COOCH BEHAR PANCHANAN BARMA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Syllabus of M.A. in English under NCCF Programme

July 2026

Approved by the Post-Graduate Board of Studies on 3rd July 2026

3/7/2026
Head
Department of English
Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

SYLLABUS OF MASTERS IN ENGLISH, UNDER NCCF PROGRAMME (2 YEARS)

SEMESTER- I

Courses	Description	Credit	Marks
COURSE 1 - CC1	ENGLISH POETRY-I	5	100
COURSE 2 - CC2	ENGLISH NOVEL AND PROSE-I	5	100
COURSE 3 - CC3	DRAMA-I	5	100
DISCIPLINE CENTRIC ELECTIVE 1- DCE - 1	TAGORE STUDIES	5	100

SEMESTER- II

Courses	Description	Credit	Marks
COURSE 4 - CC4	ENGLISH POETRY-II	5	100
COURSE 5 - CC5	ENGLISH NOVEL AND PROSE-II	5	100
COURSE 6- CC6	DRAMA-II	5	100
GENERIC ELECTIVE 1 - GE 1	STUDIES IN DALIT AND SUBALTERN LITERATURE	5	100

SEMESTER- III

Courses	Description	Credit	Marks
COURSEWORK PAPER 1- CW 1	WESTERN LITERARY THEORY AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	5	100
COURSEWORK PAPER 2- CW2	INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	5	100
COURSEWORK PAPER 3-CW3	ECOCRITICISM AND LITERATURE AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	5	100
COURSEWORK PAPER 4- CW4	MYTH AND MYTHOLOGIES AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	5	100

SEMESTER – IV

Courses	Description	Credit	Marks
PG RESEARCH	DISSERTATION	15	300
VIVA VOCE		5	100

SEMESTER- I

DETAILED COURSE CONTENTS

Core Course 1: English Poetry- I (Anglo Saxon and Medieval Poetry to 18th century Poetry)

FULL MARKS: 100. END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: 75 MARKS {(20x3)+(5x3)}, ATTENDANCE: 5 MARKS, CONTINUOUS EVALUATION: 20 MARKS.

UNIT I:

- Anglo Saxon Elegies and Epics- Background Lectures
- *Nun's Priest's Tale*- Chaucer
- *Faerie Queene Bk I*- Edmund Spenser

UNIT II:

- "The Good Morrow"- John Donne
- "The Sunne Rising"- John Donne
- "To His Coy Mistress"- Andrew Marvell

UNIT III:

- *The Rape of the Lock*- Alexander Pope
- Precursors of Romanticism- Background Lectures

Suggested Readings:

Anglo Saxon Poetry- R. K. Gordon

York Notes on Chaucer's Nun's Priest's Tale

The Metaphysical Poets - Helen Gardner

Metaphysical Poets: York Notes Advanced

Norton Critical Editions, Edmund Spenser's Poetry

Notes on the Poems of Alexander Pope- Horace Walpole

Core Course 2: English Novel & Prose- I

FULL MARKS: 100. END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: 75 MARKS {(20x3)+(5x3)}, ATTENDANCE: 5 MARKS, CONTINUOUS EVALUATION: 20 MARKS.

UNIT I: Essays

- "Dream Children"- Charles Lamb
- "Sweetness and Light"- Matthew Arnold

UNIT II: Novels

- 18th and 19th Centuries- Background Lectures
- *Joseph Andrews*- Henry Fielding
- *Great Expectations*- Charles Dickens

UNIT III: Novels contd.

- *Jane Eyre*- Charlotte Bronte
- *Far From the Madding Crowd*- Thomas Hardy

Suggested Readings:

Charles Lamb's Works: The Essays of Elia- Charles Lamb (Kessinger Publishing)

Charles Lamb: Selected Essays (Critical Edition) — Adam Phillips (Penguin Classics)

The Cambridge Companion to Matthew Arnold — Stefan Collini (Ed.)

Culture and Anarchy- Matthew Arnold

The Pelican Guide to English Literature, Vol. 6: From Dickens to Hardy

The Cambridge Companion to Charles Dickens — John O. Jordan (Ed.)

The Madwoman in the Attic — Sandra Gilbert & Susan Gubar

The Cambridge Companion to Charlotte Brontë — Heather Glen (Ed.)

Thomas Hardy — Terry Eagleton

The Cambridge Companion to Thomas Hardy — Dale Kramer (Ed.)

Core Course 3: Drama- I (Greek and Renaissance Drama)

FULL MARKS: 100. END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: 75 MARKS {(20x3)+(5x3)}, ATTENDANCE: 5 MARKS, CONTINUOUS EVALUATION: 20 MARKS.

UNIT I: Greek Theatre

- *Poetics*- Aristotle

UNIT II: Texts from Greek Theatre

- *Oedipus Rex*- Sophocles
- *Medea*- Euripides
- *The Pot of Gold*- Plautus

UNIT III: Renaissance Drama

- *King Lear*- William Shakespeare
- *Doctor Faustus*- Christopher Marlowe

Suggested Readings:

Aristotle's Poetics – Ingram Bywater

The Harvest of Tragedy- T. R. Henn

The Cambridge Companion to Greek Comedy – Martin Revermann

Shakespearean Tragedy- A. C. Bradley

The Crown of Life- G. Wilson Knight

Doctor Faustas: A Critical Guide - Sara Munson Deats

The Wheel of Fire- G. Wilson Knight

Discipline Centric Elective 1: Tagore Studies

FULL MARKS: 100. END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: 75 MARKS {(20x3)+(5x3)}. ATTENDANCE: 5 MARKS, CONTINUOUS EVALUATION: 20 MARKS.

UNIT I:

- Tagore and Modernity
- Tagore's Ideas of Ethical Living
- Tagore and Education
- Tagore and Nationalism
- Tagore and Gender

UNIT II:

- Drama: *The Post Office*, translated by Debabrata Mukhopadhyay.
- Novel: *Four Chapters,* translated by Rimli Bhattacharya
- Short Story: "A Wife's Letter", translated by Prasenjit Gupta
- Essay: "The Man of My Heart" from *The Religion of Man*
- Poems: Selections from *Gitanjali*

UNIT III:

- Analysis of Select Paintings of Tagore.
- Tagore Abroad

Suggested Readings:

Banerji, Debashish. Editor. *Rabindranath Tagore in the 21st Century: Theoretical Renewals.* Springer India, 2015.

Bhattacharya, Kumkum. *Rabindranath Tagore: Adventure of Ideas and Innovative Practices in Education.* Springer, 2014.

Ghosh, Ranjan. *Aesthetics, Politics, Pedagogy and Tagore: A Transcultural Philosophy of Education.* Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.

Gupta, Kalyan Sen, *The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore.* Ashgate, 2005.

Tuteja, K.L. and Kaustav Chakraborty, editors. *Tagore and Nationalism.* Springer, 2017.

Radhakrishnan, S. *The Philosophy of Tagore.* Macmillan, 1919.

Ray, Mohit. K. *Studies on Rabindranath Tagore.* Atlantic Publishers and Distributors,2004.

Kripalani, Krishna. *Tagore: A Life.* National Book Trust, India, 2017.

Tagore, Rabindranath. *Nationalism.* Finger Print Classics, 2018.

Tagore, Rabindranath. *Glimpses of Bengal: Select Letters 1885-1895.* Niyogi Books, 2018.

Tagore, Rabindranath. *On Art and Aesthetics: A selection of lectures, Essays and Letters.* Orient Longmans, 1961.

SEMESTER II

DETAILED COURSE CONTENTS

Core Course 4: English Poetry- II

FULL MARKS: 100. END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: 75 MARKS {(20x3)+(5x3)}. ATTENDANCE: 5 MARKS, CONTINUOUS EVALUATION: 20 MARKS.

UNIT I:

- *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*- William Blake
- "To Autumn", "Ode on Melancholy"- John Keats
- *Prometheus Unbound*- Percy Bysshe Shelley

UNIT II:

- "Ulysses"- Lord Alfred Tennyson
- "Porphyria's Lover"- Robert Browning
- "Dover Beach"- Matthew Arnold
- "Pied Beauty"- Gerard Manley Hopkins

UNIT III:

- "Strange Meeting"- Wilfred Owen
- "The Second Coming"- W. B. Yeats
- "Gerontion"- T. S. Eliot
- "Do Not Go Gentle Into The Night"- Dylan Thomas

Suggested Readings:

The Mirror and the Lamp- M. H. Abrams.

The Romantic Ideology- Jerome J Macgann.

The Oxford Companion to Modern Poetry.

The Art of Reading Poetry- Harold Bloom.

Core Course 5: English Novel and Prose- II

FULL MARKS: 100. END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: 75 MARKS {(20x3)+(5x3)}, ATTENDANCE: 5 MARKS, CONTINUOUS EVALUATION: 20 MARKS.

UNIT I:

- Background Lectures
- "Tradition and the Individual Talent"- T. S. Eliot
- "Hamlet and His Problems"- T. S. Eliot
- *A Room of One's Own*- Virginia Woolf

UNIT II:

- *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*- James Joyce
- *The Rainbow*- D. H. Lawrence

UNIT III:

- *Death in Venice*- Thomas Mann
- *Wide Sargasso Sea*- Jean Rhys

Suggested Readings:

Modernism: A Very Short Introduction- Christopher Butler

Sons and Lovers- D. H Lawrence

Women in Love- D. H. Lawrence

The Sacred Wood – T. S. Eliot

A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Feminist Literary Criticism – Maggie Humm

Practising Feminist Criticisms- Maggie Humm

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man: Text, Criticism, and Notes- Edited by Chester G. Anderson

Critical Lives: Thomas Mann – Kevin J. Hayes

Jean Rhys: A Critical Study – Veronica Marie Gregg

Jean Rhys's Historical Imagination- Veronica Marie Gregg

The Madwoman in the Attic- Sandra Gilbert & Susan Gubar

Core Course 6: Drama- II

FULL MARKS: 100. END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: 75 MARKS {(20x3)+(5x3)}. ATTENDANCE: 5 MARKS, CONTINUOUS EVALUATION: 20 MARKS.

UNIT I:

- Irish Dramatic Movement- Background Lectures
- *Riders to the Sea*- J. M. Synge
- *Murder in the Cathedral*- T. S. Eliot

UNIT II:

- *Thirst*- Eugene O' Neill
- *The Zoo Story*- Edward Albee

UNIT III:

- *A Doll's House*- Henrik Ibsen
- *Chandalika*- Rabindranath Tagore
- *Dance Like A Man*- Mahesh Dattani

Suggested Readings:

The Cambridge Companion to Twentieth-Century Irish Drama- Shaun Richards (Ed.)

The Oxford Handbook of Modern Irish Theatre- Nicholas Grene and Chris Morash (Ed.)

The Cambridge Companion to J. M. Synge- P. J. Mathews (Ed.)

The Cambridge Companion to T. S. Eliot- A. David Moody (Ed.)

The Cambridge Companion to Eugene O'Neill- Michael Manheim (Ed.)

Eugene O'Neill: A Life in Four Acts- Robert M. Dowling

The Cambridge Companion to Edward Albee- Stephen Bottoms (Ed.)

Edward Albee: A Singular Journey- Mel Gussow

Ibsen and the Irish Revival- Irina Ruppo Malone (Palgrave Macmillan)

The Cambridge Companion to Ibsen- James McFarlane (Ed.)

The Cambridge Companion to Rabindranath Tagore- Sukanta Chaudhuri (Ed.)

Me and My Plays- Mahesh Dattani

Generic Elective 1: Studies in Dalit and Subaltern Literature

FULL MARKS: 100. END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: 75 MARKS {(20x3)+(5x3)}, ATTENDANCE: 5 MARKS, CONTINUOUS EVALUATION: 20 MARKS.

UNIT I:

- "On Some Aspects of Historiography of Colonial India"- Ranajit Guha
- "Can the Subaltern Speak?"- Gayatri Charkravorty Spivak
- "Minority Histories, Subaltern Pasts"- Dipesh Chakrabarty
- *The Annihilation of Caste*- B. R. Ambedkar

UNIT II:

- *Chotti Munda and His Arrow*- Mahasweta Devi
- *Joothan*- Omprakash Valmiki

UNIT III:

- *Untouchable*- Mulk Raj Anand
- "The Storeyed House"- Waman Hoval
- "The Loneliness of an Ex-Soldier"- B. Rangarao

Suggested Readings:

Chakrabarty, Dipesh. *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference.* Princeton University P, 2007.

Landry, Donna, and Gerald Maclean, editors. *The Spivak Reader: Selected Works of Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak.* Routledge, 1996.

Guha, Ranajit. *The Small Voice of History.* Edited by Partha Chatterjee, Permanent Black, 2016.

Guha, Ranajit, editor. *A Subaltern Studies Reader 1986-1995.* Oxford UP, 2000.

Limbale, Sharankumar. *Towards an Aesthetic of Dalit Literature: History, Controversies and Considerations.* Orient Blackswan Pvt. Ltd., 2018.

Mohan,T. M. J. Indra. *The Novels of Mulk Raj Anand: A New Critical Spectrum.* Atlantic Publishers and Distributors, 2005.

SEMESTER III (Coursework for Research)

DETAILED COURSE CONTENTS

Coursework Paper 1: Western Literary Theory and Research Methodology

FULL MARKS: 100. END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: 75 MARKS (RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: 25 MARKS, AREAS TAUGHT: 50 MARKS), ATTENDANCE: 5 MARKS, RESEARCH PAPER: 20 MARKS.

UNIT I: Research Methodology (25 Marks)

- Types of Research
- Sampling
- Hypothesis
- Measurement for Research in Humanities

UNIT II: Western Literary Theories –I (25 Marks)

- Ideas of Beauty and negative Capability: John Keats
- Basics of Marxism: From Marx to Jameson
- Russian Formalism: Basic Ideas and Practical Uses
- Structuralism : Contributions of Levi Strauss, Saussure

UNIT III: Western Literary Theories- II (25 Marks)

- Poststructuralism: Contributions of Barthes, Derrida, Blanchot, Levinas
- Psychoanalytic Theories: Contributions of Freud, Lacan and Zizek

Suggested Readings:

Literary Theory: An Introduction- Terry Eagleton

Beginning Theory: An Introduction- Peter Barry

Marxist Literary Theory: A Reader- Terry Eagleton and Drew Milne

A General Introduction to Psychoanalysis- Sigmund Freud

Psychoanalysis: A Very Short Introduction- Daniel Pick

The Letters of John Keats- Harry Buxton Forman (Edited)

Research Methods for English Studies- Gabriele Griffin

Coursework Paper 2: Indian Knowledge Systems and Research Methodology

FULL MARKS: 100. END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: 75 MARKS (RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: 25 MARKS, AREAS TAUGHT: 50 MARKS), ATTENDANCE: 5 MARKS, RESEARCH PAPER: 20 MARKS.

UNIT I: Research Methodology (Indian Knowledge Systems: Concepts and Frameworks) (25 Marks)

- Jnana, Vidya, Parampara
- Shruti and Smriti Traditions
- Lokavidya and Indigenous Knowledge
- Oral Knowledge Systems
- Decolonizing Knowledge

UNIT II: Memory in Indian Traditions (25 Marks)

- Smriti as Cultural Remembrance
- Itihasa and Purana
- Ritual and Memory
- Oral Transmission and Collective Identity

UNIT III: Folk Performance as Cultural Text (25 Marks)

- Ritual and Performance
- Folk Theatre and Identity

- Performance and Social Memory
- Performance as Archive

Suggested Readings:

"Is There an Indian Way of Thinking?"- A. K. Ramanujan

"Tell it to the Walls: On Folktales in Indian Culture"- A. K. Ramanujan

Three Hundred Ramayanas- A. K. Ramanujan

Bharata: The Natyasastra- Kapila Vatsyayan

Performative Reflections of Indian Traditions: Towards a Liveable Learning- D. Venkat Rao (Springer)

Envisioning Voice and the Aphasic Ears: Of Sanskrit Reflective Traditions Today- D. Venkat Rao (Bloomsbury)

The Crisis Within: On Knowledge and Education in India- G. N. Devy

After Amnesia- G. N. Devy

Indian Knowledge Systems- Kapil Kapoor and Avadhesh Kumar Singh

Fieldwork/ Project Component (1 Credit)

Students shall complete **one supervised project** (Internal Assessment- 15 marks):

- Documentation of any performance
- Collection and transcription of songs
- Oral history of folk performers
- Village heritage mapping
- Indigenous ecological knowledge survey
- Digital archive creation
- Folk theatre documentation

Submission:

- 3000- 4000-word Project Report

Or,

15

- Documentary/ Podcast with analytical report

Coursework Paper 3: Ecocriticism and Literature and Research Methodology

FULL MARKS: 100. END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: 75 MARKS (RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: 25 MARKS, AREAS TAUGHT: 50 MARKS), ATTENDANCE: 5 MARKS, RESEARCH PAPER: 20 MARKS.

UNIT I: Research Methodology (25 Marks)

- "Literature and Ecology: An Experiment in Ecocriticism"- William Rueckert
- "The Deep Ecology Movement: Some Philosophical Aspects"- Arne Naess
- "Ecocriticism and the Novel"- Dominic Head
- "Naturalized Woman and Feminized Nature"- Kate Soper
- *A Sand Country Almanac* (Selections)- Aldo Leopold

UNIT II: (25 Marks)

- *The Country and the City* (Selections)- Raymond Williams
- *Gun Island*- Amitav Ghosh
- *Surfacing*- Margaret Atwood

UNIT III: (25 Marks)

- *The Life of Pi*- Ang Lee
- *Princess Mononoke*- Hayao Miyazaki

Suggested Readings:

Buell, Lawrence. *The Future of Environmental Criticism: Environmental Crisis and Literary Imagination*. Blackwell Publishing, 2005.

Coupe, Laurence, editor. *The Green Studies Reader: From Romanticism to Ecocriticism.* Routledge, 2020.

Garrard, Greg. *Ecocriticism: The New Critical Idiom*. Routledge, 2004.

John-Putra, Adeline. *Climate Change and the Contemporary Novel.* Cambridge UP, 2019.

Naddaf, Gerard. *The Great Concept of Nature*, State U of New York P, 2005.

Purdy, Jedediah. *After Nature: A Politics for the Anthropocene.* Harvard UP, 2015.

Trexler, Adam. *Anthropocene Fictions: The Novel in a Time of Climate Change.* U of Virgina P, 2015.

Coursework Paper 4: Myth and Mythologies and Research Methodology

FULL MARKS: 100. END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: 75 MARKS (RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: 25 MARKS, AREAS TAUGHT: 50 MARKS), ATTENDANCE: 5 MARKS, RESEARCH PAPER: 20 MARKS.

UNIT I – What is Myth ? What is Mythology? - 25 Marks

- Western Theories on Myth and Mythology (Roland Barthes, Levi Strauss, Carl Jung)
- Eastern Theories on Myth and Mythologies (Devdutt Pattnaik, G.N. Devy, D. Venkat Rao etc), Theories on Visual Semiotics (Peirce, Barthes, Christian Metz)
- Comparative Research Methodology on Myth & Mythologies.

UNIT II- (Cultural Texts) - 25 Marks

- *Chinese Myths & Legends: Legends of the Universe, Deities and Heroes* – E. T. C. Werner (Selections)
- Creation Myths – Selections from the *Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad*, Tribal Myths in India
- Genesis Creation Narrative (Selections from the *Book of Genesis*)
- *Shiva Trilogy* – Amish Tripathi
- Dragon Mythology in Global Cultures

UNIT III- (Visual Cultural Texts) – 25 Marks

- Paintings by Michealangelo on the walls of the Sistine Chapel
- Patachitra Scrolls
- Myths in films / Myths as semiotic representations in Films – (Selections from Chinese web series, *The Raincoat*).

Research Paper on Comparative Models - 20 Marks

Suggested Readings:

International Comparative Research: Theory, Methods and Practice- Linda Hantrais

The Classic of Mountains and Seas (Shanhai Ching) – Debatable authorship, translated into English by Anne Birrell, 2001.

Chinese Mythology: An Introduction- Anne Birrell

Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad (English translation)- Swami Madhavananda, Wisdom Library

Mythologies- Roland Barthes

"The Structural Study of Myth"- Claude Levi Strauss

The Dragon in World Mythology and Culture- Robert M Sarwark

Shiva: The Metaphor of Life and Beyond – Srikanth Joshi

Film Language: A Semiotics of the Cinema – Christian Metz

The Shiva Purana- Wisdom Library

SEMESTER IV

Dissertation Length:

- No. of words: 8000- 10000
- No. of chapters: 4- 5
- MLA 9th Edition

Components:

- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Scope and Objectives
- Research Questions
- Research Method and Methodology
- Tentative Chapterization
- Conclusion
- Select Bibliography

*Research is to be based on the Coursework Papers of Semester III. Students will be equally divided among the Faculty members.