

B.A. III DC

Semester V

Course: 9

Course Code:

Title of the Course: Contemporary Novel

Credits: 04

Marks: 100

Course	L	Cr	P/T	D	TP	TW	T
Contemporary Novel	4	4		2.30	75	25	100

Objectives:

- i. To make a critical study of specific post-sixties novels prescribed for study
- ii. To relate novels to their ideological/socio-political contexts
- iii. To familiarize students with different genres, sub genres, techniques and styles employed in contemporary novels

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, the students will be able to:

- i. Demonstrate an understanding of historical, social and political contexts of the novels being studied
- ii. Identify and describe distinct literary characteristics of the novel
- iii. Analyze novels for their structure and meaning, using correct terminology
- iv. Effectively communicate ideas related to the contemporary novel during class and group activities

Unit	Topic and Details	No. of teaching hours assigned	Weightage in %
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="267 409 1128 441">• <u>Historical and Socio-political Background of the 1960s:</u> <p data-bbox="316 478 1128 546">Post 1960s British Novel: decolonisation, multiculturalism, immigration, race</p> <p data-bbox="316 590 1079 621">The post-World War II world, the Cold War, counterculture</p> <p data-bbox="316 665 1128 732">[Iris Murdoch, Doris Lessing, Kazuo Ishiguro, Jeanette Winterson, **...]</p> <p data-bbox="316 774 1128 913">Post-1960s American novels and black writing: Issues of race, gender, oral traditions*** [Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, Zora Neale Hurston, Alex Haley, Jamaica Kincaid, Alice Walker, Gloria Naylor, ****]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="267 957 1128 1171">• <u>Indian novel in English, 1960s to the present:</u> – linguistic innovations, code-switching, satire, multiple perspectives, retelling history. Responses to postcolonial realities, nationalism, fundamentalism, terrorism, violence, caste system, liberalisation, globalisation, diasporic movements, etc. in contemporary South Asian novels. <p data-bbox="250 1203 1128 1308">Kamala Markandaya, Nayantara Sahgal, Shashi Deshpande, Anita Desai, Salman Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh, Vikram Seth, Arundhati Roy, Kiran Desai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="267 1346 1128 1484">• <u>Emergence of wide ranging critical theories/ perspectives which affected literary studies</u> – Post-colonialism, postmodernism, race studies, feminism, gender studies, ecocriticism, popular cultural studies <p data-bbox="316 1526 1128 1593">Postmodernist literature: metafiction, magic realism, pastiche, parody, satire, dark humour, intertextuality</p> <p data-bbox="316 1638 527 1669">Postcolonialism:</p> <p data-bbox="316 1713 511 1745">Gender studies:</p> <p data-bbox="316 1789 625 1820">Popular cultural studies:</p> <p data-bbox="316 1864 487 1896">Ecocriticism:</p>	15	30%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genre fiction – the novel as a popular form, commercialisation of publishing, paperbacks, bestsellers, science fiction, crime novels, detective novels, romance novels, chick lit, dystopian and utopian novels, etc. 		
2	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i> (2003) Mark Haddon.	25	40%
3	<i>The Hungry Tide</i> (2004) by Amitav Ghosh	20	30%

Evaluation Scheme:

Internal Examination : 25 marks

1. Short notes on Unit I : 10 marks

2. Assignment on the prescribed novels : 15 marks

External Examination : 75 marks

Objective questions on Unit I - MCQs : 20 marks

Reference to context (3 out of 5) : 15 marks

Essay type questions on Units II & III (2 out of 4) : 20 marks

Short notes on Novel (3 out of 5) : 20 marks
(7+7+6)

[Internal choice: 3 questions of 7 marks each, 2 questions of 6 marks each to be given]

Recommended Readings:

Allen, Nicola. "The Perfect Hero for his Age: Christopher Boone and the Role of Logic in the Boy Detective Narrative." *The Boy Detectives: Essays on Hardy Boys and others*, edited by Michael Cornelius, McFarland, 2010, pp. 167-179.

Bose Brinda, editor. *Amitav Ghosh: Critical Perspective*. Pencraft International, 2003.

Brooker Peter, edited. *Modernisms/Postmodernism*. Routledge, 1992.

Ciocia, Stefania. "The Case of Christopher Boone in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*". *Children's Literature in Education*, vol. 40, no. 4, 2009, pp. 320-332.

Eaglestone, Robert. *Contemporary Fiction: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2013.

Gilbert, Ruth. "Watching the Detectives: Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and Kevin Brooks' *Martyn Pig*" *Children's Literature in Education*, vol. 36, no. 3, 2005, pp. 241–253.

Khair Tabish, editor. *Amitav Ghosh: A Critical Companion*. Permanent Black, 2005.

Mehrotra, Arvind Krishna. *An Illustrated History of Indian Literature in English*. Delhi, Permanent Black, 2006.

Mondal Anshuman. *Amitav Ghosh*. Viva Books, 2010.

Mukherjee, Meenakshi. *The Perishable Empire: Essays on Indian Writing in English*. Oxford University Press, 2010.

Nicol, Bran. *Postmodernism and the Contemporary Novel: A Reader*. Edinburgh University Press, 2002.

Stevenson, Randall. *The Oxford English Literary History: The Last of England?* Oxford University Press, 2004.

Waugh, Patricia. *Practising Postmodernism: Reading Modernism*. Hodder Education, 1992.

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