

Call for Papers:

Interested participants are requested to send an abstract within 250 words with 5 keywords to ugbenglishseminar@gmail.com by February 24, 2019. Acceptance of abstracts will be communicated to the participants by February 26, 2019. Full papers, not exceeding 3000 words can be submitted on the day of the seminar. The abstract and a short bio-note (within 50 words) of the author(s) should be mailed as a single MS word attachment, font size 12 in Times New Roman with 1.5 line spacing. Participants are to adhere to the guidelines provided in the MLA handbook (latest edition).

- On both the seminar days working lunch and light refreshments will be provided to the participants.
- Because of financial constraints, no TA/DA & other allowances will be provided to the participants for attending the seminar.
- The Seminar Organizing Committee is unable to provide accommodation to the outstation participants. However, assistance may be provided to find adequate hotel accommodation on prior request.
- In case of presentation made by joint authors, each of them should get registered separately.

How to reach Malda and the University:

Malda is a district town located at the heart of West Bengal and is well connected to the entire India through rail and bus services. The nearest railway station is Malda Town (IRCTC code: MLDT) and N.H. 34 connects it to the northern and the southern parts of Bengal. By road the distance of Malda from Kolkata is 326 kilometers and from Siliguri is 253 kilometers.

The University is situated on N.H. 34 near Rabindra Bhavan. The Central Bus Terminus is adjacent to the University campus. City Buses, Auto/ Toto Rickshaws and Rickshaws on solo and sharing basis are available at reasonable rates throughout the day from the Railway station.

Seminar Organizing Committee

Professor Swagata Sen
Vice Chancellor, University of Gour Banga
Patron of the Seminar

Professor Amit Bhattacharya
Professor and Head, Dept of English, UGB
Convener of the Seminar

Dr Samipendra Banerjee, Asst. Professor of
English, UGB: Joint Organizing Secretary

Sri Sabuj Sarkar, Asst. Professor of English,
UGB: Joint Organizing Secretary

Sri Bibek Adhikary, Asst. Professor of
English, UGB: Treasurer
Registration Procedure:

Registration can be done on the day of the seminar at the registration desk. Participants will have to pay ₹ 500 (Five hundred rupees only) as seminar registration fee.

UGC Sponsored Two-day International Seminar *Re-reading British Poetry across Time and Space: Themes, Issues and Perspectives*



March 12 & 13, 2019

*Organized by:
Department of English
University of
Gour Banga*

**Venue:
Department of English
University of Gour Banga
N.H. 34, Malda
West Bengal, India 732103**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that the Department of English, University of Gour Banga, is organizing a UGC sponsored International Seminar on “Re-reading British Poetry across Time and Space: Themes, Issues and Perspectives” on March 12 & 13, 2019.

On behalf of the Seminar Organizing Committee, I cordially invite you to participate in the said seminar and share your views on the subject.

With warm regards,

Professor Amit Bhattacharya
Convener, Seminar Organizing Committee
Dept. of English, UGB

Seminar Concept Note:

Unlike in any other literary genre that one can date to specific texts and / or periods it is difficult to specify the earliest instances of poetry. Though the seeds of British poetry (nay, British literature) were sown as early as the Anglo-Saxon period (circa 6th century AD), Geoffrey Chaucer (14th century AD) is now regarded as the father of British poetry and any course on this subject generally encompasses seven uneven and eventful centuries. The vast time frame, i.e. from the 14th century to the present, and the spatial diversity of Britain, i.e. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as the Empire poses a challenge for its readers and critics. In fact, re-reading the corpus should involve a critique of the poetic harvest from multiple perspectives ranging from social, political, historical, cultural, linguistic and environmental to religious, ethnic, and gendered. As the worldview and the poetics evolve, these also influence a poet and her/ his

creation. After all, a poet or any litterateur is the product of the various forces that form and frame the society of her/ his time. The change from the theocentric to the anthropocentric, and then through the logocentric to the ecocentric worldview had its bearings on the poets and their works. Similarly, there has been a sea-change in the treatment of nature and subjectivity (“I”) in British poetry across time and space. Nature, for example, is not the same for Pope and Wordsworth, or for Tennyson and Ted Hughes. Poets across generations have experimented with different forms of poetry, embracing or discarding particular poetic conventions and inventions. Thus, there have been different trends across different periods: heroic poetry, religious poetry, love poetry, death poetry, visual poetry, prose poetry and so on. Same is the case of colonialism, imperialism, post-imperialism, cosmopolitanism as well as globalization –each of these happenings shape the poetics across the ages. The two World Wars also have produced a bulk of poetic works classified under the heading “War Poetry”. The indeterminacy as well as the inexhaustibility of poetic interpretation has generated countless readings of British poetry over the years. Grierson and Smith, Geoffrey Leech, Richard Bradford and Ruth Glancey, among others, have provided us with a few yet formidable readings and histories, emphasizing in the process the need for further investigations into its themes, techniques and trends.

As such, this seminar intends to make a coordinated effort at probing the temporal and spatial dimensions of British poetry and uncover the nuances of evolution and/or revolution, which have forged a rich poetic tradition. Scholarly articles are invited that will initiate fresh discourses on different aspects of this vast poetic corpus. The seminar abstracts may address (but may not be confined to) the issues specified in the “sub-themes” section.

The Seminar Organizing Committee reserves the right to make the final selection.

Sub-themes:

- British poetry and its poetics
- The periods of British poetry
- British poetry and society
- British poetry: religion and spirituality
- British poetry: gender and sexuality
- British poetry: Nature and environment
- British poetry and diasporicity
- British poetry and the empire
- British poetry and conflict
- British poetry and marginality
- British poetry and performance/ performativity
- British poetry and the sea
- British poetry and the ethnic question
- British poetry and the language question
- British poetry and the nation question
- British poetry and the visual arts
- British poetry: readership and the canon
- British poetry: cosmopolitanism and indigeneity
- British poetry and spatiality
- British poetry and historiography