



**Department of English
Visva-Bharati**

Santiniketan

Syllabi for B. A. Undergraduate Course in English under CBCS

1. **AECC: English Communication (Sem I)**
2. **SEC: Business Communication (Sem III)**
3. **SEC: Introduction to Films/Cinema (Sem IV)**
4. **GEC: Language, Literature and Culture (Sem I)**
5. **GEC: Contemporary India: Women & Empowerment (Sem II)**
6. **GEC: Media and Communication Skills (Sem III)**
7. **GEC: Academic Writing and Composition (Sem IV)**

1. BA CBCS Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course (AECC) Semester I (July-December)

AECC: English Communication: English Communication

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the theory, fundamentals, and tools of communication and to develop in them vital communication skills which are integral to personal, social, and professional interactions. Keeping in mind the context of rapid globalization and increasing recognition of social and cultural pluralities, the course hopes to address various means of communication: both verbal and non-verbal, through an interactive mode of teaching-learning process and by focusing on various dimensions of communication skills. Some of these are: Language of communication, various speaking skills such as personal communication, social interactions and communication in professional situations such as interviews, group discussions and office environments, important reading skills as well as writing skills such as report writing, note-taking etc. The questions in the examination will be aimed towards assessing the skills learnt by the students rather than the textual content of the recommended books.

Learning Outcome: It is hoped that at the end of this course, students will find a difference in their personal and professional interactions -such as in interviews, group discussions and office environments -and recognize the significance of clear and effective communication.

1. Introduction: Theory of Communication, Types and modes of Communication
2. Language of Communication:
Verbal and Non-verbal

(Spoken and Written)

Personal, Social and Business

Barriers and Strategies

Intra-personal, Inter-personal and Group communication

3. Speaking Skills:

Monologue

Dialogue

Group Discussion

Effective Communication/ Mis-Communication

Interview

Public Speech

4. Reading and Understanding

Close Reading

Comprehension

Summary Paraphrasing

Analysis and Interpretation

Translation (from Indian language to English and vice-versa)

Literary/Knowledge Texts

5. Writing Skills

Documenting

Report Writing

Making notes

Letter writing

Recommended Readings:

1. *Fluency in English* - Part II, Oxford University Press, 2006.

2. *Business English*, Pearson, 2008.

3. *Language, Literature and Creativity*, Orient Blackswan, 2013.

4. *Language through Literature* (forthcoming) ed. Dr. Gauri Mishra, Dr Ranjana Kaul, Dr Brati Biswas

2. BA CBCS Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC) Semester III (July-December)

SEC: Business Communication

Course Objectives: The course aims to familiarize students with the nuances of business communication. Imparting correct strategies of business writing will necessitate introducing students to the organizational capacity of language along with an emphasis on the appropriate use of grammar, diction, and syntax, based on audience-specific purpose.

Learning Outcome: At the end of the course it is expected that the students will be well versed in the necessary communicative skills required to carry on professional negotiations with precision and clarity.

1. Introduction to the essentials of Business Communication: Theory & Practice
2. Citing references, and using bibliographical and research tools
3. Writing a project report
4. Writing reports on field work/visits to industries, business concerns etc./business negotiations
5. Summarising annual reports of companies
6. Writing minutes of meetings

7. E-correspondence
 8. Spoken English for business communication
- Making oral presentation

3. Skill Enhancement Course (SEC): Semester IV (January-June)

SEC: Introduction to Films/Cinema

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the role of film in society via an interdisciplinary approach. Students will be introduced to the history of international cinema and equipped with relevant theoretical approaches to read film as a cultural artefact by contextualising the interrelationship between thematic content, aesthetic choice, narrative strategies, and socio-political scenario.

Learning Outcome: At the end of the course students develop the skill to analyse film using theoretical tools and learn how film, both as a cultural text and an industry, is intimately intertwined with sociocultural and historical factors.

Module I: Introduction to Films/Cinema

Syllabus: History of Films – Development of Photography – History of Cinema – Technical developments in Film Narrations – Cinematography – Music/Sound – Editing – Cultural embedding – World Cinema – Cinema of/as Resistance – Film and Fiction – Intertextuality and Citation – Basic Film Theory – Adventure Films – Epic in Cinema – Visual Construct of the Hero – Text to Reel – Schoolboy Texts/Films – Boarding School Stories – Masculinity and Heroic Pose/s – Anthropocentrism in Cinema – Canon and the Cinema – Cinema and Spatiality – Partition Films – Gender & Cinema – Representation of the Body – Sports and/in Films – Sci-Fi Films – War Films – Regional Films – Films and Innovation – Films & New Media - etc.

Module II: Reading Films (Text may vary from semester to semester):

1. Ritwik Ghatak, *Meghe Dhaka Tara*, 1960
2. Deepa Mehta, *Earth/Earth: 1947*, 1998.

Interaction Between Film and Fiction

1. J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, 1997 (Text)
2. Chris Columbus (dir.), *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (UK) / *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (US), 2001 (Film).
3. Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay, *Chander Pahar*(*Mountain of the Moon*), 1937 (Text; originally in Bengali, translated by Jayanta Sengupta, 2011).
4. Kamalleshwar Mukherjee (dir.), *Chander Pahar* (*Mountain of the Moon*), 2013 (Film).

4. BA CBCS Generic Elective (GEC): Semester I (July-December)

GEC: Language, Literature and Culture

Course Objectives: This course aims at increasing students' awareness of how language functions and some aspects of the languages that they speak or encounter in their daily lives, keeping in mind the global context and issues pertaining to the multilingual and multicultural

nature of India. Furthermore, students will be made aware of significant formal and thematic features of the literature in Indian languages and trends in contemporary Indian culture, especially as they are reflected in the media.

Learning Outcome: At the end of the course it is expected that the student will have acquired knowledge of some basic aspects of language in general, a broad view of the languages and literatures of India, and an understanding of the values and assumptions underlying contemporary popular culture, with special reference to the media.

I. Language

(A) Language: Structure(s) and Literature(s)

(B) Language as Performance

Prescribed Texts:

1. William Wordsworth: "The Solitary Reaper"
2. Selections from William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*

II. Indian Literature

This section of the course will involve a study of some significant themes and forms of Indian literature through the ages with the help of selections from prescribed texts

(A) Bhasha Literatures

(B) Indian English: Language and Literature

Prescribed Texts: (two texts will be offered each semester)

1. One poem by an Indian poet
2. One short-story by Rabindranath Tagore

III. Culture and Society in Contemporary India

(A) Ideas of Culture: Culture – popular culture; Indian and global culture(s)

(B) Culture and Media:

Prescribed Texts: Teacher will choose exact texts from within the following components –

1. Advertisements – Print & TV commercials
2. Cinema/TV/Social Networking/FM Radio (any two will be selected each semester)

Evaluation

Internal Assessment: 15 marks

End-semester Exam: 60 marks

Total: 75 marks

Note: The allocation of marks for the three units of the course will be in the following ratio:

Language: 20%, Literature: 50%, Culture and Media: 30%

5. GEC: Contemporary India – Women & Empowerment: Semester II (January – June)

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to make students aware of women's role in shaping modern India and of being shaped by it. This will largely be a historical account with focus on women's education, women and various professions, women and politics, and women and social reform. There will be selections from standard textbooks for courses on Women's Studies along with selected fictional and non-fictional accounts by Indian women hailing from various strata of society.

Learning Outcome: At the end of the course students will be aware of the various ways in which women have contributed in shaping modern India, appreciate the role literature written by women plays in documenting their lived experience in relation to contemporary cultural milieu, and ultimately grasp the importance of understanding history and society via the intersection of gender, class, and caste.

1. Women's Voices

A. *Middle-class and upper caste women's writings*

1. Selected chapters, Rokeya Begum, *Sultana's Dream*
2. Ismat Chughtai "Amar Bel" ("The Eternal Vine"), *Quilt and Other Stories*
3. Selected poems, Kamala Das

B. *Dalit women's writings*

1. Baby Kamble, *Jina Amucha (Our Wretched Lives)*

6. GEC: Media and Communication Skills: Semester III (July-December)

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to equip students with skills required to utilize media for effective communication. In an age that emphasizes technological advancement and globalization the significance of media is incontestable. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of different branches of mass communication and made aware of the research aptitude required and ethics involved in the process of producing content for various media platforms.

Learning Outcome: At the end of this course, it is hoped that students will employ clear and effective communication in various kinds of media writing and understand the processes involved in the dissemination of information.

Mass Communication

1. Introduction to Mass Communication
2. Mass Communication and Globalization
3. Forms of Mass Communication

Topics for Student Presentations:

- a. Case studies on current issues Indian journalism
- b. Performing street plays
- c. Writing pamphlets and posters, etc.

Advertisement

1. Types of advertisements
2. Advertising ethics
3. How to create advertisements/storyboards

Topics for Student Presentations:

- a. Creating an advertisement/visualization
- b. Enacting an advertisement in a group
- c. Creating jingles and taglines

Media Writing

1. Scriptwriting for TV and Radio

2. Writing News Reports and Editorials
3. Editing for Print and Online Media

Topics for Student Presentations:

- a. Script writing for a TV news/panel discussion/radio programme/hosting radio programmes on community radio
- b. Writing news reports/book reviews/film reviews/TV program reviews/interviews
- c. Editing articles
- d. Writing an editorial on a topical subject

Cyber Media and Social Media

1. Types of Social Media
2. The Impact of Social Media
3. Introduction to Cyber Media

7. GEC: Academic Writing and Composition: Semester IV (January-June)

Course Objectives: The course is an introduction to the fundamentals of academic writing and aims to equip students with the set of skills required for the purpose. Students will be given the opportunity to develop writing skills and be made aware of the research aptitude and critical thinking required for academic writing. Furthermore, students will be made aware of the process and ethics involved in research and be trained in putting forward their arguments in a clear and concise manner. The recommended readings are only suggestive- the students and teachers have the freedom to consult other materials on various units/topics that are a part of this course.

Learning Outcome: At the end of the course it is hope that students will understand and appreciate the process behind, develop critical thinking required, and acquire writing skills suited for academic writing.

Academic Writing and Composition (Any four)

1. Introduction to the Writing Process
2. Introduction to the Conventions of Academic Writing
3. Writing in one's own words: Summarizing and Paraphrasing
4. Critical Thinking: Syntheses, Analyses, and Evaluation
5. Structuring an Argument: Introduction, Interjection, and Conclusion
6. Citing Resources; Editing, Book and Media Review

Suggested Readings

1. Liz Hamp-Lyons and Ben Heasley, *Study writing: A Course in Writing Skills for Academic Purposes* (Cambridge: CUP, 2006).
2. Renu Gupta, *A Course in Academic Writing* (New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2010).
3. Ilona Leki, *Academic Writing: Exploring Processes and Strategies* (New York: CUP, 2nd edn, 1998).
4. Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein, *They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing* (New York: Norton, 2009)