



M.A. ENGLISH ACTIVITY REPORTS 2022-23

WORKSHOP ON THE MLA-STYLE SHEET

Learning objectives:

Students will be encouraged to use the prescribed MLA style sheet for their assignments. Understand the basic formats of academic writing and to employ these in their further studies. Develop the ability to format a work of research aimed at the academic community. To learn how to present their academic work in the various formats recommended by various universities and journals.

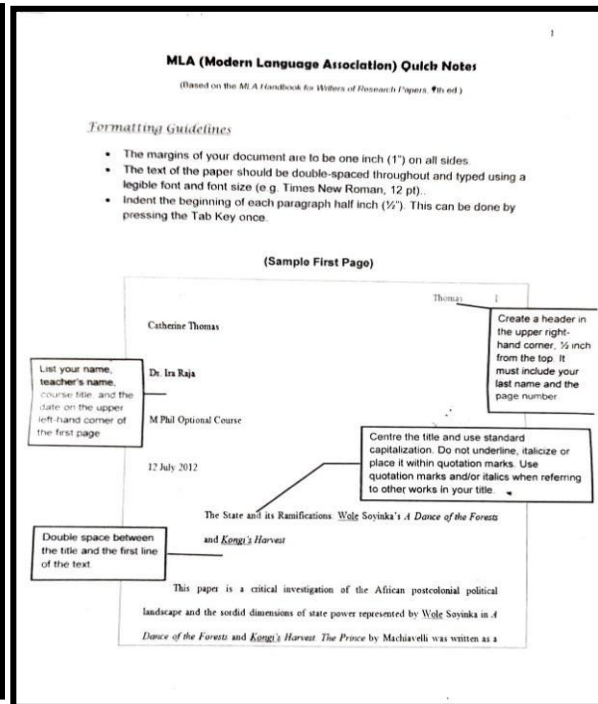
Description:

The Department of English organised an MLA Style Sheet Workshop for their PG students. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Annette James, Assistant Professor, Department of English, St. Bede's College, Shimla. The workshop focused on familiarising students with the basics of academic writing. Students were taught the importance of not plagiarising and pursuing original academic work. Referencing and making bibliographies for research were taught. The focus was largely on teaching the MLA style sheet, but the students were also made aware of the existence of various other style sheets. The students clarified their doubts at the end of the session.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this session, the attendees were able to:

- Give proper references and create a Work Cited/Bibliography page.
- Use the MLA Style Sheet to submit their assignments
- Structure their work to express their arguments better.



TO THE THEATRE! - DOCTOR FAUSTUS AT GAIETY THEATRE

Learning objectives: The objective of this theatre visit is to provide cultural exposure and literary appreciation to students at St. Bede's College, Shimla, particularly focusing on Christopher Marlowe's "Doctor Faustus." This experience aims to broaden cultural horizons through live theatre, fostering a deeper understanding of the arts. It also seeks to enhance literary analysis skills by delving into Renaissance literature, while exploring the complexities of translation in adapting classic works. Critical thinking and discussions about themes and characters in the play will be encouraged. Furthermore, the visit aligns with academic syllabi, providing practical exposure to course material, enriching academic understanding, and promoting a bridge between theoretical learning and real-world experience.

Description:

On 16th October 2022, the students and teachers from the Department of English, St. Bede's College, Shimla, visited the historic Gaiety Theatre to watch an adapted production of *Doctor Faustus* by the Gaiety Theatre Repertory. This tragic play, written by the Renaissance playwright Christopher Marlowe, was translated into Hindi by Late Sh. Badri Singh Bhatt, and adapted onto the stage by the Gaiety Dramatic Society under the direction of Kedar Thakur. A roaring success, the play was an enriching event for the students as the play while being a part of both UG and PG syllabi, was an opportunity for the students to experience live the various facets of a tragedy, from Greek tragic elements like catharsis to the aspects of English Morality



plays as the seven deadly sins paraded on stage. It was also a lesson in effective translation between languages and from a text to the stage.

Learning Outcomes:

- Participants gained cultural awareness through live theatre, deepening their understanding of arts. They developed a profound appreciation for Christopher Marlowe's work in the context of Renaissance literature. Participants also grasped the complexities of translating literature, improving language comprehension and translation skills.
- Moreover, students and teachers engaged in critical discussions, analysing themes, character motivations, and moral dilemmas.
- Ultimately, this theatre visit bridges the gap between academic learning and practical experience, nurturing a deeper appreciation for literature and theatre within the educational community.





LET US TALK RESEARCH! – AT THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY

Learning objectives:

- To introduce students from the Department of English at St. Bede's College, Shimla, to the world of academic research and its significance in the field of literature.
- To provide an opportunity for participants to interact with Dr. Siddharth Satpathy, an experienced researcher in South Asian Studies and Postcolonial thought.
- To explore the historical and academic heritage of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, enriching participants' knowledge of the institution's significance.
- To offer students valuable insights and guidance on initiating their research journeys, including tips on selecting research topics and aligning with contemporary trends in literature.

Description:

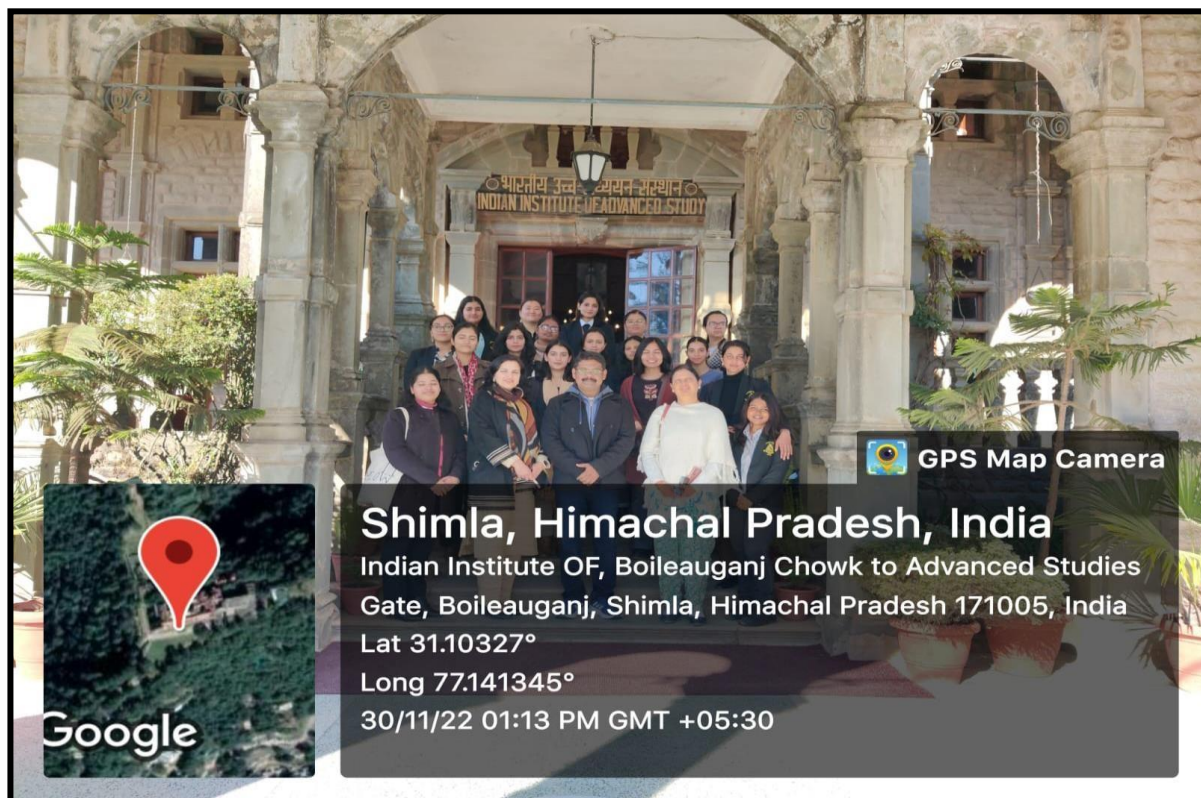
On 30th November 2022, the Department of English, St. Bede's College, Shimla, ventured into the historical site of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study to meet with Dr Siddharth Satpathy. Dr Satpathy is an Assistant Professor at the University of Hyderabad and is currently a Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study. His research interests include South Asian Studies and Postcolonial thought. Dr Satpathy was our host for the day as the students from UG and PG courses and the teachers of St. Bede's College, Shimla, were led through a guided tour of well-chronicled sites within the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies. Dr Satpathy, the students, and the teachers gathered for an interactive session after the tour. The session, led by Dr Satpathy, highlighted the need for research, providing the students with various tips and guidance on beginning their research quest. He spoke about the Odia autobiographies he is currently working on and encouraged the students to find their niches while balancing with the current trends in literature. The students' questions on finding their research interests, pursuing further studies in research-oriented universities, etc., were all addressed. Overall, it was a fruitful and enlightening session that the students enjoyed.

Learning Outcomes:

- Participants developed an understanding of the importance of academic research in the field of English literature and related disciplines.
- Attendees gained exposure to Dr. Siddharth Satpathy's research expertise, enabling them to learn from an experienced scholar in South Asian Studies and Postcolonial thought.
- Students and teachers also appreciated the historical and academic significance of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study by exploring its well-chronicled sites.
- Attendees gained clarity on pursuing further studies in research-oriented universities and avenues for future research.



- The interactive session with Dr. Satpathy inspired and motivated students to embark on their research journeys with confidence and enthusiasm.



A WORKSHOP ON THE STRUCTURE OF LANGUAGE

Learning objectives:

The objectives of this linguistic course for first-year PG students at St. Bede's College, Shimla, include introducing fundamental linguistic concepts, mastering phonetics and the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), analysing speech sounds, understanding stress and tone, grasping grammar basics, and providing hands-on practice. This course aims to equip students with a strong linguistic foundation for their academic journey and future linguistic endeavours.

Description:

On the 14th and 15th of April 2023, the Department of English, St. Bede's College, Shimla, organised a workshop on the Structure of Language for our first-year PG students. The resource person was Dr Paroma Sanyal, an Associate Professor of Linguistics at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. The workshop focused on the basics of linguistics, which included phonetics and morphology.

On the first day, Dr Sanyal helped the students to understand how sounds are made from our bodies, especially speech sounds. She then familiarised our students with the IPA chart used for phonemic transcriptions. The students learnt about the various sounds of consonants, vowels, aspirations, etc. The students then tried their hand at the phonetic transcription of words in English and their mother tongues. They were also taught the importance, semantic differences



and markings for stress and tone in speech.

The second day included a revision of phonetics, and then the students moved on to understanding the basics of grammar. This part had a quick introduction to syntax and morphology. The students learnt to identify the morphological structure of words and tried their hand at the task. The workshop ended with the students understanding linguistic structures and how to use them through practice.

Learning Outcomes:

- Participants gained a foundational understanding of linguistics, its importance in the study of language, and its relevance to their academic pursuits.
- Students also acquired the ability to identify, articulate, and transcribe speech sounds using the International Phonetic Alphabet, improving their phonetic analysis skills.
- Attendees also develop the capability to distinguish between different speech sounds, including consonants, vowels, and aspirated sounds, with an awareness of their semantic implications.
- The workshop empowered the students to apply their linguistic knowledge through hands-on exercises, enhancing their ability to use linguistic structures effectively.





A WORKSHOP ON MODERN EUROPEAN DRAMA

Learning objectives:

The workshop aimed to provide students with a comprehensive grasp of the historical moments, literary trends, influential writers, and significant works that shaped Modern European Drama during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It also encourages students to engage in thoughtful discussions regarding the moral and philosophical questions posed by 19th-century dramas, fostering critical thinking skills. The workshop also aimed to develop a skill of comparative analysis of works.

Description:

On the 14th and 15th of April 2023, the Department of English, St. Bede's College, Shimla, organised a workshop on Modern European Drama for our second-year PG students. Our resource person for the event was Mr Jobin Thomas, an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi.

On the workshop's first day, we engaged our students in an in-depth review of the significant historical moments, trends, writers and works. The students understood literary and social movements like Neo-classicism, Naturalism, Realism, Nihilism, Marxism, Existentialism, etc., that informed the plays written during the late 19th century and the early 20th century. The discussion ranged from the works of Emile Zola to Henrik Ibsen. The talks on *Therese Raquin* led our students to the questions of morality that plagued the 19th century. They were given copies of two theatre productions: Anton Chekov's *The Cherry Orchard* and Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts*, and they were asked to watch either one of the plays along with the text. The first day ended with the students holistically understanding the philosophies backing modern European drama.



The second day began with musings on what constitutes a modern tragedy. The students were encouraged to jot down the features of classic Greek tragedies and Renaissance tragedies and then asked to compare them to the play they watched. The students came up with many differences, but the one common conclusion they all agreed with was that the modern tragedy does not think of death as the ultimate end but instead sees death as an escape from a life capable of being much crueller. Mr Thomas then led our students through Freytag's Pyramid on dramatic structure, which led to a deeper understanding of the various stages of drama. Our students also role-played some characters like Regina from Ibsen's *Ghosts* or Estragon from Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. The workshop ended with an in-depth analysis of *The Cherry Orchard* and *Ghosts*.

Learning Outcomes:

Participants gained a thorough understanding of the historical context that shaped modern European drama, including the influence of literary and social movements. Students developed an appreciation for the works of significant playwrights such as Emile Zola, Henrik Ibsen, and Anton Chekhov, understanding the themes and philosophies inherent in their plays. The workshop bridged the gap between textual analysis and performance, helping students appreciate the multidimensional nature of drama. The workshop encouraged students to immerse themselves in the roles of characters from selected plays, improving their understanding of character development and motivations.





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