

Syllabus for PhD Candidates – English

Specialization: 1) English Literature

Questions: Descriptive and Objective

History of English Literature: Early literatures in English, Chaucer and his contemporaries, Renaissance literature, Revolution and Restoration, Romantic literature, Victorian age, English literature and the World Wars, Modernism and Postmodernism.

Criticism and Theory: Literary terms, canon, genre, major concepts in Classical Western criticism, early English criticism, Renaissance idea of art and literature, criticism in the age of Neoclassicism and Romanticism, trends in Victorian thinking, New Criticism, close reading, literary criticism by Eliot, Psychoanalysis, the linguistic turn, Structuralism, Poststructuralism, Postcolonialism, Gender Studies, race and ethnicity, self, genres of life writing, author, subject, identity, witnessing, literature and ethics, cyborg, Posthumanism, the future of Humanities and English studies.

American Literature: The philosophy of individualism and the culture of recording lives; general understanding of the history of American literature and major themes

New Literatures in English: Literatures from Africa, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Caribbean countries, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Singapore, New Zealand, Malaysia, and South Pacific islands – identity, history, geography and politics as represented in literature

Specialization: 2) English Language Education/Applied Linguistics

Questions: Descriptive and Objective

Language teaching methods and approaches: grammar-translation, direct, audio-lingual, communicative, task-based, content-based, total physical response, cooperative learning, the silent way, suggestopedia and post-method era.

Language learning theories: behaviourist approaches, innatist approaches, interaction approaches, cognitive approaches, sociocultural approaches, functional approaches and discourse approaches.

Key concepts in English Language Teaching (ELT): communicative competence, authentic materials, task-based learning, form-focused instruction, language skills, error correction, accuracy and fluency, interlanguage, learner autonomy, task complexity, and cultural awareness.

LSRW skills and sub-skills:

Listening: identifying main ideas, identifying supporting details, comprehension of spoken language, note-taking and other sub-skills related to listening.

Speaking: pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary usage, grammar accuracy, intonation and stress, conversations and other sub-skills related to speaking.

Reading: skimming for main ideas, scanning for specific information, reading for detail, vocabulary acquisition through context and other sub-skills related to reading.

Writing: spelling, grammar and syntax, punctuation, writing a paragraph, summarizing and other sub-skills related to writing.

Language and society: language and dialect, creole and pidgin, language policy, language attitudes, multilingualism, language and identity, language planning, language ideology, and language maintenance or shift.

Language and mind: language acquisition, language processing, metacognition, bilingualism, memory, perception, emotion and neurolinguistics.

Research methodology: qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods, experimental, survey, case study, ethnographic, and action research approaches.

Basics of English linguistics: phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

English grammar: parts of speech, sentence structure, tense and aspect, modifiers (adjectives and adverbs), clauses and phrases, subject-verb agreement, punctuation, and word order.