

Frequently asked questions for English Course

Q 1. What does the English Honours course entail?

Ans. The BA English Honours course is meant to introduce the student to literatures written in English and translated into English. English Honours students study three types of papers - the Discipline or Core papers, which are compulsory; the Discipline-centric Elective papers, four of which students select to study in the fifth and sixth semesters; and the AECC papers, which are meant to impart communication skills among the students. There are fourteen Discipline Papers, fourteen Discipline-centric Electives and two AECC papers.

Students begin the course by studying Classical Literatures in English translation of Classical Indian (Sanskrit and Tamil) and Classical European and Semitic (Greek, Roman and Hebrew) literatures. They also study Indian Writing in English, American literature, Popular Literature, Women's writing, Modern European Drama and Postcolonial literature. But the main thrust of the course is a systematic study of British literature on which they study six papers, starting from Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century to early 20th century British literature.

From the discipline-centric Elective Papers, the students can select the papers of their interest that are being offered in the college. It has papers like British literature post World War II, Nineteenth century European Realism, Literary Theory and Science fiction and Detective Literature.

Ques. What are the courses offered in the English (Hons) course?

Ans. In Semester I, the courses offered are: "An Introduction to Literary Studies" and "European Classical Literature." In Semester II, the Courses offered are: "Indian Classical Literature," and "British Literature I: From Medieval to the Renaissance." In Semester III, "British Literature II: The 17th century," "British Literature III: The 18th century and "Literature and Caste". In Semester IV, we teach, "The Romantics," "British Literature V: The 19th century" and "Women's Writing." In Semester V, "Women's Writing," "British Literature: Early 20th century" and DCE: Discipline Centric Elective (2 Core Papers): "British Literature: Post World War II" and "19th century European Realism." In Semester VI, the courses offered are: "Modern European Drama" and "Postcolonial Literatures" and DCE (2 Core Papers): "Literature and Cinema" and "Literary Theory."

Ques. What is AECC?

Ans. AECC (Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course). - English A/ English Communication is taught. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to theory, fundamentals and tools of communication and to develop in them vital communication skills which should be integral to personal, social and professional interactions. One of the critical links among human beings and an important thread that binds the society together is the ability to share thoughts, emotions and ideas through various means of communication: both verbal and non- verbal. In the context of rapid globalization and increasing recognition of social and cultural pluralities, the significance of clear and effective communication has substantially enhanced. This course addresses some of these aspects through an interactive mode of teaching-learning process and by focusing on various dimensions of communication skills. Some of these are language of communication, various speaking skills as personal communication, social interactions and communication in professional situations such as

interviews, group discussions and office environments, important reading skills as well as writing skills such as report writing, note taking etc.

Ques: What are Generic Courses? What courses does the Department of English offer?

Ans. The department offers a unique assortment of courses for students who wish to pursue it as a Generic Elective for four semesters. The intent is to develop their skills of critical thinking and reflection in a manner that allows students to expand their awareness and aptitude regarding significant issues such as gender, diversity, representation, and power through courses titled 'Language, Literature, and Culture', 'Cultural Diversity and Linguistic Plurality', and 'Contemporary India: Women Empowerment'. In addition to this, the elective courses are: 'Media and Communication Skills', and 'Academic Writing and Composition' which work toward honing the student's skills of expression on both academic and popular forums. Each of the above -mentioned course is comprised of a syllabus that provides a well-balanced outline for a thorough command on the theory and application regarding the said discipline. The department firmly believes that such intense and systemic exercises, as offered in these courses, provide conducive environment for personality development and transformation of students into responsible, innovative, and independent thinkers, which is ultimate aim of higher education.

Ques. What are the career prospects of an English Honours Graduate?

Ans. BA Honours in English is one of the most sought -after undergraduate courses at the University of Delhi. Using a variety of literary and even non-literary texts, the course aims to develop a keen ability to discern contexts and infer meanings, using advanced critical thinking skills. An exposure to such diverse content as well as systemic and intense exercises in building perspective also empower students with a unique blend of autonomous thought and self- expression. Armed with such a degree, often students lean towards creative careers such as professional writing or translation. One can also opt for a career as an academician or a teacher. If one is inclined towards the corporate sector, one can pursue an MBA after completing this degree. Mass communication or Journalism along with Civil Services have been popular choices of late. Since this course gives a command over the English language and certain sensitivity to contexts, careers in public relations or Law are also commonly pursued career options. These possibilities are only indicative and does in no way summarise the entire set of prospects. It is a degree that empowers the student with critical thinking and a sound understanding of the society and the world, and thus makes you suitable for almost any career you may want to pursue.