Department of English
Faculty of Arts
Philadelphia University

M.A. in English Language and Literature
Course Description
Non-Thesis Option
2005/2006

1. Obligatory Courses (15 Credit Hours)

0120701  Methods of Research (3 cr. hrs)

The course intends to teach graduate students research methodology, focusing upon the scientific method. It teaches them how to state a problem and the purpose of the study to formulate hypotheses, to review related literature and to collect and analyze data. It will also introduce students to the various types of research and research tools. Attention is further given to such other areas of academic expertise as descriptive and analytical bibliography, notetaking, editing and rewriting of manuscripts, ethics of documenting a research paper, and the evolving uses of the library in graduate study.

0120721  Sociolinguistics (3 cr. hrs)

This course investigates the relationship between language and society and the factors that affect this relationship such as the geographical location, socio-economic status, level of education, sex, ethnicity, profession and age, etc. It also examines language varieties and dialects (BE and AE) and the variations in the same dialect.

0120722  Discourse Analysis (3 cr. hrs)

Discourse Analysis is a graduate course that investigates the organization of language beyond the sentence level in both speech and writing. This course consists of two parts. Part one examines the major theoretical approaches to discourse analysis, macro-and micro-language functions, information packaging, speech act theory, conversational strategies, exchange structure, dimensions of discourse analysis and standards of textuality. The second part will be devoted to the
pedagogical applications of these theoretical concepts. Students will be taught now to explore ways in which their theoretical knowledge can be put into action in order to develop discourse skills.

0120723 **Stylistics** (3 cr. hrs)

This course will focus on the application of linguistic knowledge to the study of style. Traditionally stylistic analysis has been mainly concerned with the analysis of literary style or the language variety characteristic of a writer, and various criteria have been set up to deal with individual or group styles in relation to biographical, psychological, social and other details reflecting the personality of its creator.

0120702 **Research Project** (3 C.H.)

Students may choose any literary topic, whether American or British of any period, related to fiction, drama, poetry, literary criticism and comparative literature, or any language topic related to syntax, phonetics, phonology, morphology or semantic etc. To be discussed with their supervisor. After approval they should write a paper of about 5000 words, including footnotes and references.

2. Electives (18 Ch Credit Hours)

A. Language

0120710 **Schools of Linguistics** (3 cr. hrs)

This course aims at acquainting students with the development of modern linguistics and its major theories in the 20th century such as structuralism, transformational generative grammar and functional grammar as well as traditionalism. The course also introduces students to the major works of the proponents of each theory.

0120711 **Advanced English Grammar** (3 cr. hrs)

A detailed study of the Grammar of English within certain linguistic frameworks, in particular the transformational and functional frameworks. Major syntactic processes and categories will be emphasized, viz., complementation,
nominalization, predication, subordination, conjoining, raising, negation, modality, tense, aspect, substitution, ellipsis, etc.

**012712 English Phonetics and Phonology**  
(3 cr. hrs)
This course is an in-depth study of the principles of articulatory and acoustic phonetics. The students will be trained to produce, recognize and transcribe all English sounds and their variants. It covers topics such as: description of sounds, stress, intonation, phonation, and speech mechanisms. The principles of phonological analysis with reference to English will also be highlighted. The course also introduces a subdiscipline of linguistics, phonology, which handles the organization of speech sounds in the language, how a language organizes sounds into systematic patterns and speakers internalize knowledge of these patterns a system of symbolic rules and representations. The fundamentals of the sound systems of the language are covered: segmental representation and distinctive features theory, syllable structures, prosodic domains and stress features. There is a concentration on the classical and current trends in generative phonology and there will be an introduction to the recent developments in phonological theory.

**0120713 English Semantics and Pragmatics**  
(3 cr. hrs)
This course examines the definitions and theories of semantics, as well as lexical and sentential properties. It also investigates some pragmatic concepts such as context, types of inferences (presupposition, entailment, implicature), speech acts and information packaging.

**0120714 Contrastive Linguistics**  
(3 cr. hrs)
After an introduction to the basic ideas of contrastive analysis, the course concentrates on a comparison of English and Arabic in its different varieties. All levels of analysis, phonetic, phonological, lexical-syntactic, and semantic are considered. The emphasis being on those areas where there are
significant differences between the two languages. Attention will also be given to the limits of contrastive analysis in explaining language learning difficulties.

0120720  **Applied Linguistics**  (3 cr. hrs)

This course aims to acquaint the students with the recent findings in the field of linguistics particularly first and second language acquisition and the applications of these findings on teaching English. Different linguistic schools, i.e., Grammar Translation method, Behaviouristic schools, and Cognitive schools, among others, will be introduced.

0120730  **History of the English Language**  (3 cr. hrs)

The course comprises a detailed analysis of the origins, growth, development and varieties of English (from the Indo-European beginnings to the present time, with special emphasis on the earlier periods). Emphasis will be placed on the sources of language history; phonetic and phonological change; morphological, syntactic, lexical and semantic development; foreign influences; language contact; internal and comparative reconstruction; general principles; internal and comparison with other languages, particularly Arabic.

0120731  **Special Topic in language**  (3 cr. hrs)

This is a detailed study of recent linguistic theory or language issue and its application to English. It can also be a synchronic description of English at a particular period.

**B. Literature**  (18 Ch Credit Hours)

0120740  **Medieval Literature**  (3 C.H.)

A survey of major works of medieval literature, with emphasis on one theme or author like Chaucer (one major work), Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Piers Plowman, or Sir Thomas Malory’s *Morte d’Arthur*. In addition to the lecture, a discussion of selections is conducted in the class, shared by the
students who have to prepare basic material for such discussion. Two term papers are required by each student.

**0120741 Shakespeare and the Renaissance (3 C.H.)**
Three plays (comedy-tragedy-history) are chosen for class discussions. Two term papers are required by each student which should deal with the sonnets, the other poems, or with a criticism of some aspect of Shakespeare’s work. Two term papers by each student should be discussed in the class.

**0120750 Modern Poetry (3 C.H.)**
A survey of 20\textsuperscript{th} century poetry, starting with Eliot. Selection from Yeats, War Poets, Graves, the Movement Poets and some modern American poetry are used for class discussion. Term papers should choose one work or a collection of poems by an author.

**0120760 Modern British and American Novel (3 C.H.)**
A selection of Modern Novels is made from 20\textsuperscript{th} century works by British authors. Three works are chosen for class discussion, and for the final exam. Each student should choose 2 other works for 2 term papers. Selected works from 19\textsuperscript{th}–20\textsuperscript{th} century American fiction are introduced for class discussion. Works by Hawthorne, Melville, James, Hemingway, Steinbeck are used. Term papers on works by these or other American novelists are presented by students for class discussion.

**0120770 Modern American and British Drama (3 C.H.)**
A selection of Modern Drama is made from 20\textsuperscript{th} century works by British and American, authors. Six works are chosen for class discussion. Students choose different works for their 2 term papers, to be presented and discussed in class. Final examination to be based on works discussed in class.

**0120780 Literary Theory (3 cr. hrs)**
This course deals with modern literary theory beginning with Russian Formalism and New Criticism Post-Structuralism in an attempt to investigate the basic principles of the modern critical schools and the extent of their connection with the
process of study in, the analysis and the criticism of literary texts of all genres.

0120781 **Advanced Literary Theory** (3 C.H.)

Twentieth century developments in the literary theory form the core of the survey. Emphasis is on New Criticism, Structuralism and after, and Feminist Literary Criticism. Students may choose other disciplines for their research papers, like linguistics and criticism, deconstruction, formalism, etc. Term papers may be used for class presentation and discussion.

0120782 **World Literature** (3 C.H)

Selections from French, Italian, Russian, German and Spanish works are introduced, with emphasis on twentieth century authors: novels, plays, or poems by Andre Gide, Albert Camus; Pirandello, Umberto Eco; R.M.Rilke, B.Brecht; Lorca, and others, depending on available English translations. Class-discussions of individual works should be enriched by term papers presented for discussion in the class.

0120783 **Post-Colonial Literature** (3 C.H.)

With the help of representative texts from (post-)colonial literature, theory and criticism, our course will focus on (a). the nature of the power relations between colonizer and colonized; (b) the ways in which colonial political and cultural authority is established and the ways in which this authority comes to be contested and subverted by the colonized ; (c) the complex phenomenon of nationalism and the problems attendant upon the modern post-colonial nation; (d). key philosophical and cultural questions in the post-colonial era, such as agency, identity and difference; dislocation and belonging ; nativism, mimicry, hybridity and globalization; (e). and finally the ways in which native culture has also penetrated the west and conditioned its most important currents of modernism and postmodernism.
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<td>0120748</td>
<td><strong>Special Topic in Literature</strong></td>
<td>3 C.H.</td>
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This course is intended to provide a forum for in-depth discussions of major authors or issues that are not covered in other courses. For example, the course may investigate the works of a contemporary major author (i.e., Toni Morrison, John Fowles, J.M. Coetzee, Nadine Grodimor, etc.) or a major topic such as Gothicism, orientalism, postmodernism, the utilization of myth and fantasy in literature, confession literature, autobiography, etc…….