Introduction to Literature in English (ENGL 1000)

Credit Hours: 4

Course Pre-Requisites: None

Instructor Name: Farah Hasan Ali

Schedule: Monday to Friday (2.00 PM – 4.50 PM)

Course Description

The goal of this class is to bring Literature to life, to help students enjoy, interpret and reflect on different genres of literary texts. It is about society and what it means to be a man or a woman living in this world and reflecting on it.

We will try to find out if Literature is helpful and relevant or is it just a form of entertainment. We will approach a story without spoiling our enjoyment of it through ‘over-analysing.’ We will strive to see the issues in our own lives reflected in what we read, and through a historical perspective, gain wisdom on how to live.

To begin, we will think about issues that are relevant to us. While good stories have something to say and can entertain us with their message and with the skill with which they are assembled, an important question is this: are they just entertainment? Or do they address the same issues that we as men and women struggle with—that indeed all humankind has always struggled with—: love, power, identity, ambition, spirituality, conformity, individual identity, fame, money, death, failure, politics, and fear?

To answer some of these questions, the course will tackle various texts that mainly deal with different aspects of life. We will examine them in two ways: Firstly, from a historical perspective by looking at their setting, characterisation, and motives, and secondly, by thinking whether they are still relevant and hence valid statements on our modern times.

The literary elements and terms such as plots, climax, decline (resolution), irony, and imagery will be discussed as part of the texts in totality.