

P-hel Course work-Eng

SYLLABUS
Pre-Ph.D. Course Work
in ENGLISH

Applicable from Academic Session 2026-27



Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh
University, Aligarh

Supervising and Advisory Committee for preparing the pre Ph.D.
Syllabus for Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh University, Aligarh:

S. No.	Name	Designation	Department	College/ University
1.	Prof. Neeta	Professor (Convener)	English	Shri Varshney College, Aligarh.
2.	Dr. Savita Varshney	Associate Professor (Member)	English	D. S. College, Aligarh
3.	Prof. Medha Sachdev	Professor (Member)	English	T. R. Girls Degree College, Aligarh.
4.	Prof. Priti Verma	Professor (Member)	English	Seth P. C. Bagla College, Hathras
5.	Prof. Hridyesh Kumar	Professor (Member)	English	D. S. College, Aligarh
6.	Prof. Gitam Singh	Professor (Member)	English	Shri Varshney College, Aligarh
External Experts				
1.	Prof. Charu Mehrotra	Professor	English	Principal, Gokul Das Girls' College, Moradabad
2.	Prof. Anju Bala Agrawal	Professor	English	RCA Girl's P.G. College, Mathura

Ph.D. Course Work Syllabus

Department of English Duration: Six Months
Credits: 12

Total

Paper	Course Title	Credits
Paper I	Research and Publication Ethics	2
Paper II	Research Methodology in English Studies	4
Paper III	Subject Specific Course: Advanced Literary Studies	4
Paper IV	Computer Applications for Research	2

Paper I: Research and Publication Ethics Credits: 2 Teaching Hours: 30

Course Objectives

1. To introduce research scholars to the ethical foundations of academic research.
2. To develop awareness about ethical issues in literary and humanities research.
3. To familiarize scholars with responsible authorship and publication practices.
4. To enable scholars to identify plagiarism and evaluate the quality of academic journals.

Course Outcomes

After completing the course, research scholars will be able to:

- CO1: Understand ethical principles governing academic research and writing.
CO2: Identify research misconduct and plagiarism in academic work.
CO3: Follow responsible authorship and publication practices.
CO4: Evaluate the credibility and quality of academic journals and publications.

Unit I: Philosophy and Ethics in Academic Research

Teaching Hours: 7

- Introduction to ethics and moral philosophy .
- Ethics in academic research and scholarship
- Academic integrity and responsible research practices
- Ethical responsibilities of researchers in humanities and literary studies
- Importance of honesty, transparency, and acknowledgement of sources

Unit II: Academic Integrity, Research Misconduct, and Plagiarism

Teaching Hours: 8

- Meaning and types of research misconduct
- Fabrication and falsification in academic research
- Plagiarism in literary and humanities writing
- Self-plagiarism and duplicate publication
- Ethical use of sources, quotations, and paraphrasing
- Proper citation and acknowledgement of sources

Plagiarism Detection Tools

- Turnitin
- Urkund

Practical Component

- Checking sample texts for similarity
- Understanding and interpreting similarity reports
- Learning strategies to avoid plagiarism through proper citation and paraphrasing

Unit III: Publication Ethics and Authorship

Teaching Hours: 7

- Meaning and importance of publication ethics
- Authorship and co-authorship in academic publications
- Responsibilities of authors, editors, and reviewers
- The peer review process in academic journals
- Conflict of interest in scholarly publishing

Classroom Activity

- Discussion on the process of submitting research articles to academic journals.

Unit IV: Journal Quality, Indexing, and Academic Publishing

Teaching Hours: 8

- Criteria for evaluating academic journals
- Journal indexing and abstracting services
- Impact factor and other indicators of journal quality
- Predatory journals and unethical publishing practices
- Approved journal lists and academic publishing standards

Relevant indexing platforms:

- UGC-CARE

- Scopus
- Web of Science

Classroom Activity

- Identifying reliable journals for publishing research articles in literature.

Modes of Assessment

1. Assignment / Case Study – 20%
2. Class Participation – 10%
3. End Semester Examination – 70%

Suggested Readings

- MLA Handbook(latest Edition)
- Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques- C. R. Kothari and Gaurav Garg
- Research Ethics and Academic Writing — Shalini Verma
- Publishing Ethics — Irene Hames
- Avoiding Plagiarism — Rebecca Moore Howard and Amy E. Robillard
- Academic Writing and Plagiarism — Diane Pecorari
- Responsible Conduct of Research — Adil E. Shamoo and David B. Resnik. *Oxford University Press.*
- Writing Ethically — Miguel Roig.
- The Ethical Researcher's Toolkit — Martyn Hammersley and Anna Traianou. SAGE Publications
- Academic Ethics and Research Integrity — B. R. Goswami.

Paper II: Research Methodology in English Studies Teaching Hours: 60
Credits: 4

Course Objectives

1. To introduce research scholars to the fundamentals of research in English and literary studies.
2. To familiarize scholars with research design, methodology, and critical analysis.
3. To develop academic writing skills necessary for doctoral research.
4. To promote ethical research practices and awareness about plagiarism.

Course Outcomes

After completing this course, the research scholar will be able to:

- CO1: Understand the nature and scope of research in English and Humanities.
- CO2: Identify research problems and formulate research questions and hypotheses.
- CO3: Apply appropriate research methods and theoretical frameworks in literary studies.
- CO4: Conduct literature review and design a research proposal.
- CO5: Demonstrate academic writing skills using proper documentation styles.
- CO6: Follow ethical practices in research and avoid plagiarism.

Course Content

Unit I: Nature and Scope of Research

Teaching Hours: 15

- Meaning, definition and objectives of research
- Types of research: descriptive, analytical, historical, comparative and interdisciplinary
- Nature of research in humanities and literary studies
- Nature of research in social sciences
- Interpretive research vs empirical research
- Identification of research problem and hypothesis
- Interdisciplinary approaches in literary research

Unit II: Research Design and Review of Literature

Teaching Hours: 15

- Selection and delimitation of research topic
- Review of literature and research gap
- Research proposal writing
- Conceptual and theoretical frameworks
- Planning and chapterization of thesis

Unit III: Methods and Approaches in Literary Research

Teaching Hours: 15

- **Textual Analysis and Interpretation**

Close reading of literary texts with attention to language, form, structure, and meaning.

- **Comparative Literature Method**

Study of texts across cultures, languages, and traditions; thematic and stylistic comparison.

- **Historical and Archival Research**

Use of primary and secondary sources; archival materials, manuscripts, letters, and historical documents in literary research.

- **Theoretical Approaches in Literary Research**

Application of major critical perspectives such as Feminist, Marxist, and Postcolonial approaches in textual analysis.

- **Digital Humanities and Research Databases**

Use of digital tools and online academic resources for literary research, including databases such as JSTOR, Project MUSE, and MLA International Bibliography.

- **Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods in Literary Research**

- **Qualitative Methods in Humanities Research:**

Interpretive and exploratory approaches in literary studies; use of techniques such as interviews (oral history, author interviews, reader-response studies) and discourse analysis to examine language, ideology, and cultural contexts.

- **Quantitative Approaches (Basic Introduction):**

Use of simple data-based methods in humanities research, including analysis of patterns, frequency, and trends in texts; scope and limitations of quantitative support in literary studies.

- **Mixed Methods in Interdisciplinary Research:**

Integration of qualitative and quantitative approaches; combining textual analysis with empirical or data-driven methods, especially in cultural studies, media studies, and digital humanities.

Unit IV: Academic Writing and Publication Skills

Teaching Hours: 15

- Writing a research article
- Writing a book review
- Writing a conference paper
- Manuscript submission and cover letter writing
- Peer review process and responding to reviewers' comments
- Structure of thesis/dissertation
 - Chapter writing strategies
 - Argument development
 - Avoiding descriptive writing
- Viva voce preparation:
 - Defending research
 - Handling questions
- Documentation styles: MLA, APA, Chicago
- Footnotes, endnotes and bibliography
- Avoiding plagiarism and academic integrity
- Publication ethics and identifying quality journals

Suggested Readings:

- The Craft of Research — Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, Joseph Bizup, and William T. FitzGerald. University of Chicago Press.
- How to Write a Thesis — Umberto Eco. MIT Press.
- MLA Handbook — Modern Language Association.

- A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations — Kate L. Turabian. University of Chicago Press.
- Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques — C. R. Kothari and Gaurav Garg. New Age International Publishers.
- Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners — Ranjit Kumar. SAGE Publications.
- Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches — John W. Creswell and J. David Creswell. SAGE Publications.
- Doing Research in English Language and Literature — James Simpson. Routledge.
- Research Methods for English Studies — Gabriele Griffin. Edinburgh University Press.
- Academic Writing for Graduate Students — John M. Swales and Christine B. Feak. University of Michigan Press.
- Writing Your Thesis — Paul Oliver. SAGE Publications.
- How to Write a Better Thesis — David Evans, Paul Gruba, and Justin Zobel. Springer.
- Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association — American Psychological Association.
- Publishing Ethics — Irene Hames. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Academic Writing and Plagiarism — Diane Pecorari. Continuum International Publishing Group. Booth, Wayne C., et al. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press.

Modes of Assessment

4. Internal Assessment – 20%
5. Class Participation – 10%
6. End Semester Examination – 70%

Internal Assessment May Include

- Seminar Presentation
- Term Paper
- Review of Literature Assignment
- Research Proposal Draft

Paper III :Subject Specific Course: Advanced Literary Studies

Credits: 4

Total Teaching Hours: 60

Course Objectives

1. To provide advanced knowledge of major literary theories and critical traditions.
2. To familiarize research scholars with significant intellectual movements influencing literary studies.
3. To develop the ability to apply theoretical frameworks in literary research.
4. To introduce emerging interdisciplinary areas in contemporary literary studies.

Course Outcomes

After completing this course, research scholars will be able to:

- CO1: Understand major traditions of literary theory and criticism.
- CO2: Apply modern and contemporary theoretical approaches to literary texts.
- CO3: Analyze literature through ideological and cultural perspectives.
- CO4: Engage with new and interdisciplinary approaches in literary studies.
- CO5: Demonstrate the practical application of literary theories through textual analysis, seminar presentations, and analytical writing.

Unit I: Classical and Early Modern Literary Criticism Teaching Hours: 15

- Plato: Theory of Mimesis
- Aristotle: *Poetics* (Concept of Tragedy and Catharsis)
- Longinus: Theory of the Sublime
- Indian Poetics: Rasa Theory, Dhvani Theory, Vakrokti
- Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) : their role in literary and cultural studies; relevance of classical Indian poetics in modern interpretation; integration of Indian and global critical frameworks; emphasis on interdisciplinary and holistic approaches

Practical / Applied Component (Select any one)

1. Identification of Rasa and Aesthetic Experience

Identify dominant Rasas in selected passages from:

- Abhijnanasakuntalam
- Meghaduta
- Gitanjali

2. Application of Aristotle's Concept of Tragedy and Catharsis

Analyze tragic elements such as **hamartia**, **peripeteia**, and **catharsis** in scenes from:

- Oedipus Rex
- Hamlet
- Macbeth

3. Discussion on Imitation and Representation (Plato's Mimesis)

Discussion of literary imitation using passages from:

- The Iliad
- Paradise Lost
- King Lear

Unit II: Modern Literary Theory

15

Teaching Hours:

- New Criticism
- Russian Formalism
- Structuralism
- Semiotics (Ferdinand de Saussure, Roland Barthes)

Practical / Applied Component (Select any one)

- Close reading of poems using **New Critical techniques**.
- Identification of **formal devices and literariness** using Russian Formalism.
- Structural analysis of narrative patterns in selected literary texts.
- Identification of **signifier and signified relationships** in literary passages.

Suggested texts for application:

- The Waste Land
- The Rime of the Ancient Mariner
- Araby

Unit III: Post-Structuralist and Ideological Criticism

Teaching

Hours: 15

- Deconstruction (Jacques Derrida)
- Discourse and Power (Michel Foucault)
- Marxist Criticism
- Feminist Criticism
- Psychoanalytic Criticism

Practical / Applied Component (Select any one)

- Deconstructive reading identifying ambiguities and contradictions in meaning.
- Foucauldian analysis of power and discourse in literary texts.
- Marxist interpretation focusing on class struggle and ideology.
- Feminist interpretation analyzing gender relations and patriarchal structures.

Suggested texts:

- Hard Times
- A Doll's House
- Sons and Lovers

Unit IV: Contemporary and Interdisciplinary Approaches Teaching Hours: 15

- Postcolonial Theory (Edward Said, Homi K. Bhabha, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak)
- Subaltern Studies
- Cultural Studies
- Ecocriticism
- Gender and Queer Studies
- Digital literature / electronic literature
- AI and literature (very relevant now)
- Translation studies
- Disability studies

Practical / Applied Component (Select any one)

- Postcolonial interpretation of colonial discourse and identity.
- Analysis of subaltern voices and marginalized perspectives.
- Cultural studies approach relating literature to media and ideology.
- Ecocritical analysis focusing on environment and nature in literature.

Suggested texts:

- Things Fall Apart
- Wide Sargasso Sea
- Draupadi

Seminar and Research Activities

Research scholars will remain engaged in:

- **Seminar presentations** applying literary theory to texts.
- **Textual analysis workshops** demonstrating theoretical interpretation.

- Critical response papers applying theoretical frameworks.
- Group discussions and debates on major critical perspectives.

Model Framework for Applying Literary Theory to Texts

To develop practical research skills, scholars may follow this framework:

1. Selection of a literary text or passage.
2. Identification of a suitable theoretical approach.
3. Understanding key concepts of the chosen theory.
4. Contextual reading of the literary work.
5. Close textual analysis.
6. Application of theoretical concepts to the text.
7. Development of a critical argument.
8. Comparative insight with other critical approaches.
9. Seminar presentation of the analysis.
10. Conversion of the analysis into a short research paper.

Modes of Assessment

1. **Seminar Presentation – 10%**
Application of a literary theory to a literary text.
2. **Term Paper / Analytical Assignment – 15%**
Short research-based paper applying theoretical frameworks.
3. **Class Participation and Discussion – 5%**
4. **End Semester Examination – 70%**

Suggested Readings

- *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory* — Peter Barry. *Manchester University Press.*
- *Literary Theory: An Introduction* — Terry Eagleton. *University of Minnesota Press.*
- *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory* — Raman Selden, Peter Widdowson, and Peter Brooker. *Pearson Education.*
- *Literary Theory: The Basics* — Hans Bertens. *Routledge.*
- *Contemporary Literary and Cultural Theory* — Pramod K. Nayar. *Pearson Education India*
- *Critical Theory Today* — Lois Tyson.
- *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice* — Charles E. Bressler.

- The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism — Vincent B. Leitch (Ed.).
- Modern Literary Theory — Philip Rice and Patricia Waugh (Eds.).
- Twentieth Century Literary Theory — K. M. Newton.
- An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory — Andrew Bennett and Nicholas Royle.
- Orientalism — Edward W. Said.
- The Location of Culture — Homi K. Bhabha.
- The Empire Writes Back — Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, and Helen Tiffin.
- Ecocriticism — Greg Garrard.

Paper IV: Computer Applications for Research

Credits: 2

Total Teaching Hours: 30

Course Objectives

1. Introduce research scholars to essential computer applications used in academic research.
2. Develop skills in digital academic writing, citation management, and research documentation.
3. Enable effective use of online academic databases and digital libraries.
4. Familiarize scholars with basic digital humanities tools relevant to literary studies.

Course Outcomes

After completing the course, research scholars will be able to:

CO1: Use digital tools for preparing research papers and thesis chapters.

CO2: Search and access scholarly materials through online academic databases.

CO3: Organize citations and references using digital reference management tools.

CO4: Use digital tools for presenting and analyzing literary texts.

Unit I: Basic Computer Skills and Digital Literacy

Teaching

Hours: 7

- Basic components of a computer system
- Operating systems and file management
- Internet use for academic purposes
- Email communication in academic contexts
- Cloud storage and file sharing

Research Data Management Practices

- Data organization and file naming conventions for research work
- Backup strategies (cloud storage, external drives, and version control)
- Research documentation practices for maintaining drafts, notes, and records

Practical Component

- Creating and organizing research folders
- Sending academic emails with attachments
- Uploading and sharing research documents through cloud storage

Suggested tools:

- Microsoft Windows
- Google Drive
- Gmail

Unit II: Digital Tools for Academic Writing in Literary Research Teaching Hours: 8

- Preparing research papers / Thesis Chapter using word processing software
- Formatting research documents (margins, headings, spacing, page numbering)
- Handling textual quotations in literary research
- Footnotes, endnotes, and referencing practices
- Automatic Table of Contents generation
- Using heading styles for chapters and sub-sections
- Preparing Works Cited / Bibliography in MLA style

Practical Component

Scholars will practice:

- Formatting a short literary research paper
- Inserting quotations from literary texts
- Creating footnotes and Works Cited pages
- Generating an automatic table of contents

Suggested tools:

- Microsoft Word
- Google Docs

Unit III: Digital Resources for Literary Research Hours: 7

Teaching

- Online academic databases and digital libraries
- Searching scholarly articles, books, and theses

- Identifying reliable academic sources
- Citation styles in literary research (MLA, APA, Chicago)

Copyright and Fair Use in Digital Research

- Basics of copyright in academic and digital contexts
- Fair use of digital texts, images, and online resources in research and writing
- Ethical use and citation of digital materials

Practical Component

- Searching scholarly articles and book chapters
- Downloading journal papers and organizing research materials
- Preparing a preliminary **bibliography on a research topic**

Suggested platforms:

- Google Scholar
- JSTOR
- Project MUSE

Unit IV: Reference Management, Research Presentation, and Digital Humanities

Teaching Hours: 8

- Introduction to reference management tools
- Organizing and storing research articles and PDFs
- Generating citations and bibliographies automatically
- Preparing academic presentations for seminars and conferences
- Introduction to simple digital tools for exploring literary texts

Practical Component

Research scholars will practice:

- Creating and managing a digital library of research articles
- Generating bibliographies using reference tools
- Preparing PowerPoint presentations for research seminars
- Creating simple word clouds from literary texts to identify key themes

Suggested tools:

- Zotero
- Mendeley
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- WordClouds.com

Example texts for classroom activity:

- The Raven
- The Waste Land

Practical / Seminar Activities

Research scholars will undertake:

- Preparation of a formatted research document.
- Compilation of references on a selected research topic.
- Preparation of a PowerPoint presentation for a research seminar.
- Basic digital analysis of a literary text using online tools.

Modes of Assessment

1. **Practical Assignment – 10%**
Preparation of a formatted research document and bibliography.
2. **Seminar / Presentation – 10%**
3. **Class Participation and Practical Work – 10%**
4. **End Semester Test – 70%**

Suggested Readings:

- MLA Handbook — Modern Language Association.
- The Craft of Research — Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, Joseph Bizup, and William T. FitzGerald. University of Chicago Press.
- Computer Applications in Research — Sanjay Saxena. *Vikas Publishing House*.
- Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques — C. R. Kothari and Gaurav Garg. New Age International Publishers.
- Doing Digital Humanities — Constance Crompton, Richard J. Lane, and Ray Siemens. Routledge.
- Digital Humanities — Anne Burdick, Johanna Drucker, Peter Lunenfeld, Todd Presner, and Jeffrey Schnapp. MIT Press.
- A Companion to Digital Humanities — Susan Schreibman, Ray Siemens, and John Unsworth (Eds.). Blackwell Publishing.
- Digital Literary Studies — David L. Hoover, Jonathan Culpeper, and Kieran O'Halloran. Routledge.

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- Text Analysis with R for Students of Literature — Matthew L. Jockers. Springer.
- Macroanalysis: Digital Methods and Literary History — Matthew L. Jockers. University of Illinois Press.
- Using Computers in the Translation of Literary Style — Harold Somers.
- How to Do Things with Texts — W. Warner Burke.
- Electronic Textual Editing — Lou Burnard, Katherine O'Brien O'Keeffe, and John Unsworth. Modern Language Association.
- The Digital Scholar — Martin Weller. Bloomsbury Academic.
- Digital Research Methods in the Arts and Humanities — Gabriele Griffin and Matt Hayler. Edinburgh University Press.
- Researching and Writing in the Digital Age — Dawn Rodrigues and Raymond J. Rodrigues. Prentice Hall.

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