

MA English Studies (Part-Time) – SH 533P

1. Context and Objectives

This programme will serve a growing need in higher education for highly trained personnel in the area of English (Literary Studies, Cultural Studies and Linguistics). The degree should prepare graduates for jobs where critical skills 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. Learning Outcomes

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

- Have a good grasp of key literary movements, literary and critical theories;
- Engage with literary and cultural analysis;
- Explain and evaluate existing and emerging linguistic phenomena in various social contexts using linguistic, sociolinguistic and/or literacy theories;
- Demonstrate ability to carry out independent research;
- Develop and articulate a scholarly argument;
- Apply research skills to produce an academic piece of work that demonstrates accuracy of language and content.

3. Teaching and Learning Methods

The primary objective of the Department of English Studies is to help students hone independent thinking, creativity, and oral/written communication skills. Modules are conducted through a combination of lectures and seminars, with a strong emphasis on student participation and interaction. Small-class seminars concentrate on student writing and speaking and offer substantial opportunity for intense as well as informed discussions.

Students will be required to participate actively in seminar discussions, write in a variety of formats (short seminar papers, long take-home essays), and present seminar papers regularly.

Every semester, each of the modules will be taught over 10 weeks and will include 30 hours of contact, consisting of class hours, tutorials and practicals. Each of these modules will also involve 60 hours of self-study and 90 hours of other learning activities.

4. Entry Requirements

- **General:** In accordance with the University General Entry Requirements for admission to Undergraduate and Postgraduate Degree Programmes.
- **MA English Studies:**
Successful completion of an undergraduate degree with:
 - (i) at least a Second Class Degree or 50% (whichever is applicable) in English or the Humanities or Social Sciences acceptable to the Department, including

History with Social Studies/International Relations/ Heritage Studies, Media Studies and Communication Studies, Law.

(ii) 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.

5. Programme Duration

	Minimum [Yr(s)]	Maximum [Yrs]
Master's Degree:	2	4
Postgraduate Diploma:	2	4
Postgraduate Certificate:	1	2

6. Minimum LCCS Credits Required

A. For MA Award

	Core Modules	Dissertation	Electives	Total
Master's Degree	12	24	36	72
Postgraduate Diploma	12	-	36	48
Postgraduate Certificate	12	-	12	24

B. For Each Academic Year

As per University Regulations.

7. Assessment and Deadlines

A. Assessment

Each module will carry 100 marks and will be taught over 1 semester and examined at the end of the semester with details as follows (unless otherwise specified):

- Continuous Assessment: 40% - 50%
- Examinations: 50% - 60%
- Written examination will be of 2 hours duration (at the end of the semester)

An overall total of 40% for combined continuous assessment and written examination components would be required to pass a module, without minimum thresholds within the individual continuous assessment and written examination.

ENG 5101R: Research Design and Methodology will be assessed entirely by coursework (see the module description)

All modules carry their own credit value.

B. Deadline: Dissertation Submission

First Draft: the last weekday of July of the academic year.

Final Copy: the last weekday of August in the final year by 4.00 p.m. at latest.

C. Deadline: Choice of Electives

Students will be required to submit their choice of Electives in order of priority as follows:

- (i) by the end of Semester 1 of Year 1 (for electives offered in the second semester of the first year of the degree programme).
- (ii) by the end of Semester 2 of Year 1 (for electives offered in the first and second semesters of the second year of the programme).

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.

8. List of Modules

The MA English Studies is made up of modules distributed as follows:

Core	2 Modules + 1 Research Project
Electives	6 Modules

Year 1 – 24 LCCS Credits

Core: 2 Modules 12 LCCS Credits

Electives: 2 modules 12 LCCS Credits

Year 2 – 48 LCCS Credits

Research Project/Dissertation 24 LCCS Credits

Electives: 4 modules 24 LCCS Credits

Total = 72 LCCS credits

Module Code	Module Name	L*/T*/P* Contact Hours	Self-Study Hrs	Other Learning Activities Hrs	LCCS Credits
Core Modules					
ENG 5101R	Research Design and Methodology	30	60	90	6
ENG 5102	Locating Mauritius Culturally	30	60	90	6
ENG 6000	Research Project/Dissertation	-	-	-	24
Electives (to choose six)					
ENG 5109	Applied Sociolinguistics	30	60	90	6
ENG 5105	Postmodern Identities	30	60	90	6
ENG 5111	Gendered Literary Voices	30	60	90	6
ENG 5107	Cultural Constructions of Africa	30	60	90	6
ENG 5210	Issues in Literacy	30	60	90	6
ENG 5211	Contemporary Postcolonial Literatures	30	60	90	6
ENG 5212	South Asian Diasporic Cultures	30	60	90	6
ENG 5213	Perspectives on Multilingualism	30	60	90	6
ENG 5206	Transnationalism and Asian American Literature	30	60	90	6
ENG 5214	Cybercultures	30	60	90	6
ENG 5209	Bollywood Spaces	30	60	90	6

9. Programme Plan: MA English Studies

YEAR 1			
Semester 1			
Module Code	Module Name	Hrs/Wk L+P	LCCS Credits
CORE			
ENG 5101R	Research Design and Methodology	3+0	6
ENG 5102	Locating Mauritius Culturally	3+0	6
	<i>Sub-Total</i>		12
Semester 2			
ELECTIVES	CHOOSE ANY TWO		
ENG 5109	Applied Sociolinguistics	3+0	6
ENG 5105	Postmodern Identities	3+0	6
ENG 5111	Gendered Literary Voices	3+0	6
ENG 5107	Cultural Constructions of Africa	3+0	6
	<i>Sub-Total</i>		12
	TOTAL		24

<u>YEAR 2</u>			
Module Code	Module Name	Hrs/Wk L+P	LCCS Credits
CORE			
ENG 6000	Dissertation	-	24
Semester 1			
ELECTIVES	CHOOSE ANY TWO		
ENG 5210	Issues in Literacy	3+0	6
ENG 5211	Contemporary Postcolonial Literatures	3+0	6
ENG 5212	South Asian Diasporic Cultures	3+0	6
	<i>Sub-Total</i>		36

Semester 2			
ELECTIVES	CHOOSE ANY TWO		
ENG 5213	Perspectives on Multilingualism	3+0	6
ENG 5206	Transnationalism and Asian American Literature	3+0	6
ENG 5214	Cybercultures	3+0	6
ENG 5209	Bollywood Spaces	3+0	6
	<i>Sub-Total</i>		12
	TOTAL		48
	GRAND TOTAL		72

10. Module Outlines

ENG 5101R - RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The overall aim of this module is to develop the information skills needed to evaluate the relevant research literature. With a focus on Linguistic Studies, Literary Studies and Cultural Studies, this module provides an overview of qualitative research methodology, exploring the various stages of fieldwork, from collecting data to reporting the results. This module also deals with the theoretical, ethical and methodological issues that are central to research. By the end of this module, students should be able to respond to the strengths and weaknesses of research methods in order to select the appropriate research method(s) for their own research projects. Ultimately, this module aims to prepare students for conducting research and writing academic papers/dissertations.

ENG 5102 - LOCATING MAURITIUS CULTURALLY

The aim of this module is to explore the extant literature that describes and discusses Mauritius from a literary, linguistic and a Cultural Studies perspective. In the first part of the module, we will investigate the way in which various literary texts have imagined Mauritius. In the second part of the module, we will explore the recent empirical literature that engages with the complexities of the language situation in Mauritius. In the third part of the module, we will discuss key scholarly works that examine the cultural fabric of Mauritius using contemporary critical theory and ethnographic tools.

Assessment weightage: [50:50]

ENG 5109 – APPLIED SOCIOLINGUISTICS

This module will use Fasold's (1990) distinction between theoretical and applied sociolinguistics as its structural backbone. In line with the above, the focus of this module will be micro-sociolinguistic in nature and will explore the ways in which social forces act as essential factors impacting upon the structure and perception of languages. Students will be exposed to key themes in the sociolinguistics of language and will be encouraged to look at an array of questions and concerns dealing with identity, sexuality and linguistic inequality amongst others. Assessment weightage: [50:50]

ENG 5105 - POSTMODERN IDENTITIES

One of the most fascinating stories in contemporary cultural history is how the social conditions of the postmodern world and postmodern philosophy have conspired to destabilise our sense of self. Proposing a variety of perspectives that answers the legitimate concerns of selected postmodern thinkers, this course aims to enhance students' understanding of difference in the context of postmodern relations. The text-based orientation of this module also shows that postmodern space, though accessible to others, is imbued with a special significance. It is through the possibility of such textual 'encounters' that students will be able to assert a sense of agency and development that has previously been denied.

Assessment weightage: [50:50]

ENG 5111 GENDERED LITERARY VOICES

After a quick overview of the history of feminist thought, this module aims to take students through the contemporary ramifications of feminist theory in the contemporary reality of a post-postcolonial world. It will be specially concerned with the interaction between cultural politics of representation and the double edged problematic of 'authentic' cultures. The theories of feminism will be studied against a range of contemporary women writers.

Assessment weightage: [50:50]

ENG 5107 - CULTURAL CONSTRUCTIONS OF AFRICA

This module aims to explore how cultural texts produced by Africans and non-Africans create and sustain perspectives about Africa. Topics covered may include colonisation and decolonisation, Africa as a contemporary space, African philosophy, African cinema, African visual arts, as well as cultural, economic and political constructions of the continent within Mauritius. Assessment weightage: [50:50]

ENG 5212 – SOUTH ASIAN DIASPORIC CULTURES

This module begins with the premise that the South Asian diaspora is made up of heterogeneous communities. The module will explore the cultural texts that shape the old and the new Indian diasporic communities as well as their different sub-groups, distinguished by religion, region or gender. South Asian diasporic narratives and cultural practices will be read in terms of experiences of dislocation/ double consciousness/cultural fusion within the specific contexts of multicultural policies of the hostland.

Assessment weightage: [50:50]

ENG 5213 – PERSPECTIVES ON MULTILINGUALISM

This module explores the phenomenon of multilingualism in the context of language use and practices by individuals in specific socio-historical contexts. In this module, we will discuss key issues, concepts and theories on multilingualism, with the aim to develop an understanding of multilingualism in a variety of contexts and a critical engagement with current thinking about multilingualism. Some of the themes that may be covered in this module are: the place of languages in society and education; majority and minority languages and language rights; multilingual education within the competing forces of multiculturalism and globalisation; researching multilingualism; multilingualism in urban contexts.

Assessment weightage: [50:50]

ENG 5210 – ISSUES IN LITERACY

This module provides an overview of the major theoretical approaches to the study of literacy. Drawing upon the distinction made between the autonomous and the ideological models of literacy, this module takes a social view of literacy and provides students with a social lens through which to read literacy events and literacy practices in a world which is increasingly multilingual, multimodal and multiliterate. Assessment weightage: [50:50]

ENG 5211 – CONTEMPORARY POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURES

In this contemporary epoch marked by violence, when the failure of decolonization has resulted in unresolved and ongoing conflict; when goods, bodies and identities are constantly in flux; and when questions about the impact of over-consumption on the environment are at their most worrying, the presence of Western imperial ideology can be discerned more than ever before. This module blends the reading of a range of contemporary literary texts addressing these challenges and produced in the twenty-first century with that of recent critical trends emerging from the ever-expanding field of Postcolonial theory as it explores the relationship between writers and socio-political and cultural histories in the making. Topics may include: the post 9/11 condition; refugee, migrant and diasporic cultures; the relationship between the local and the global; trauma and memory.

Assessment weightage: [50:50]

ENG 5206 – TRANSNATIONALISM AND ASIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Asian America was constructed by U.S. immigration policies via exclusion acts and quotas. In the 21st century Asian America is located within complex spaces characterised by geographical and cultural border crossings. Interactions between the U.S. nation state and Asia are transformed by globalisation and the rise of Asia. This module will explore the reconceptualisation of Asian America from the perspective of transnationalism through a selection of literary texts. Topics may include immigration and settlement patterns, nation/nation building, transnationalism, transculturalism, boundaries, border-crossing.

Assessment weightage: [50:50]

ENG 5214 – CYBERCULTURES

This module will consider some of the ways in which the digital revolution has reconfigured experiences of self and community with reference to Turkle's concept of 'distributed identities', Nakamura's concepts of 'techno-orientalism', 'identity tourism' and Haraway's 'posthuman cyborgs'. It will also examine the transformations to traditional literary genres of poetry and fiction through the use of hypertext features.

Assessment weightage: [50:50]

ENG 5209 – BOLLYWOOD SPACES

This module explores what is possibly the most prolific film industry in the world. It will analyse the way Bollywood text constructs itself for instance, through its narrative, its characters, its music score, its song-and-dance sequences, its clothes, its reading of East and West, of purity and of good and evil. It may also investigate the reception of Bollywood by various audiences as part of the space it creates.

Assessment weightage: [50:50]

ENG 6000 - DISSERTATION

The dissertation will consist of an extended research project of 10,000 to 14,000 words to be submitted at the end of the year as partial requirement for completion of the programme.