

**St. Joseph's College (Autonomous)**  
**School of Languages**  
**Department of English**  
**Optional English (Under CBCS Scheme-2020 onward)**  
**For students of BA-EJP and BA-TEP**

**Objectives**

The primary objectives behind the Optional English programme offered through the Department are to

- a. open for the student a rich reading and thinking life through a wide-ranging exposure to literary texts in their contexts and to the ideas and debates that cluster around such texts.
- b. to lead the student to a lively awareness of the contests for meaning in which literary and popular texts participate.
- c. To equip students with tools of analysis and an early orientation to research in their encounter with literary and popular texts
- d. and to ensure for the interested student the degree of competence that will equip them for a higher degree in the subject either in India or abroad.

**Methodology**

The Department hopes to use an approach that combines giving the student adequate exposure to the norms of traditional scholarship while also opening up discussions centred around new genres, and new forms of reading. The modified syllabus will also include a good grounding in general linguistics.

**Elaboration of objectives**

The student will spend the first four semesters acquiring

- a. close reading skills
- b. a hands-on acquaintance with interpretative strategies
- c. familiarity with academic writing and its conventions
- d. familiarity with the basic concepts crucial to understanding standard literary forms such as the essay, the novel, poetry and drama.
- e. familiarity with the scholarship that has accumulated around specific literary texts/ popular narratives
- f. a lively awareness of the debates and controversies that define the relationship between the literary and the popular, between the English-speaking world and the worlds beyond this world.
- g. arrive at a heightened awareness of language and its workings through a guided introduction to Linguistics.

In the fourth semester, the student will be offered a truncated 3-credit course to accommodate the CBCS requirements. He/she will earn two credits through courses with other departments as mandated by the College CBCS Cell.

In the fifth and sixth semesters, the student will be offered an elective for concentrated study, in addition to a compulsory paper along the usual lines. The student is expected to make a researched presentation accompanied by a written submission in every semester and is encouraged to complete a research paper in the final year.

## **Evaluation**

In addition to contact hours in the form of lectures, the student will spend two hours every week working on guided reading and writing tasks on the tutorial and research seminar model. While the normal contact hours will form the basis for the four credits that the student will earn, the quality of work produced during seminar hours will be crucial in earning the student one extra credit.

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, a reading/writing task in each semester, and a presentation, followed by an end-semester exam. The break-up between internal assessment and end-semester exam shall be of the order of 30%+ 70%.

Testing must reveal the student's familiarity with the texts/contexts studied and with the ideas and concepts explored through those texts. Since the emphasis is not on content recall, but on testing actual learning, these questions must probe for such learning through debate and challenge. The student's comfort with strategies of interpretation must be tested through unseen passages that have some connection with the area of focus in each semester.

A possible question-paper model for all semesters, to be refined through the experience of repeated testing, and through deliberation on such experiences at successive Boards of Studies, is presented below.

- a. Annotation exercises/Context exercises: 20%
- b. Concept testing through debate/challenge: 30%
- c. Writing in response to an unseen passage: 25%
- d. Writing effort to connect unseen passage to texts studied: 25%

## **Semester I: OE-119 (60 hours +15 hours Research Seminar=4+1 credits)**

### **Module I (15 hours)**

#### **The History of the English Language**

##### **Key concepts:**

What is linguistics?—What is language?—Speech and Writing—Synchronic and Diachronic—Langue and Parole—Deep and Surface Structure--Competence and Performance—Prescription and Description—The origins of language

### **Module II (30 hours)**

Beowulf

### **Module III (15 hours)**

#### **Here be Monsters**

Three readings from Fairy-tale, Fantasy and Horror  
Staging Monsters (For ETP)  
Research Seminar (15 hours)  
The Cinematic Monster

## **I Semester Evaluation**

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, and an assignment. The end-semester assessment will comprise the

submission of a researched paper of about 3000-4000 words, and a viva based on the paper, in addition to the end-semester examination.

**Internal Assessment: 30 marks**

Mid-Semester Test: 15 marks

Assignments: 10 marks

Attendance: 5 marks

**End-Semester Exam: 70 marks**

**Research Seminar Assessment: 50 marks**

Continuous Assessment for Research Paper: 15 marks

Viva: 35 marks

**Semester II: OE-219 (60 hours +15 hours Research Seminar=4+1 credits)**

**Module I (15 hours)**

**Phonetics and Phonology:**

The International Phonetic Alphabet—Transcription--Articulation—Consonants—Vowels—Diphthongs—Phonemes—Syllables—Coarticulation inclusive of Elision, Nasalisation and Assimilation

**Module II (30 hours)**

**Chaucer and his world**

Excerpts from the General Prologue and the Canterbury Tales

**Module III (15 hours)**

**Storytelling and Constraint**

Three readings from the Decameron, the Arabian Nights and other constraint narratives

**Research Seminar (15 hours)**

Travel in the Medieval World.

Staging Travel (for ETP)

**II Semester Evaluation**

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, and an assignment. The end-semester assessment will comprise the submission of a researched paper of about 3000-4000 words, and a viva based on the paper, in addition to the end-semester examination.

**Internal Assessment: 30 marks**

Mid-Semester Test: 15 marks

Assignments: 10 marks

Attendance: 5 marks

**End-Semester Exam: 70 marks**

**Research Seminar Assessment: 50 marks**

Continuous Assessment for Research Paper: 15 marks

Viva: 35 marks

### **Semester III: OE-319 (60 hours +15 hours Research Seminar=4+1 credits)**

#### **Module I (15 hours)**

##### **Morphology: (08 hours)**

Word, Morpheme and Lexeme—Free and Bound Morphemes—Derivation—Inflection—Simple, Complex and Compound words—Morphological analysis—Word-formation processes

##### **Grammar: (07 Hours)**

The idea of grammar—Chomsky--Halliday

#### **Module II (30 hours)**

##### **Shakespeare and his world**

As You Like It

#### **Module III (15 hours)**

Renaissance forms: Sonnets by Sidney, Spenser and Shakespeare (06 hours)

Excerpts from A Will in the World—Stephen Greenblatt (03 hours)

Swearing and Swaggering on stage: Excerpts from the Henriad and The Merry Wives of Windsor (06 hours)

#### **Research Seminar (15 hours)**

Pretence and Disguise in Elizabethan plays OR New Words in Indian English

#### **III Semester Evaluation**

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, and an assignment. The end-semester assessment will comprise the submission of a researched paper of about 3000-4000 words, and a viva based on the paper, in addition to the end-semester examination.

#### **Internal Assessment: 30 marks**

Mid-Semester Test: 15 marks

Assignments::10 marks

Attendance: 5 marks

#### **End-Semester Exam: 70 marks**

##### **Research Seminar Assessment: 50 marks**

Continuous Assessment for Research Paper: 15 marks

Viva: 35 marks

### **Semester IV: OE-419 (30 hours +15 hours Research Seminar=2+1 credits)**

#### **Module I (15 hours)**

**Syntax: Tree diagrams, Verbs, Nouns, Clauses**

#### **Module II (15 hours)**

##### **Metaphysical Poetry**

Donne: The Canonisation

Herbert: Prayer

Marvell: Had we but world enough...

Vaughan: The World

**Research Seminar (15 hours)**

Wordplay in modern contexts OR Analogy in filmi lyrics

**IV Semester Evaluation**

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, and an assignment. The end-semester assessment will comprise the submission of a researched paper of about 3000-4000 words, and a viva based on the paper, in addition to the end-semester examination.

**Internal Assessment: 20 marks**

Mid-Semester Test: 10 marks

Assignments: 05 marks

Attendance: 5 marks

**End-Semester Exam: 50 marks****Research Seminar Assessment: 50 marks**

Continuous Assessment for Research Paper: 15 marks

Viva: 35 marks