

Course Code: BLT-C100

Course Title: Genres of Writing I

Core/Elective: Core

Credits: 3

Course Description

Genres or literary forms of writing are the tools of creativity and provide various perspectives on putting across what one intends to in different ways to achieve different goals. Every genre of writing has its own mindset and set of expectations to be catered to. In order to facilitate a detailed dissemination of writing skills required to achieve different goals, the course on “Genres of Writing” has been divided into two segments: “Genres of Writing I” and “Genres Writing II” and spread over Semesters I and Semester II.

These two courses provide an introduction to multiple writing forms and seek to familiarize the students with various forms of writing in fiction and nonfiction, which include both the conventional and recent modes of writing such as blog posts, journalistic writings, self-reflexive writing as well as the basics of literary composition and cultural studies. Fictional and nonfictional writing stand apart from each other on the basis of the conventions each follows; while fictional writing relies on imagination, nonfictional writing is factual. The aim of the course then is to enhance the students’ versatility as writers, and provide relevant writing techniques and skills for analyzing and constructing texts.

Fictional writing deals with narratives that seek to share emotions, ideas, and news with other people, with the main focus being on the description of events, theory, and ideas in certain ways. The major fictional genres are:

1. Fiction; this includes sub-genres such as the Novel, Novella/ Novelette, Short Story, Flash Fiction, Fantasy, Folklore (fairy tales, myths, legends, fables), Historical Fiction, Mystery, Realistic Fiction, Romance, Science Fiction, Speculative Fiction, Thriller, the Western (cowboy, settler, and outlaw stories of the American old West), Dystopian Fiction, and Tall Tales

2. Drama, which includes sub genres like Comedy, Tragedy, Tragicomedy, and Melodrama

3. Poetry; this includes sub genres like the Lyric (Elegy, Ode, Sonnet, Haiku, etc), Narrative Epic, Dramatic Poem (Dramatic Monologue, Monologue, Soliloquy, Dialogue etc), Ballad, and Free Verse

Suggested Reading

Fiction: *This Side of Paradise* by F Scott Fitzgerald, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, *The Stranger* by Albert Camus, *No One Writes to the Colonel* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *The Hound of Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *Dark Places* by Gillian Flynn, *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by Frank Baum, *The Panchatantra* by Vishnu

Sharma, *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell, *And Then Was Gone* by Christopher Grayton, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, *The Girl with No Past* by Kathryn Croft, and “The Bliss” by Katherine Mansfield

Drama: *The Comedy of Errors* by William Shakespeare, *The Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, *Pygmalion* by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and *The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekov

Poetry: “To a Skylark” by P. B. Shelley, “The Bright Star” by John Keats, “Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey, on Revisiting the Banks of the Wye during a Tour. July 13, 1798” by William Wordsworth, “Kubla Khan” by Samuel Coleridge, “My Last Duchess” by Robert Browning, “Thyrsis” by Matthew Arnold, “Lochinvar” by Walter Scott, “Sonnet 18” by William Shakespeare, “The Windhover” by Gerald Manley Hopkins, “Beowulf” (author Unknown), Haikus – “The Old Pond” by Matsuo Basho, “A World View” by Kobayashi Issa, “A Poppy Blooms” by Katsushika Hokusai, “Daddy” by Sylvia Plath, “Australia” by A. D. Hope, “Bullocky” by Judith Butler, “A Sad Child” by Margaret Atwood, “Piano and Drums” by Gabriel Okara, “A Far Cry from Africa” by Derek Walcott, “The Embankment” by T. E. Hulme, “Darkness” Joseph Campbell, “Morning at the Window” by T. S. Eliot, and “Anecdote of the Jar” by Wallace Stevens

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. understand how genres affect and influence reading and writing;
2. identify elements and structuring principles of various modes of writing;
3. analyze various works of fiction across genres to see how authors are influenced by personal, cultural, socio-political, and historical contexts;
4. develop their perspective and claims through persuasive support and successful incorporation of research;
5. effectively respond to texts, discussions, and events in literary, analytical, and personal genres.
6. practise the revision skills necessary for the accomplishment of writing projects in multiple genres;
7. constructively critique their own and peers’ writing with an awareness of the collaborative and social aspects of the writing process; and
8. strengthen their potential as independent scholars, thinkers, and writers in the interdisciplinary academic environment.