

COURSE TITLE	POPULAR LITERATURE
COURSE CODE	07BA0706
COURSE CREDITS	4

Objective:

- 1 To understand the cultural and historical contexts that shaped popular literature from contemporary fantasy through mystery and horror genres.
- 2 To identify and analyze the key literary genres and forms prominent in modern popular narratives.
- 3 To trace the evolution of storytelling techniques and themes in popular literature across selected periods.
- 4 To examine major works and authors representative of each genre, with attention to thematic and stylistic developments.
- 5 To explore the role of media adaptations, fan culture, and societal influences in shaping popular literary expression.

Course Outcomes: After completion of this course, student will be able to:

- 1 Explain the cultural background of modern fantasy and identify the major features of contemporary mythic literature, including its roots in ancient traditions and epic forms.
- 2 Analyze the narrative and thematic developments in detective fiction, including the emergence of suspense and mystery forms.
- 3 Evaluate the literary significance of authors like Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle, their techniques, and their role in shaping popular thriller traditions.
- 4 Discuss the impact of gothic and horror elements on contemporary literature, especially in relation to psychological depth and dramatic expression.

Pre-requisite of course:NA

Teaching and Examination Scheme

Theory Hours	Tutorial Hours	Practical Hours	ESE	IA	CSE	Viva	Term Work
4	0	0	50	30	20	0	0

Contents : Unit	Topics	Contact Hours
1	Theorizing Popular Literature Introduction to the concept of popular literature., Theories and critical frameworks for studying popular literature. Marxist Criticism, Feminist Criticism, Reader-Response Criticism, Myth Criticism / Archetypal Criticism	15

Contents : Unit	Topics	Contact Hours
2	Genre Study - Crime and Horror Focus on Crime Literature: The emergence of detective fiction. Key authors and works (e.g., Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle). Narrative and thematic developments in the genre, including suspense and mystery forms., Focus on Horror Literature: Gothic and horror elements and their impact on contemporary literature. Key authors and works (e.g., Stephen King's The Shining).	15
3	Genre Study - Fantasy The cultural and historical background of modern fantasy., Major features of contemporary mythic literature and its roots in ancient traditions. Retellings and Reimaginings, The Hero's Journey, World-Building, Intertextuality and Allusion, Psychological Depth. Key authors and works (e.g., George R.R. Martin's A Game of Thrones).	15
4	New Frontiers in Popular Literature Graphic Novels as Popular Literature: The history and evolution of the form. Analyzing the intersection of text and image. Discussion of selected graphic novels., Texts: Maus by Art Spiegelman Watchmen by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons	15
Total Hours		60

Textbook :

- 1 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes., Doyle, Arthur Conan, Edited by Richard Lancelyn Green, , Oxford University Press, 1993
- 2 Murder on the Orient Express., Christie, Agatha., HarperCollins., 2011
- 3 The Shining., King, Stephen., Anchor Books, 2012
- 4 A Game of Thrones., Martin, George R.R, Bantam Books, 1996
- 5 Maus: A Survivor's Tale, Spiegelman, Art., Pantheon Books, 1996
- 6 Watchmen, Moore, Alan, and Dave Gibbons, DC Comics, 2014

References:

- 1 Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction. 9th ed., Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction. 9th ed., Storey, John., Routledge, 2021
- 2 Crime Fiction 1800–2000: Detection, Death, Diversity, Crime Fiction 1800–2000: Detection, Death, Diversity, Knight, Stephen, Palgrave Macmillan, 2004
- 3 Gothic. 2nd ed., Gothic. 2nd ed., Botting, Fred., Routledge, 2013
- 4 Strategies of Fantasy, Strategies of Fantasy, Attebery, Brian, Indiana University Press, 1992
- 5 Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art, Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art, McCloud, Scott, HarperPerennial, 1994
- 6 The Cambridge Companion to Fantasy Literature, The Cambridge Companion to Fantasy Literature, James, Edward, and Farah Mendlesohn, eds., Cambridge University Press, 2012

References:

- 7 Graphic Women: Life Narrative and Contemporary Comics, Graphic Women: Life Narrative and Contemporary Comics, Chute, Hillary L, Columbia University Press, 2010

Suggested Theory Distribution:

The suggested theory distribution as per Bloom's taxonomy is as follows. This distribution serves as guidelines for teachers and students to achieve effective teaching-learning process

Distribution of Theory for course delivery					
Remember / Knowledge	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Higher order Thinking / Creative
0.00	0.00	35.00	35.00	30.00	0.00

Instructional Method:

- 1 Lecture method combined with discussion
- 2 Use of ICT tools
- 3 Assignments
- 4 Presentations
- 5 Workshops
- 6 Expert lectures
- 7 Self-study

Supplementary Resources:

- 1 www.bl.uk/popular-literature
- 2 www.archive.org
- 3 <https://www.sparknotes.com/>
- 4 <https://www.goodreads.com/>