

	MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY Kottayam, Kerala Undergraduate Programmes (HONOURS) 2025 Admission Onwards
---	---

SYLLABUS			
SIGNATURE COURSE			
Name of the College	Rajagiri College of Management & Applied Sciences, Kakkanadu		
Faculty/ Discipline	English		
Programme	BA (Hons) English		
Course Coordinator	Dr. Anju Maria Sebastian		
Contributors			
Course Name	Stories of Taste: Food Narratives in Literature and Film		
Type of Course	VAC		
Specialization title	This Signature Course does not have a specialization.		
Course Code	MG3VACENGA02		
Course Level	200		
Course Summary	This course explores the representation of food as a cultural, social, and symbolic element in literature and film, examining how culinary practices shape narratives of identity, memory, power, and everyday life. It introduces students to a range of literary texts, cinematic adaptations, and critical theories to understand food as a dynamic medium of storytelling across diverse contexts.		
Semester	3	Credits	3
Course Details	Learning Approach		Total Hours
	Credits	3	45
Pre-requisites, if any			

Course Outcomes (CO)

Number of COs		4	
CO No.	Expected Course Outcome	Learning Domains *	PO No
1	Understand the role of food as a cultural and narrative element	U	PO1
2	Understand how food represents identity, memory, and social relations in selected texts	U	PO1, PO6
3	Analyze literary texts to interpret the symbolic and political meanings of food.	An	PO3
4	Analyze and understand how food narratives have evolved today	E	PO3, PO6

*Remember (K), Understand (U), Apply (A), Analyse (An), Evaluate (E), Create (C), Skill (S), Interest (I) and Appreciation (Ap)

CO-PO Articulation Matrix

CO/PO	PO 1	PO 2	PO 3	PO 4	PO 5	PO 6	PO 7	PO 8	PO 9	PO 10
CO 1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CO 2	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
CO 3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CO 4	-	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-

'0' is No Correlation, '1' is Slight Correlation (Low level), '2' is Moderate Correlation (Medium level) and '3' is Substantial Correlation (High level).

Course Content

Content for Classroom transaction (Units)

Module	Units	Course Description	Hrs	CO No.
1		Food, Culture and Narrative Traditions		
	1.1	Introduction" to Culinary narratives – Food as cultural identity	3	["1"]
	1.2	Food and Climate Change: Healthy Diets for a Healthier Planet https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/food	4	["1"]
	1.3	Towards a Psycho Sociology of Contemporary Food Consumption- Roland Barthes	5	["1"]
	1.4	Bosom Friend by Hira Bansode	3	["1", "2"]
2		Food, Power and Social Structures		
	2.1	Food as a tool for social hierarchy and power	3	["2"]
	2.2	Hunger by Jayanta Mahapatra	3	["2"]
	2.3	Blackberry-Picking by Seamus Heaney	3	["2"]
	2.4	The Emperor of Ice-Cream by Wallace Stevens	3	["2"]
	2.5	A Devoted Son – Anita Desai	3	["3"]
3		Contemporary Perspectives		
	3.1	Selected stories from Eating Women Telling Stories by Bulbul Sharma	4	["3", "4"]
	3.2	Discussion on select food blogs/instagram/youtube/facebook pages	3	["4"]
	3.3	Ted Talk Edible Storytelling: Using Food as a Narrative Marente Van Der Valk	3	["3", "4"]
	3.4	Kakkamuttai (Tamil) dir M. Manikandan	5	["3", "4"]

Teaching and Learning Approach	Classroom Procedure (Mode of transaction) Provide pdf versions of primary and secondary reading materials, watch prescribed ted talks, conduct discussions, and analyze through assignments/ seminars.
---------------------------------------	--

Assessment Types	MODE OF ASSESSMENT Mode of Assessment: Theory
	A. Continuous Comprehensive Assessment (CCA) • Theory - 25 Marks Assignment/Seminar
	B. End Semester Evaluation (ESE) • Theory - 50 Marks Assessment Methods – Test Duration of Examination – 1.50 Hrs Pattern of examination for Theory – Non-MCQ Different parts of written examination – Part - A , B , C Answer Type: ◦ PART - A ◦ MCQ - (15 out of 15) - 15 × 1 = 15 ◦ PART - B ◦ Short Essays - (5 out of 7) - 5 × 5 = 25 ◦ PART - C ◦ Essays - (1 out of 2) - 1 × 10 = 10

References

- Counihan, Carole, and Penny Van Esterik, eds. Food and Culture: A Reader. Routledge, 2013, Mintz, Sidney W. Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History. Penguin / Cambridge Studies relevance., Garnett, Tara. Food Sustainability: Problems, Perspectives and Solutions. Oxford University Press, 2014., Food and Climate Change: Healthy Diets for a Healthier Planet <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/food>, Barthes, Roland. "Toward a Psychosociology of Contemporary Food Consumption." In Food and Culture: A Reader. Routledge., Bansode, Hira. Selected Dalit Poems., Zelliott, Eleanor. From Untouchable to Dalit: Essays on the Ambedkar Movement. Manohar., Mahapatra, Jayanta. Collected Poems. Oxford University Press India., Heaney, Seamus. Opened Ground: Selected Poems. Faber & Faber., Stevens, Wallace. The Collected Poems of Wallace Stevens. Vintage / Knopf., Desai, Anita. Collected Stories. Penguin / Vintage., Sharma, Bulbul. Eating Women Telling Stories. Zubaan / Kali for Women., Bloom, Lynn Z. Consuming Subjects: Food, Taste, and Identity in American Literature. Oxford University Press., Keeling, Kara K., and Scott Pollard. Critical Approaches to Food in Literature. Routledge, 2009, Van Der Valk, Marente. "Edible Storytelling: Using Food as a Narrative." TEDx Talk, TED Conferences., Manikandan, M., director. Kakka Muttai (Kaaka Muttai). Wunderbar Films & Grass Root Film Company, 2015.

Suggested Readings

- Appadurai, Arjun. "How to Make a National Cuisine: Cookbooks in Contemporary India." Comparative Studies in Society and History. Counihan, Carole, and Penny Van Esterik, eds. Food and Culture: A Reader. Routledge, 2013. Fischler, Claude. "Food, Self and Identity." Social Science Information, 1988. Sutton, David. Food and the Senses. Cambridge University Press, 2010. Mintz, Sidney W. Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History. Penguin, 1985. Pilcher, Jeffrey M. Food in World History. Routledge, 2017. Bloom, Lynn Z. Consuming Subjects: Food, Taste, and Identity in American Literature. Oxford University Press, 2008. Keeling, Kara K., and Scott T. Pollard, eds. Critical Approaches to Food in Literature. Routledge, 2009. Lebesco, Kathleen, and Peter Naccarato, eds. The Bloomsbury Handbook of Food and Popular Culture. Bloomsbury, 2017. Johnston, Josée, and Shyon Baumann. Foodies: Democracy and Distinction in the Gourmet Foodscape. Routledge, 2015. Abidin, Crystal. Internet Celebrity: Understanding Fame Online. Emerald Publishing, 2018. Heldke, Lisa. Exotic Appetites: Ruminations of a Food Adventurer. Routledge, 2003. Narayan, Uma. Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third World Feminism. Routledge, 1997. Willett, Walter et al. "Food in the Anthropocene: The EAT–Lancet Commission on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems." The Lancet, 2019. Garnett, Tara. Food Sustainability: Problems, Perspectives and Solutions. Oxford University Press, 2014. Steel, Carolyn. Hungry City: How Food Shapes Our

Affidavit

- We, Rajagiri College of Management & Applied Sciences, Kakkanadu and Dr. Anju Maria Sebastian, agree to permit the use of our proposed course syllabus by other faculty members within the same discipline for course delivery at their respective institutions.
- We, Rajagiri College of Management & Applied Sciences, Kakkanadu, agree to appoint a new course coordinator for the proposed Stories of Taste: Food Narratives in Literature and Film in the event of the unavailability of the currently nominated coordinator. This appointment will ensure the continued coordination of course delivery, assessments, and all related academic responsibilities necessary for the successful implementation of the signature course, for as long as the college offers this programme.
- We, Rajagiri College of Management & Applied Sciences, Kakkanadu and Dr. Anju Maria Sebastian, declare that no part of this signature course submitted here for approval has been taken from the course content developed by, or from any of the course titles prepared by, the BoS/expert committee in the same discipline under our University.