Introduction to Literature in English (ENGL 1000)

Credit Hours: 4

Instructor: Farah Hasan Ali

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

This four-credit introductory course does not assume that students have a prior knowledge of Literature. The course is designed to ensure that students with no acquaintance with Literature as well as those who have received some exposure to the discipline in high school feel at home. It seeks to introduce students to the distinguishing features of the principal genres of poetry, the novel, and drama through a close and sustained engagement with poems, plays, novels, and short stories drawn from a wide range of historical periods within the field of English studies. “Non-fictional” genres like biographies, autobiographies, letters, diaries, speeches, and documents will also receive some attention. This course will also attempt to provide a broad overview of the discipline of English Studies, including Literary and Historical periods, Literary Movements, and Literary Theories. We will grapple with questions like the relationship of literary form to content and what, if anything is particularly and peculiarly ‘literary’ about literary works. Notable among the questions that will come up for consideration is the tangled issue of canon formation and the politics surrounding canon formations.