>Interfaces</b>	EN5251 Orientalism: British and French Texts	EN5252 Movies, Spectatorship and Subjectivity	EN5660 Independent Study	EN5882 Topics in Cultural Studies

The concentration modules allow students to pursue focused and extended study in topics pertaining to English literary and cultural production in the Asia-Pacific region. They cover topics such as English in this region, postcolonial texts in different genres, and ideology and literature.

The foundation modules further the student's knowledge in English literary and cultural history. They concentrate on advanced discussion of areas of literary history, and on traditions of literary theory and scholarship.

The interface modules offer breadth and the opportunity to pursue interdisciplinary study and approaches. Topics covered include film narratives, spectatorship, and comparative literary and cultural studies.

The general pre-requisite for all level 5000 modules is admission to a graduate degree programme or the permission of the Department upon recommendation of the instructor.

**DEGREE CERTIFICATE**

1. Candidates completing all the requirements of the programme shall be awarded the degree of Master of Arts (Literary Studies).
2. A candidate may purchase a copy of the transcript from the Division of Research and Graduate Studies of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

**ACADEMIC YEAR**

The duration of Semester II of academic year 2004-2005 is as follows:

Semester II, 2004-2005 : Mon 10 Jan 2005 – Sat 30 Apr 2005 (16 weeks)

Vacation : Sun 1 May 2005 – Sun 31 July 2005 (13 weeks)

**MASTER OF ARTS (LITERARY STUDIES)  
SEMESTER II, 2004-2005**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MODULES**

Different modules will be taught in different semesters within an academic year. Not all modules listed will necessarily be offered in any given academic year. The Department reserves the right to re-schedule or not to offer certain modules.

**EN5231 Asian and Other Modernities**

*Pre-requisite: Admission to a graduate degree programme or the permission of the Department upon recommendation of the instructor.*

Over the last two hundred years, writers in Asia have often struggled with the question of modernity. Initially, indigenous or indigenized modernity offered a means of resisting colonialism and of asserting cultural autonomy; latterly, pan-Asian art forms have been proposed as a means of marking a distinctively Asian space within globalization. The module examines a number of comparative case studies of “modern” transcultural literary production. Through engagement with literary, historical, and theoretical issues, we will consider how notions of modernity might be applied to our primary texts, and how in turn the texts may interrogate or challenge theoretical models and constructs. This module is targeted at M.A. students

**EN5232 Ideological Approaches to Literature**

*Pre-requisite: Admission to a graduate degree programme or the permission of the Department upon recommendation of the instructor.*

An ideological approach to literature is one that reads not only the primary literature--it also reads the way we read literature. An incisive statement about the necessity of such critical self-consciousness is Fredric Jameson's "Metacommentary", and this essay will guide our reflections on the study of the interrelations between primary literature, criticism and reviews, and tertiary critical engagements with the issues that arise when readers become increasingly self-conscious about the values in play during any act of reading. This matter can be approached from a number of angles, and on its first run the course will concern American literary orientalism in the postwar period.

**EN5233 Postcolonial Poetry in English**

*Pre-requisite: Admission to a graduate degree programme or the permission of the Department upon recommendation of the instructor.*

The twentieth century witnessed the growth to maturity of a number of new literary traditions from the nations that arose all over the world after the demise of European colonialism. This module offers an extensive and intensive introduction to these traditions through the genre of poetry in English. The themes, issues, challenges and opportunities that link and differentiate these diverse traditions will be examined through a close study of seven key texts drawn from the new poetic traditions in English from the Caribbean, Africa, and Australasia. Target students: 5000 level; 6000 level.

**EN5234 The Postcolonial Novel in English**

*Pre-requisite: Admission to a graduate degree programme or the permission of the Department upon recommendation of the instructor.*

This module centers on the critical reading of selected anglophone postcolonial novels along with the questions they raise. Issues to be addressed include the articulation of postcolonial identity, postcolonial resistance and revisionism, the representation of history, the relation between postcolonialism and postmodernism. Postcolonial novelists to be studied may include Chinua Achebe, J. M. Coetzee, Wilson Harris, Jamaica Kincaid, George Lamming, V. S. Naipaul and Salman Rushdie. Some theoretical readings will be assigned though the emphasis will be on the close reading of primary texts. The module is designed especially for graduate students who want to read selected postcolonial novels in depth.

**EN5241 Literature and New Worlds: 1590-1750**

*Pre-requisite: Admission to a graduate degree programme or the permission of the Department upon recommendation of the instructor.*

From early modern England up into the eighteenth century, English literature registers distinctively a deep fascination with worlds both old and new: Egypt, Africa, China, and India are some examples. In reading critically how different authors in this historical timeline represent old and new worlds in their literary production, this module seeks to analyze the formation of cultural perceptions relating to such topics as (a) the emergence of a colonial and imperial consciousness; (b) the apprehension of cultural difference; (c) the crystallization of national identity. It offers opportunity for considering the engagements of literature with certain momentous social, historical, and political realities, such as the slave trade and the activities of the British East India Company.

**EN5242 Women Novelists**

*Pre-requisite: Admission to a graduate degree programme or the permission of the Department upon recommendation of the instructor.*

The objectives of this course are to invite students to reflect on the problems of reading a number of texts by great British women novelists from the mid-nineteenth to the late-twentieth century. Topics covered include the choice of genre, the relation between narrative structure and psychological experience, the nature and implications of the dilemmas at the heart of each text, and the problems of defining and responding to what is specific to women's writing. For MA-level students with an interest in women's writing.

**EN5243 The Birth of the Critic**

*Pre-requisite: Admission to a graduate degree programme or the permission of the Department upon recommendation of the instructor.*

The module examines the role of criticism in the crucial period that had seen it evolve into a social institution: the long eighteenth century. It goes beyond tracing the early history of a critic-function to explore its relation to the emerging public sphere of civil society in which the so-called "reading revolution" had taken place. Selected writings on two key literary figures, Shakespeare and Milton, are examined for the underlying discursive framework granting a critic powers to examine taste and virtue, forge a literary canon, and locate state-culture connections.

**EN5251 Orientalism: British and French Texts**

*Pre-requisite: Admission to a graduate degree programme or the permission of the Department upon recommendation of the instructor.*

The module will examine the representations of Asia in British and French texts of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It will investigate the relation between writing, representation, identity and power. The module will elaborate upon Said's (1979) theoretical framework and also incorporate more recent developments in the study of colonial and post-colonial writings.

**EN5252 Movies, Spectatorship and Subjectivity**

*Pre-requisite: Admission to a graduate degree programme or the permission of the Department upon recommendation of the instructor.*

This course involves a critical interrogation of key theoretical approaches addressing the study of film spectatorship and the ways in which subjectivity is constructed. This module adopts a specialized emphasis on that tradition of film theory associated with a psychoanalytical-textual-apparatus model and offers graduate students an opportunity to engage in in-depth explorations of the key problems and issues associated with this branch of film theory. In examining the highly complex interaction between spectator and text, students will also gain a greater understanding of the ways in which issues such as gender, identity, and ideology intersect with the cinematic/visual text.

**EN5660 Independent Study**

*Pre-requisite: Admission to a graduate degree programme or the permission of the Department upon recommendation of the instructor.*

Independent research plays an important role in graduate education. The Independent Study module is designed to enable the student to explore an approved topic in English Literature in depth. The student should approach a lecturer to work out an agreed topic, readings, and assignments for the module. A formal, written agreement is to be drawn up, giving a clear account of the topic, programme of study, assignments, evaluations, and other pertinent details. Head's and/or Graduate Coordinator's approval of the written assignment is required. Regular meetings and reports are expected. Evaluation is based on 100% Continuous Assessment and must be worked out between the student and the lecturer prior to seeking departmental approval.

**EN5882 Topics in Cultural Studies**

*Pre-requisite: Admission to a graduate degree programme or the permission of the Department upon recommendation of the instructor.*

Students will learn about the range of inquiry within the domain of Cultural Studies, gain an understanding of its history, promise, and drawbacks, and undertake a sustained interaction with a specific dimension of the field in an applied manner. Students will get an overview of Cultural Studies, major theorists, major antecedents, applications, limits, debates and potential areas of application, and develop a specific engagement with some aspect of the larger domain.