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Level: BA Major English, Paper III

Year: Second

Course Title: Prose: Essays and Short Stories

Course Code: ENGL 423

Full Marks: 100

Contact hours: 150

Course Description

This course first exposes students to a practical understanding of the technical elements of nonfictional essays—grammar, vocabulary, rhetoric, style, structure, meaningful beauty, and historical context—before subjecting them to appreciate some seminal texts in the canon. From nonfiction, the course takes the students towards the critical understanding of some selected short fiction. Stories, also called short fiction, have textual complexity, stylistic variation, and intrinsic interest. The course encourages students to read each story twice at home before devoting themselves to an intensive literary analysis and a wider discussion of the thematic issues based on the textbook's four-part exercise that calls upon their critical analytical skills.

Course Contents

Unit 1: Anatomy of Prose (Marjorie Boulton)

Contact hours: 30

1. The General Form of Prose
2. The Word: Vocabulary
3. The Sentence: Grammar and Idiom
4. The Sentence: Written and Spoken Prose
5. The Paragraph
6. Prose Rhythm
7. Individual and Common Style
8. Common Style and Cheap Style
9. Simplicity and Ornamentation
10. Subdivisions (Objective and Subjective & Abstract and Concrete)
11. Subdivisions (Realism, Romance and Unreality, Some Special Conventions & Prose for Its Own Sake)
12. The Historical Approach
13. The Science Of Rhetoric
14. A Word about Writing Prose

Unit 2: Selected Essays

Contact hours: 60

15. "Of Truth" (Sir Francis Bacon)
16. "A Meditation upon a Broom-Stick" (Jonathan Swift)
17. "Thoughts in Westminster Abbey" (Joseph Addison)
18. "On Recollections of Childhood" (Sir Richard Steele)
19. "The Conservative" (Ralph Waldo Emerson)
20. "Night and Moonlight" (Henry David Thoreau)
21. "Thoughts of God" (Mark Twain)
22. "On Being Modern-Minded" (Bertrand Russell)
23. "My Own Centenary" (E.M. Forster)
24. "The Death of the Moth" (Virginia Woolf)
25. "Insouciance" (D.H. Lawrence)
26. "The Sterner Sex" (Rebecca West)
27. "On Being the Right Size" (J.B.S. Haldane)

28. "Meditation on the Moon" (Aldous Huxley)
29. "Reflections on Gandhi" (George Orwell)
30. "Adams at Ease" (Lionel Trilling)
31. "The Facts of Budhha" (Sir William Empson)
32. "Columbus and Crusoe" (V.S. Naipaul)
33. "The Bankrupt Man" (John Updike)
34. "At the Dam" (Joan Didion)

Unit 3 Short Stories on Intimate Relationships

Contact hours: 36

35. "Can-can"(Arturo Vivante)
36. "The Story of an Hour" (Kate Chopin)
37. "Epicac" (Kurt Vonnegut)
38. "The Legacy" (Virginia Woolf)
39. "The Kugelmass Episode" (Woody Allen)
40. "An Intruder" (Nadine Gordimer)
41. "Powder" (Tobias Wolff)
42. "Mother" (Grace Paley)
43. "A Short Digest of a Long Novel" (Budd Schulberg)
44. "The Rocking-Horse Winner" (D. H. Lawrence)
45. "The Boarding House" (James Joyce)
46. "My Oedipus Complex" (Frank O' Connor)

Unit 4: Short Stories on Loneliness and Alienation

Contact hours: 12

47. "The Model" (Bernard Malamud)
48. "Disappearing" (Monica Wood)
49. "Miss Brill" (Katherine Mansfield)
50. "Teenage Wasteland" (Anne Tyler)

Unit 5: Short Stories on Social Change and Injustice

Contact hours: 12

51. "Like a Winding Sheet"(Anne Petry)
52. "The Lily-White Boys" (William Maxwell)
53. "The Catbird Seat" (James Thurber)
54. "Everyday Use" (Alice Walker)

Evaluation Scheme

Internal: 30% (Portfolio Mandatory 15%)

External: 70%

Prescribed Books

Boulton, Marjorie. *The Anatomy of Prose*. London: Routledge, 2013.

Gross, John J. *The Oxford Book of Essays*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2008.

Marcus, Sybil. *A World of Fiction: Twenty Timeless Short Stories*. New York: Pearson, 2014.

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