



SOPHIA COLLEGE

(AUTONOMOUS)

Affiliated to the University of Mumbai

Syllabi for Semesters III and IV

Programme: B. A.

Course: English

(Choice-Based Credit System with effect from the year  
2021-22)

**UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI**  
**SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**

**SYLLABUS FOR S.Y.B.A. (ENGLISH)**

Paper III: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY THEORY AND POPULAR  
FICTION

**SEMESTER III**

Course Title: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY THEORY

**SEMESTER IV**

Course Title: POPULAR FICTION

Total No. of lectures per semester: 60

No. of credits per year: 3

## Course: Introduction to Literary Theory

### Semester Three: Introduction to Literary Theory

#### Objectives:

- to help students understand the intersectional nature of contemporary literary and cultural theory
- to enable students to apply theory to examine issues of privilege and oppression in multiple areas of life as represented in literature

#### Learning Outcomes:

Learners will be able to

- understand the link between texts and the cultural contexts in which they are produced and consumed
- apply theory to a range of texts
- understand the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary academic studies
- understand the intersectional nature of contemporary literary and cultural theory
- apply theory to examine issues of privilege and oppression in multiple areas of life as represented in literature
- interrogate the construction of the canon

#### Unit 1: Perspectives on Class

1. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: Selections from *The Communist Manifesto* and *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy*

2. Raymond Williams: Selections from *Marxism and Literature*

3. A. O. Henry: “The Gift of the Magi”

OR

3. B. Anton Chekhov: “An Upheaval”

4. Bong Joon-ho: *Parasite*

#### Unit 2: Perspectives on Caste

1. Anupama Rao: “Caste, Gender and Indian Feminism” from *Gender and Caste: Issues in Contemporary Indian Feminism*:

2. Sharmila Rege: “Dalit Women Talk Differently—A Critique of ‘Difference’ and Towards a Dalit Feminist Standpoint Position”

3. A. Bandhumadhav: “The Poisoned Bread”
- OR
3. B. Mahasweta Devi: “Bayen”
4. Meena Kandasamy: Selections from *Ms Militancy*: “One-Eyed”, “Once My Silence Held You Spellbound”

### Unit 3: Perspectives on Race

1. Frantz Fanon: “The Black Man and Language” from *Black Skin, White Masks*
2. Trinh T. Minh-ha: “Commitment from the Mirror-Writing Box” from *Woman, Native, Other: Writing Postcoloniality and Feminism*
3. A. Alan Paton: *Cry, the Beloved Country*
- OR
3. B. Trinh T. Minh-ha: *Forgetting Vietnam*
4. Wole Soyinka: “Telephone Conversation”

### Unit 4: Perspectives on Gender

1. Chandra Talpade Mohanty: “‘Under Western Eyes’ Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles”
2. Ruth Vanita: “Thinking Beyond Gender In India”
3. A. Suniti Namjoshi: Selections from *Feminist Fables*
- OR
3. B. Vishwapriya L. Iyengar: “The Library Girl”
4. Imtiaz Dharker: “Purdah I”, “Minority”

## Question paper pattern:

Semester End Examination: 75 marks

Semester III: Introduction to Literary Theory

Duration: 2.5 hours

Q.1	Essay on Unit 1 (1 out of 2)	(15 marks)
Q.2	Essay on Unit 2 (1 out of 2)	(15 marks)
Q.3	Essay on Unit 3 (1 out of 2)	(15 marks)
Q.4	Essay on Unit 4 (1 out of 2)	(15 marks)
Q.5	Short notes from all units (2 out of 4)	(15 marks)

Internal Assessment: 25 marks

Students will be asked to submit assignments on any one of the following texts:

- Anubhav Sinha: *Article 15*
- Gina Prince-Bythewood: *The Secret Life of Bees*
- Alankrita Shrivastava: *Lipstick Under My Burkha*
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: *Americanah*

## References:

1. Achebe, Chinua. *Hopes and Impediments: Selected Essays*. Penguin Books. 1990
2. Baraka, Amiri. "I Will Not Resign!" *Selected Plays and Prose of Amiri Baraka/LeRoi Jones*. Morrow. 1979
3. Barry, Peter. *Beginning Theory* (Fourth Edition). Viva Books. 2018
4. Benhabib, Seyla and Judith Butler, Nancy Fraser. *Feminist Contentions: A Philosophical Exchange*
5. Estés, Clarissa Pinkola. *Women Who Run with the Wolves: Myths and Stories of the Wild Woman Archetype*. Ballentine Books. 2001
6. Gramsci, Antonio. *Prison Notebooks*. Vol. 1, 2 and 3. Columbia University Press. 2011
7. Marx, Karl. Engels, Frederick. *Karl Marx, Frederick Engels: Collected Works*. International Publishers. 1985
8. Mohanty Talpade, Chandra. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses." *boundary 2, On Humanism and the University I: The Discourse of Humanism*, Vol. 12, No. 3, Spring-Autumn, 1984, pp. 333-358.
9. Moore, Robert and Douglas Gillette. *King, Warrior, Magician, Lover: Rediscovering the Archetypes of the Mature Masculine*. Harper Collins. 1991
10. Nandy, Ashis: "An Anti-Secularist Manifesto", *Gandhi's Significance for Today*, ed. John Hick. Palgrave Macmillan. 1989
11. Nayar, Pramod. *Literary Theory Today*. Asia Book Club. 2002
12. Parkash, Anand. *Marxism*. Worldview Publications. 2002
13. Polyudova, Elena. *Once Upon a Time in the Contemporary World*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016
14. Qureshi, Hanif. *The Buddha of Suburbia*. Faber and Faber. 2017

## Course: Popular Fiction

### Semester Four: Popular Fiction

#### Objectives:

- to introduce students to the history and the development of popular fiction
- to familiarise them with the different categories of popular fiction
- to help students understand the intersectional nature of contemporary literary and cultural theory
- to enable students to apply theory to examine issues of privilege and oppression in multiple areas of life as represented in literature

#### Learning Outcomes:

Learners will be able to

- understand the link between texts and the cultural contexts in which they are produced and consumed
- apply theory to a range of texts
- understand the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary academic studies
- understand the intersectional nature of contemporary literary and cultural theory
- apply theory to examine issues of privilege and oppression in multiple areas of life as represented in literature
- interrogate the construction of the canon

#### Unit 1: Science Fiction

History and development  
of the form:

Selections from *The Cambridge History of Science Fiction*

Isaac Asimov:

“First Law”

OR

Octavia Butler:

“Bloodchild”

OR

Anil Menon:

“Love in a Hot Climate”

#### Unit 2: Detective Fiction

History and development  
of the form:

Selections from *The Cambridge Companion to Crime Fiction*

Sharadindu Bandyopadhyay: “Picture Imperfect”

OR

Kenneth Branagh:

*Murder on the Orient Express*

OR

Gillian Flynn:

*Gone Girl*

### Unit 3: Fantasy

History and development of the form: Selections from *The Cambridge Companion to Fantasy Literature*

Lewis Carroll: *Alice in Wonderland*

OR

Neil Gaiman: *Coraline*

OR

Ursula Le Guin: "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"

### Unit 4: Romance

History and development of the form: Selections from Tania Modleski's *Loving With a Vengeance: Mass-Produced Fantasies for Women*

Ruchi Vasudeva: *You Can't Fight A Royal Attraction*

OR

Chetan Bhagat: *2 States: The Story of My Marriage*

OR

Adam Shankman: *A Walk to Remember*

### **Question paper pattern:**

Semester End Examination: (75 marks)

Semester IV: Popular Fiction

Duration: 2.5 hours

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|-----|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Q.1 | Essay on Unit 1 (1 out of 2)          | (15 marks) |
| Q.2 | Essay on Unit 2 (1 out of 2)          | (15 marks) |
| Q.3 | Essay on Unit 3 (1 out of 2)          | (15 marks) |
| Q.4 | Essay on Unit 4 (1 out of 2)          | (15 marks) |
| Q.5 | Short notes on all units (2 out of 4) | (15 marks) |

Internal Assessment (25 marks)

Students will be asked to submit assignments analysing any one of the popular fictions from the following list.

1. Vampire fiction
2. Female Gothic
3. *Feluda* stories
4. Selections from the works of Agatha Christie
5. Chick-lit
6. Historical fiction
7. Harlequin Romances
8. Selections from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories

## **References:**

1. Asimov, Isaac. *Isaac Asimov: The Complete Stories, Vol. I*. Broadway Books. 2001
2. Butler, Octavia. E. *Bloodchild and Other Stories*. Seven Stories Press. 2003
3. *The Cambridge History of Science Fiction*, edited by Gerry Canavan and Eric Carl Link, Cambridge UP, 2019
4. Cheyne, Ria. "Disability Studies Reads the Romance" (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv1xxs3r.14>)
5. Eco, Umberto. *The Role of the Reader: Explorations in the Semiotics of Texts*. Indiana University Press. 1979
6. Guha, Sreejata. *Picture Imperfect and other Byomkesh Bakshi Mysteries*. Penguin. 2000
7. Humann, Heather Duerre. *Gender Bending Detective Fiction: A Critical Analysis of Selected Works*. McFarland and Company, Inc., Publishers. 2017
8. James, Edward and Farah Mendlesohn. *The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction*. Cambridge University Press. 2003
9. James, Edward. *The Cambridge Companion to Fantasy Literature*. Cambridge University Press. 2012
10. James, P.D. *Talking About Detective Fiction*. Vintage Books. 2011
11. Knight, Stephen. *Crime Fiction since 1800: Detective, Death, Diversity*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 2010
12. Lavender, Isiah III. *Black and Brown Planets: The Politics of Race in Science Fiction*. University Press of Mississippi. 2014
13. Lothian, Alexis. *Old Futures: Speculative Fiction and Queer Possibility*. New York University Press. 2018
14. Modelski, Tania. *Loving With a Vengeance: Mass Produced Fantasies for Women*. Routledge. 1990
15. Mondal, Mimi and Alexandra Pierce. *Luminescent Threads*. Twelfth Books. 2017
16. Porter, Dennis. *The Pursuit of Crime: Art and Ideology in Detective Fiction*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. 1981
17. Priestman, Martin. *The Cambridge Companion to Crime Fiction*. Cambridge University Press. 2003
18. Puri, Jyoti. "Reading Romance Novels in Postcolonial India" (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/190481>)
19. Radway, Janice.A. *Reading the Romance: Women, Patriarchy, and Popular Literature*. The University of North Carolina Press. 1991
20. Robert, Adams. *The History of Science Fiction*. Palgrave Histories of Literature. 2007
21. Scaggs, John. *Crime Fiction (The New Critical Idiom)*. Routledge. 2005
22. Schalk, Sami. *Body Minds Re/Imagined*. Duke University Press. 2018
23. Stanley, Tarshia L. *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Octavia E. Butler*. MLA. 2019
24. Womack, Ytasha L. *Afrofuturism: The World of Black Sci-Fi and Fantasy Culture*. Chicago Review Press. 2013