DSE/Minor/MD/ID

Semester 1
COURSE 1:
NON-FICTIONAL PROSE

This Course introduces the learners to the different forms of non-fictional prose writing. They will be taken through different genres such as essays, biography, autobiography, letters and travel writing that emerged from diverse historical and cultural contexts.

Learning Objectives: The objectives of the course are to:

- identify some of the major prose writers and their literary contributions
- trace the real-life experiences or the thoughts of the writers that find a reflection in the prescribed texts
- provide a detailed study of the prescribed works of non-fictional prose
- discuss the various aspects and characteristics of the prescribed texts

Learning Outcomes: After going through the course, the learner will be able to:

- discuss the detailed content and various aspects of the prescribed works of non-fictional prose
- relate to the relevant contexts, life experiences and reflections that shaped these texts
- evaluate and provide own critical analyses of the prescribed texts

Block 1: Essays

Unit 1: Montaigne: "Of Solitude"

Montaigne: Life and Works, Explanation of the Text: List of Important References in the Text, Glossary of the Text, Major Themes, Style and Language, Critical Reception

Unit 2: Francis Bacon: "Of Truth" & "Of Studies"
Francis Bacon: Life and Works, Explanation of the Essays: Explanation of the Essay "Of Truth", Explanation of the Essay "Of Studies", Glossary, Major Themes, Style and Language, Critical Reception

Unit 3: Charles Lamb: "My Relations"
Charles Lamb: Life and Works, Reading the Text: Major Themes, Lamb's Prose Style, Critical Reception

Unit 4: Virginia Woolf: "Modern Fiction"
Virginia Woolf: Life and Works, Woolf's Idea of the Essay as a Literary Form, Reading the Text: Major Themes, Woolf's Prose Style, Critical Reception

Unit 5: George Orwell: "Shooting an Elephant"
George Orwell: Life and Works, Reading the Text: Major Themes, Orwell's Prose Style, Critical Reception

Block 2: Life Writing (Biography/Autobiography)

Unit 6: Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-78): *Confessions*
A Brief History of Autobiography, Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Life and Works, Reading about *The Confessions*, Rousseau's Prose Style, Critical Reception

Unit 7: Samuel Johnson: "Life of Milton"
A Brief History of Biography, Samuel Johnson: Life and Works, Reading the Text, Johnson's Prose Style, Critical Reception

Unit 8: "Florence Nightingale" from Lytton Strachey's *Eminent Victorians*
Lytton Strachey: Life and Works, Reading the Text: Major Themes, Strachey's Prose Style, Critical Reception

Unit 9: Russell's *Autobiography* (Chapters: I & II)
Bertrand Russell: Life and Works, Reading Russell's *Autobiography*, Reading Chapter I: "Childhood", Reading Chapter II: "Adolescence", Russell's Prose Style, Critical Reception

Unit 10: Diary of Virginia Woolf (Select Entries)
What is Life Writing?, Virginia Woolf as a Diarist, Reading the Diary Entries, Important Themes, Style and Language

Block 3: Letters and Travel Writings

Unit 11: Keats' Letters: To Benjamin Bailey, 22 November, 1817, and To John Hamilton Reynolds, 3 May 1818
John Keats: The Letter Writer, Reading the Texts: Major Themes, Keats' Prose Style, Critical Reception

Unit 12: Eric Newby: *A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush* (Chapter IV "Pera Palce" & Chapter V "The Dying Nomad") (Part I)
A Short History of Travel, Eric Newby: The Travel Writer, Brief Summary of the book

Unit 13: Eric Newby: *A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush* (Chapter IV "Pera Palce" & Chapter V "The Dying Nomad") (Part II)
Reading Chapter IV: "Pera Palace", Reading Chapter V: "The Dying Nomad", Newby's Prose Style, Major Themes

Unit 14: V. S. Naipaul: *An Area of Darkness* (Section 1, Chapter 1)
A Brief Account of Travel Writing, V.S. Naipaul: Life and Works, Reading the Chapter, Important Themes, Style and Language

Reading List:

- John Peck & Martin Coyle: *Literary Terms and Criticism. Palgrave.*
- Carl Thompson: *Travel Writing.*
- Henry Ellershaw. *Keats: Poetry and Prose.*
- M. H. Abrams. A Glossary of Literary Terms.
- C.H. Lockitt: *The Art of the Essayist.*