

Lit X - Fantasy

Programme(s) in which it is offered: All UG programmes

Course Category: Minor	Schedule of Offering: Even
Course Credit Structure: 3	Course Code: LL183
Total Number of Hours: 45	Contact Hours Per Week: 3
Lecture: 3	Tutorial: 0
Practical: 0	Medium of Instruction: English
Date of Revision: 05.03.2021	Skill Focus: Life Skills
Short Name of the Course: LXFY	Course Stream (Only for Minor Courses): Literature and Linguistics
Grading Method: Regular	Repeatable: Credit/Audit/Repeatable
Course Level: Beginner	

Course Description

This is a Minor course which is also tagged as a 'Lit X' course. This series of courses is designed specifically to look at relatively newer and upcoming genres of literature: 20th- and 21st-century upstarts that have captured the imagination of readers, and have carved a niche for themselves in a corner of the high table occupied by the classics. Such courses deal with the expanding idea of literature, and with genres that are pushing the boundaries of what literature is and can be.

Course Introduction

Do dragons, firebirds and celestial creatures cause a thrill to run through your body? Do elves, dwarves and demons keep you hooked? Do all of these constitute literature? One of the principal goals of literature is to fascinate, and thereby to enthrall and entertain its readers. Over the last century, no other genre has captured the imagination of the masses more than fantasy literature. This course will take students on a journey of discovery through the fantastic worlds crafted by some of the most creative writers in literature, while simultaneously introducing learners to the technical aspects of the genre and its development through the ages. Common themes, narrative techniques, and nuances of storytelling within the realm of fantasy will also be discussed. While the course will be taught in English, the source texts of this course will be taken from several different cultures and time periods. Specific modules will focus on texts from English literature, and also on the fantasy literature genre in India. Learners who enjoy

reading and appreciate looking at the human society and its concerns through the lens of different immersive and fantastic worlds, are sure to find this course extremely interesting.

Course Objectives

1. To introduce learners to the history of fantasy literature, its current forms, and its significant characteristic features
2. To introduce learners to multiple texts of fantasy literature from various cultures around the world
3. To enable learners to critically appreciate fantasy literature
4. To enable learners to identify and understand the themes, motifs and storytelling styles of fantasy literature

Course Outcomes

At the end of this course, learners will be able to:

1. Understand the broad concerns and current debates in the field of fantasy literature
2. Analyse and critically appreciate fantasy literature in all its forms
3. Critically evaluate the cultural, historical and sociological context of selected texts of fantasy literature

PO-CO Mapping

PO-CO Mapping Matrix

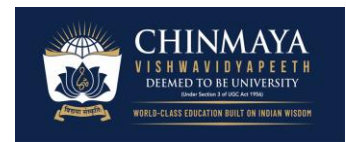
CO/PO Mapping	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6
C01						
C02						
C03						
C04						
C05						

Prerequisites and other constraints

Fantasy literature as a genre mostly relies on the literary form of the novel. Most seminal works in this area are published as series of novels. Hence, the course will require learners to read extensively, even beyond the prescribed readings. A love for reading and stories is thus an essential prerequisite for this course.

Since this course will be taught in English, learners taking this course must be

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comfortable with reading, writing, listening, and speaking in English, that is, they must be able to read and understand works written in English, and be able to discuss and debate the ideas proposed therein. Apart from these, the course has no other prerequisites.

Pedagogy

The teaching in this course will be mostly through lectures and classroom discussions. The instructor's role will be primarily to introduce concepts and generate questions of interest, but the discussion around these questions is expected to be mostly student-driven, with some minor assistance and prodding from the teacher.

Suggested Reading:

1. James, E., & Mendlesohn, F. (Eds.). (2012). *The Cambridge companion to fantasy literature*. Cambridge University Press.
2. Sandner, D. (2004). *Fantastic literature: a critical reader*. Greenwood Publishing Group.
3. Attebery, B. (2014). *Stories about stories: Fantasy and the remaking of myth*. Oxford University Press.
4. Shippey, T. A. (Ed.). (1995). *The Oxford book of fantasy stories*. Oxford University Press, USA.

Evaluation Pattern

Analytical and critical ability, as well as the ability to express opinions clearly and concisely, are extremely important for this course, and hence group discussions and debates constitute a crucial evaluation component here. Individual progress will be measured through written assignments, presentations, and a mid-semester examination.

Evaluation Matrix

Continuous Internal Assessment (CIA) Components *	Component Type	Weightage Percentage	Total Marks	Tentative Dates	Course Outcome Mapping
	Classroom participation (quizzes, discussions)	15% of CIA Marks	15	Every class	1, 2, 3
	Presentations (1x)	20% of CIA Marks	20	Module 4	2, 3
	Assignments (1x)	15% of CIA Marks	15	Module 3	2, 3
	Mid-Semester Exam	20% of CIA Marks	20	Module 1, 2	1, 3
	Final Term Paper	30% of course total	30	End of the Semester	1, 2, 3
	CIA Marks	100 % (To be converted to 100% of course total)	100	---	---

* The assignments involved in CIA will be subject to plagiarism checks. A submission with unexplained similarities exceeding 30% for Undergraduate courses, 20% for Postgraduate courses and 10% for PhD courses will be reverted for resubmission. The final submission is subject to score penalization as defined by the course instructor at the start of the course, with a clear communication of the same to all the registered candidates.

Module Sessions

Module 1: Introduction

(9 Hours)

- Defining 'fantasy literature'
- Why is fantasy literature so popular?
- Origins in folklore and mythology
- Fantasy literature around the world

- Commonly held views on fantasy literature

Reading:

1. Hunt, P., & Lenz, M. (Eds.). (2005). *Alternative worlds in fantasy fiction*. A&C Black. pp. 1-41.
2. Grimm, J., & Grimm, W. (2016). *The complete Grimm's fairy tales*. Chartwell Books. (selected stories only)

Activities:

- a) Discussion: What does 'fantasy' mean?
- b) Task: Identify a work of fantasy.

Module 2: The Realm of Fantasy

(9 Hours)

- Magic, Magicians and Magical Creatures
- Fantastic Beasts...Here you will find them!
- Heroes, Quests, Wars and Transformation
- World-building in fantasy literature
- Strategies of fantasy
- Gods and deities in fantasy literature

Reading:

1. Attebury, S. S. Brian. *Strategies of Fantasy*, 73-86.
2. Irwin, R. (Ed.). (2010). *The Arabian Nights: Tales of 1,001 Nights* (Vol. 3). Penguin.(selected stories only)
3. Tolkien, J. R. R. (2012). *The Hobbit*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Activities:

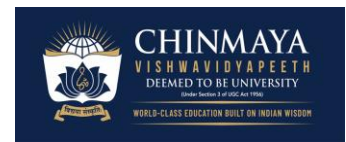
- a) Discussion: The theme of journey in fantasy
- b) Task: Build your own fantastic world.

Module 3: Introduction to a selection of popular fantasy literature (12 Hours)

- Delight and diversion: Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*
- Grandeur of scale: J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*
- Humour in fantasy: Terry Pratchett's *Discworld*
- Fantastic yet relatable: J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter*
- Violence and cynicism: George R.R. Martin's *A Song of Ice and Fire*

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- Fantasy in children's and young adult literature – *Peter Pan*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *His Dark Materials*, *Eragon*

Reading:

Excerpts from each of the selected texts listed above

Activities:

- a) Movie screening and discussion (LOTR trilogy)

Module 4: Fantasy Literature in India

(9 Hours)

- An Ocean of Stories: Tales from the *Kathasaritsagara*
- Culturally inspired: Amish Tripathi's *The Meluha Trilogy*
- World-building beyond the epics: Samit Basu's *The Simoqin Prophecies*, Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*, and Tashan Mehta's *The Liar's Weave*

Reading:

Excerpts from each of the selected texts listed above

Activities:

- a) Discussion: The influence of *Kathasaritsagara* on fantasy literature around the world
- b) Debate: Inspiration for fantasy literature beyond the epics

Module 5: The Expanding Circle of Fantasy

(6 Hours)

- Science fiction, comics, and computer games
- Fan Fiction
- Fantasy literature in film and television
- Conclusion and review

Reading:

1. Gaiman, N. (2018). *Sandman Vol. 2: The Doll's House 30th Anniversary Edition (Vol. 2, No. 9-16)*. Vertigo.

Activities:

- a) Discussion: The relevance of fan fiction