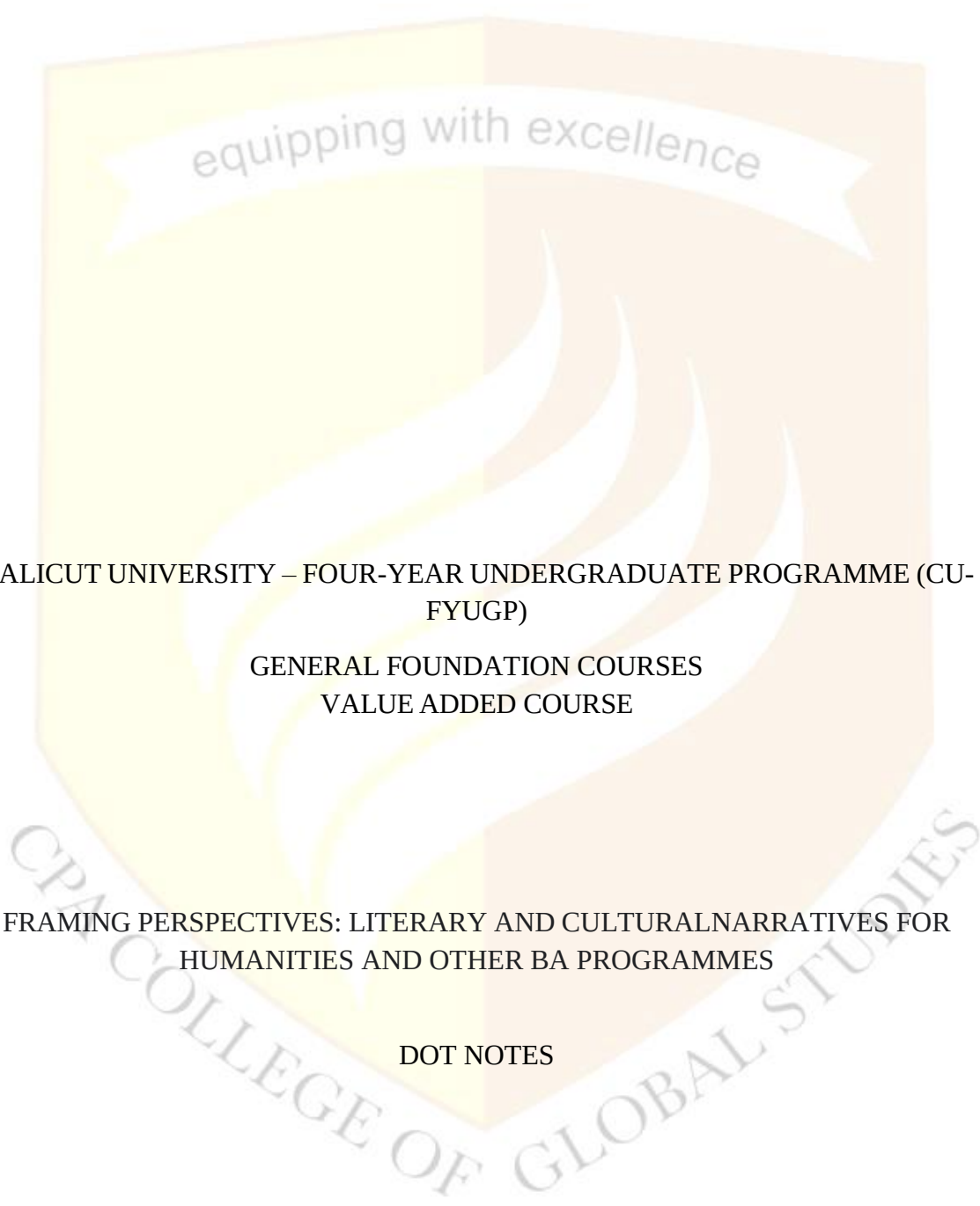


The logo of CPA College of Global Studies is a shield-shaped emblem. It is divided into four quadrants by a white, stylized flame or leaf-like shape that curves from the bottom left towards the top right. The top-left quadrant is yellow, the top-right is orange, the bottom-left is light yellow, and the bottom-right is light orange. A white banner with the text "equipping with excellence" is draped across the top of the shield. The text "CPA COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES" is written in a light grey, sans-serif font, curving along the bottom edge of the shield.

CALICUT UNIVERSITY – FOUR-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME (CU-
FYUGP)

GENERAL FOUNDATION COURSES
VALUE ADDED COURSE

FRAMING PERSPECTIVES: LITERARY AND CULTURAL NARRATIVES FOR
HUMANITIES AND OTHER BA PROGRAMMES

DOT NOTES

Prepared by
Sumayya C P
Surya P V

CALICUT UNIVERSITY – FOUR-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME (CU-
FYUGP)

GENERAL FOUNDATION COURSES
VALUE ADDED COURSE

Programme	GENERAL FOUNDATION COURSES
Course Code	ENG4FV109(1B)
Course Title	FRAMING PERSPECTIVES: LITERARY AND CULTURAL NARRATIVES FOR HUMANITIES AND OTHER BA PROGRAMMES
Type of Course	VALUE-ADDED COURSE (VAC) - BA HUMANITIES AND OTHER BA PROGRAMMES
Semester	4

Detailed Syllabus:

Module	Unit	Content	Hours (45)	Marks (50)
I	Harmony in Nature		9	13
	1	The Earth Speaks- Rainer Maria Rilke	2	
	2	A Mild Attack of Locusts - Dorris Lessing	2	
	3	Man, and Nature in India: The Ecological Balance- Salim Ali	3	
	4	A Flowering Tree - A K Ramanujan	2	
		Suggested Activities: 1. Create a piece of artwork (painting, sculpture, digital art) or a short video (3-5 minutes) that represents the concept of harmony in nature. 2. Write newspaper article on how people have been conserving nature specific to the learner's locality. 3. Write a review of a documentary/movie that talks about the destruction of nature. 4. Visit a site where people have been living in harmony with nature.		
II	Harmony in Humanity		9	12
	5	Invictus- William Ernest Henley	2	
	6	Old Man at the Bridge- Ernest Hemingway	2	
	7	We Should All Be Feminists - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	3	
	8	The Silent Child- Chris Overton https://youtu.be/2GbxFIVQv8c?si=qZhAnZ2LfTvCSkkF	2	
		Suggested Activities: 1. Conduct a panel discussion on how cultural diversity contributes to societal harmony and the ways in which intercultural relationships foster mutual respect and understanding. 2. Select a specific example of a community or program that has successfully promoted cultural harmony. Analyze the strategies used and their outcomes. 3. Conduct programmes in your institution based on the theme of cultural diversities. 4. Conduct a mock interview with a social worker.		

III	Arts and Society		9	13
	9	Blowin' in the Wind- Bob Dylan	2	
	10	'Guernica' Did Nothing- Which is Why it Still Matters- David McCarthy https://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2023/04/24/guernica-antiwar-art-still-matters/ideas/essay/	2	
	11	<i>The Day I Became a Woman</i> - Dir. Marzieh Makhmalbaf	3	
	12	How India's Street Art Scene is Bringing about Social Change- Sky's Saskia Lumley https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SExAIcu36ZI	2	
		Suggested Activities: 1. Organise a photo exhibition on the theme 'Social Emancipation'. 2. Conduct discussions on the importance of art literacy in society and the role of education in promoting it. 3. Watch movies/documentaries that call for social change. 4. Compile art forms that speak about society.		
IV	Towards Holistic Living		9	12
	13	Wind Women- Jeannette Armstrong	2	
	14	The Bear Came over the Mountain- Alice Munro	2	
	15	Excerpt from <i>Laughing Cancer Away: An Actor's Memoir</i> - Innocent	3	
	16	A Day in the Life of Griffin and Turner- <i>Special Book by Special Kids</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_JqXHiz-vfQ&t=1047s	2	
		Suggested Activities: 1. Write an article about a person who has survived a major illness. 2. Write a review of an autobiography of a person with disabilities. 3. Conduct a panel discussion about the issues and triumphs of old age. 4. Adapt and enact a skit that discusses the life of people from minority communities.		
V	Open-Ended		9	

Module 1: Harmony in Nature

Unit. 1 - The Earth Speaks- Rainer Maria Rilke

About the Author:

- Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926) was a famous Austrian poet and writer, widely regarded as one of the greatest lyrical poets of the 20th century. He is best known for his deep, philosophical poetry that explores nature, existence, spirituality, love, and the inner life of human beings. Rilke believed that nature and the universe are alive and meaningful, and many of his poems give a *voice* to natural elements like the earth, animals, and objects. His poetry often encourages humility, self-awareness, and harmony with nature.

About the Text:

- “The Earth Speaks” is a philosophical and symbolic poem in which the Earth itself speaks to human beings. Through this voice, Rilke expresses the idea that humans are not masters of the Earth but a small, temporary part of it. The poem emphasizes unity between humans and nature, the transience of human life, and the Earth’s quiet endurance beyond human ambition and pride.
- The central idea of the poem is that the Earth is eternal and patient, while human beings are temporary and often arrogant. The Earth reminds humans that everything they build, possess, or destroy eventually returns to the soil. Humans must therefore live with humility and respect for nature.
- The poem "The Earth Speaks" by Rainer Maria Rilke is a powerful reflection on the interconnectedness of all living beings and the Earth's role as a nurturing mother.
- It begins with the Earth's declaration of its specialness and its responsibility to humans, trees, birds, and wildlife. The poem emphasizes the importance of preserving the Earth's environment and the consequences of human actions that harm it.
- It calls for action to defend and mend the Earth, highlighting the urgency of environmental stewardship. The poem's tone is one of deep concern and a plea for humanity to take responsibility for the well-being of the planet.

Unit 2 - A Mild Attack of Locusts - Dorris Lessing

- The short story *A Mild Attack of Locusts*, first published in *The New Yorker* in 1955, is set on a 3,000-acre maize farm in rural southern Africa. The vast, open, wind-swept landscape emphasizes the small and fragile presence of humans when placed against the immense forces of nature.

- *A Mild Attack of Locusts* by Doris Lessing describes a locust invasion on a large maize farm in southern Africa. Through Margaret's experience, the story shows how powerless humans are in front of nature's forces. The locusts destroy the crops completely, causing fear and despair among the farmers. However, instead of giving up, they try to stop the insects from laying eggs and plan to replant the fields. The story highlights both the destructive power of nature and the resilience of human beings.
- The story is largely experienced through Margaret's perspective, which allows readers to feel the emotional and psychological impact of the locust invasion. Through her reactions, Lessing conveys the insignificance and vulnerability of individuals when faced with natural forces beyond human control.
- As the locusts strip the fields bare, Margaret experiences deep despair, shock, and helplessness. The destruction of the crops represents not only economic loss but also the crushing of human hopes and security.
- Despite the overwhelming devastation, the farmers do not surrender. They continue their efforts to drive away the swarm, fully aware that preventing the locusts from laying eggs is their only chance of survival. Their actions reflect human persistence even in seemingly hopeless situations.
- After the locusts pass, the farmers immediately plan to replant the crops, showing remarkable resilience. This response highlights the cyclical nature of life—ruin followed by renewal—and humanity's determination to rebuild despite repeated losses.
- On a deeper level, the story moves beyond physical destruction to explore a philosophical question about humanity's place in the natural world. Lessing suggests that while nature is unstoppable and indifferent, human beings endure through courage, adaptability, and the will to begin again.

Unit 3 - Man, and Nature in India: The Ecological Balance- Salim Ali

- Salim Ali was an ornithologist and naturalist, sometimes referred to as the "Birdman of India". He was among the first Indians to conduct systematic bird survey across India. He became the key figure behind the Bombay Natural History and created Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1958 and Padma Vibhushan in 1976.
- The essay highlights the growing awareness in India about wildlife conservation and the need to protect nature and wild places. However, the writer stresses that conservation cannot succeed unless humans understand that their own future is closely linked with the survival of nature.
- The author explains that since man became an agriculturist, his impact on the environment has been largely destructive. Population growth and misuse of land have caused severe ecological damage.

- Many ancient civilizations such as Egypt, West Asia, Carthage, and the Indus Valley declined due to environmental degradation. Forests were destroyed, land became infertile, and fertile regions slowly turned into deserts.
- In India, forests and wildlife have been overused as if they were unlimited resources. The rapid growth of human population is identified as the main reason for the depletion of natural resources.
- The essay refers to M.S. Randhawa's study, which shows that northern India has become much drier over the last 2,000 years. Areas like Mathura, once rich in rainfall and forests, have turned into semi-desert regions due to deforestation.
- The decline of wildlife clearly shows environmental degradation. The Great Indian Rhinoceros, once found across North India, is now limited to a few sanctuaries because its swampy habitat has been destroyed.
- Similarly, the pink-headed duck became extinct due to habitat loss, and the lion's distribution changed because forests were cleared for farming. Eventually, even the lion lost its habitat to human expansion.
- The author emphasizes that habitat destruction is the main cause of the disappearance and rarity of wildlife species. This process is still continuing under population pressure.
- Apart from visible losses, there are invisible losses that affect agriculture. Killing snakes, frogs, owls, and birds of prey has increased pests like rats, insects, and crabs, harming crops.
- The use of chemical pesticides and herbicides has polluted water, soil, and air. These chemicals, meant to increase food production, have instead caused environmental damage and now threaten human health as well.
- The author strongly argues that population control is essential. Conservation efforts alone are not enough unless human population growth is effectively checked.
- To solve the problem, man must understand his biological limits. Though intellectually advanced, humans are physically subject to natural laws like other animals.
- The essay suggests learning from nature and animal behavior, such as seasonal breeding and natural population control seen in insects like ants and bees.
- In conclusion, the author warns that unless humans discipline themselves and respect ecological laws, they may face ecological disaster. Conservation and population control are necessary not only to save nature but also for the survival of mankind.

Unit 4 - A Flowering Tree - A K Ramanujan

- "A Flowering Tree" is a short story by A. K. Ramanujan, included in his 1997 collection *A Flowering Tree and Other Oral Tales from India*. The story is based on Karnataka folklore and uses elements of myth and magic.
- The story revolves around a young girl who has the magical power to transform into a flowering tree. With the help of her elder sister, she turns into a tree, and the sister gently plucks flowers to sell in the market. This helps the poor family survive.

- A major theme of the story is the connection between women and nature. The girl's transformation into a tree symbolizes femininity, creativity, nurturing, and beauty. At the same time, it also shows the vulnerability of women, just like nature, which can be easily exploited.
- The story can be studied from an ecofeminist perspective. Ecofeminism highlights the link between the oppression of women and the exploitation of nature. The girl's request to be treated gently as a tree suggests the need for respect and care toward both women and the environment.
- The tale reflects traditional cultural values while also questioning patriarchal attitudes. Women in the story are not passive; they take action to support their family and shape their fate, which challenges traditional gender roles.
- When a prince discovers the secret, the story takes a tragic turn. The magical power that once helped the girl becomes a reason for her suffering. This shows how women are often objectified or used for their abilities and beauty.
- The story ultimately highlights themes of love, sacrifice, exploitation, and loss, ending on a sorrowful note that underlines the fragile position of women in society.
- "A Flowering Tree" blends folklore with feminist and ecological concerns. Through a magical story, Ramanujan delivers a powerful message about the need to respect women and nature, warning against exploitation and domination.

MODULE II – HARMONY IN HUMANITY

Unit 5- Invictus- William Ernest Henley

William Ernest Henley (1849–1903)

He was an English poet, critic, and editor. He wrote *Invictus* in 1875 while recovering from a serious illness in hospital. Henley had tuberculosis of the bone, which caused the amputation of one of his legs. Despite pain and hardship, he remained mentally strong—this spirit is reflected in the poem.

- "Invictus" is a Latin word meaning "Unconquered" or "Undefeated." The title shows the central idea: human courage and inner strength cannot be defeated by external difficulties
- Main themes include Inner strength and courage Resilience in the face of suffering, Self-control and personal responsibility defiance against fate or hardships. The poem encourages people to stay strong even in the darkest situations.
- The poem has 4 stanzas. Each stanza has 4 lines (quatrains). The rhyme scheme is generally ABAB. The tone is serious, powerful, and determined. The speaker describes being surrounded by darkness and suffering. "Night" symbolizes difficulties, pain, or hopeless situations. Despite this darkness, he thanks the gods for his unconquerable soul.

- “Circumstances” represent life’s hardships and problems. The speaker says he did not cry or show weakness. “My head is bloody, but unbowed” means he is injured but refuses to surrender. He accepts suffering but refuses to lose his dignity or courage.

- Life is described as a place of anger and sadness. The “Horror of the shade” refers to death or the unknown future. Even though life and death are frightening, the speaker remains fearless. No matter what the future brings, he will not be afraid. Strait the gate” refers to religious judgment or strict moral rules. The speaker says it does not matter how harsh fate or judgment may be. The famous final lines emphasize complete self-control and independence.

UNIT 6- The old Man at the Bridge- Ernest Hemingway

- Ernest Hemingway (1899–1961) was a famous American novelist and short-story writer. He is known for his simple writing style and realistic themes. Hemingway won the Nobel Prize in Literature. His works often deal with war, human suffering, courage, and loneliness.
- A 76-year-old man from San Carlos. He is tired, weak, and unable to continue walking. His main concern is not his own safety but the animals he left behind. He represents innocent civilians affected by war.
- A soldier whose duty is to watch the bridge and observe enemy movement. He speaks kindly to the old man and tries to help him. He represents human sympathy during war.
- A soldier is watching a bridge near the Ebro River during the Spanish Civil War. Many civilians are crossing the bridge to escape the approaching enemy forces. Among them, the soldier notices an old man sitting near the road. The man looks very tired and cannot move further.
- The old man is 76 years old. He comes from San Carlos. His duty was taking care of animals.
- He left behind, two goats, a cat and Four pairs of pigeons. The old man is worried about them. He says the cat can take care of itself, but he fears the goats may die.
- The soldier encourages him to move to safety, but the old man says he cannot walk any further because he is exhausted.
- In the end, the soldier realizes the old man is too tired and helpless, and the story ends sadly with the old man still sitting by the road.

UNIT 7- WE SHOULD ALL BE FEMINISTS- CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is a Nigerian writer and speaker. She is known for writing about gender equality, identity, and social issues. This essay is based on her famous TEDxEuston Talk 2012.
- Feminism is the belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities.
- Adichie explains that feminism is not about hating men, but about creating a fair society for everyone.
- Adichie begins by sharing personal experiences from her childhood in Nigeria. When she was 14 years old, a friend called her a feminist as an insult. She later learned that many people misunderstand feminism. She explains how society treats boys and girls differently.
- When she was the best student, a boy was chosen as class monitor because he was male. Boys are taught to be strong and dominant. Girls are taught to be quiet, obedient, and dependent. She argues that these gender stereotypes harm both men and women.
- Adichie also discusses how society judges women: Women are criticized for being too ambitious. Women are judged by marriage and appearance more than achievements. She believes that culture should change, because cultures are made by people.

UNIT- 8

THE SILENT CHILD (SHORT FILM) –CHRIS OVERTON

- Chris Overton directed the short film. The screenplay was written by Rachel Shenton. The film won the Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film. It highlights the importance of communication and education for deaf children.
- Libby, a young deaf girl .who cannot hear or speak. She feels isolated because her family does not understand her needs. She becomes happier when she learns sign language.
- Joanne, A social worker and sign language teacher. She teaches Libby British Sign Language (BSL). She helps Libby discover a way to communicate with the world.
- Libby is a deaf child living with her family. Because she cannot hear, she struggles to communicate with others. Her family is often busy and does not give enough attention to her communication difficulties.
- A social worker named Joanne begins visiting Libby to teach her sign language.
- She becomes more confident and expressive. She forms a strong bond with Joanne.
- Communication is essential for learning, emotional connection, and confidence. The film shows how deaf children can feel isolated when people around them do not understand their needs.

- Learning sign language opens a new world for Libby'. The film encourages society to support children with disabilities and provide proper education.
- The film teaches that every child deserves the right to communicate and be understood.
- Providing proper support and education can transform the life of a child with disabilities.

MODULE III- ARTS AND SOCIETY

UNIT- 9

BLOWIN' IN THE WIND- BOB DYLAN

- Bob Dylan is a famous American singer, songwriter, and poet. The song was released in 1963 on the album *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan*. Dylan received the Nobel Prize in Literature for his contribution to literature through song lyrics. The song became an important protest song during the civil rights and peace movements.
- The song was written during the time of the American Civil Rights Movement and protests against war. It asks questions about freedom, peace, justice, and equality.
- The speaker asks a series of questions about human suffering, war, and injustice.

Examples:

- How long must people suffer before they become free?
- How many times must cannonballs fly before they are banned?
- How many deaths will it take before people realize too many have died?

The repeated line "The answer is blowin' in the wind" suggests that:

- The answers are obvious and everywhere, But people ignore them or fail to act.
- Blowin' in the Wind" symbolizes something present but not easily grasped.
- It suggests that: The solutions to problems like war and injustice already exist, But society must recognize and act on them.

- Themes

Peace, The song criticizes war and calls for peace in the world. 2. Freedom

- It questions how long people must struggle to achieve true freedom.³ Justice and EqualityThe song supports human rights and racial equality.
- Social Awareness, It encourages people to think about the problems of society
- The song encourages people to think deeply about injustice, war, and inequality and work toward a better world.

UNIT-10

‘GUERNICA’DID NOTHING- WHICH IS WHY IT STILL MATTERS – DAVID MCCARTHY

- The essay discusses the famous painting Guernica, created by Pablo Picasso in 1937.
- The painting was inspired by the Bombing of Guernica, which occurred during the Spanish Civil War.
- The town of Guernica was bombed by German and Italian aircraft supporting Spanish dictator Francisco Franco. Many civilians were killed.
- Picasso painted *Guernica* to show the horrors of war and suffering of innocent people.
- The title means: The painting did not stop the war or prevent violence.
- However, it continues to influence people by reminding them about the cruelty of war. So its power is symbolic and emotional rather than political.
- David McCarthy explains that when *Guernica* was first displayed, people expected it to create political change or stop war.
- But the painting did not immediately change events or policies.
- Even though it did not stop violence, it became one of the most powerful anti-war artworks in history.
- The painting shows: suffering civilians, injured animals and destruction and chaos
- These images strongly express the pain caused by war. Over time, the painting became a symbol of protest against violence and oppression.
- The essay argues that art does not always produce direct results, but it can shape people’s thinking and memory.

- 1. Horrors of War
- The essay shows how war destroys innocent lives.
- 2. Power of Art Even if art cannot stop war, it can make people remember the suffering caused by violence.
- 3. Memory and Awareness, The painting keeps the memory of the Guernica tragedy alive.
- Political Symbolism *Guernica* became an international symbol of peace and protest against war.
- The essay explains the significance of Picasso's *Guernica*, painted after the bombing of the Spanish town Guernica during the Spanish Civil War. Although the painting did not stop war or change political events, it became a powerful symbol of the suffering caused by war.
- David McCarthy argues that the painting still matters because it reminds people of the horrors of violence and the importance of peace

UNIT- 11-

THE DAY I BECAME A WOMAN- MARZIEHN MAKHMALBAF

About the Film

- Directed by Marzieh Meshkini (often associated with the filmmaker family of Mohsen Makhmalbaf). Released in 2000.
- The film presents three stories about women in different stages of life.
- It focuses on women's freedom, gender restrictions, and social expectations in Iranian society.
- The film is divided into three separate stories, each representing a stage in a woman's life:
 1. Hava – Childhood
 2. Ahoo – Youth
 3. Hoor – Old Age

Each story shows how society controls women's lives at different ages.

- Hava (Childhood)
- Hava is a nine-year-old girl. In her culture, turning nine means she must follow strict rules for girls, such as wearing a veil and not playing with boys.
- She wants to play with her friend Hasan one last time before these restrictions begin.

- Her grandmother gives her one hour to play before noon. Hava measures time using the shadow of a stick in the sand.
- This story shows the loss of childhood freedom when girls reach a certain age.

Ahoo (Youth)

- Ahoo participates in a bicycle race with other women.
- Her husband and male relatives try to stop her, saying women should not ride bicycles in public. Religious leaders also warn her to stop. Despite pressure, Ahoo continues cycling.

Hooraa (Old Age)

- Hooraa is an old woman who has just received her inheritance.
- She goes on a shopping trip with young boys and buys many household items she always wanted but never had.
- The boys carry the items to the beach and arrange them like a house.
- *The Day I Became a Woman* is a film consisting of three stories about women at different stages of life: childhood, youth, and old age.
- Through the characters Hava, Ahoo, and Hooraa, the film shows how cultural restrictions limit women's freedom.
- It highlights the struggles women face in society and emphasizes the importance of independence and equality.
- **The main themes are Women's Freedom; the film explores how women struggle to achieve independence in a restrictive society. Gender Inequality Women face rules and expectations that limit their choices. Stages of a Woman's Life. The film symbolically presents childhood, adulthood, and old age. Social and Cultural Restrictions The stories highlight how cultural traditions influence women's lives.**

UNIT 12

How India's Street Art Science is Bringing about Social Change- Sasika Lumley

- The report highlights how **street art in India** is not just decoration but a **powerful tool for social awareness, education, and community change**. Organisations such as the St+Art

India Foundation are using murals and public art to transform neglected spaces and start conversations about important social issues.

Art taken from galleries to the streets

- Street art projects move art from museums to **public walls where everyone can see it**. This makes art more democratic and accessible to ordinary people, including those who may never visit galleries. Walls, buildings, and streets become **open-air galleries**. Thousands of people encounter the artwork daily. Art becomes part of everyday life rather than elite culture.

Transforming neglected areas

- Street art projects have helped **revitalize rundown neighbourhoods**.

Example: Murals created in areas like Lodhi Art District turned ordinary streets into vibrant cultural spaces. In some places, previously unsafe or neglected areas became **tourist attractions and community spaces**.

- Raising awareness about social issues

Indian street artists use walls to highlight **important social problems**, such as: gender equality, environmental protection, human rights poverty and inequality and mental health

- Empowering marginalized communities

Street art also gives a voice to groups that are often ignored in society.

Example: The Aravani Art Project involves transgender artists who paint murals about their experiences and rights, helping increase visibility and social acceptance.

- This approach challenges stereotypes, encourages inclusivity and promotes equality in public spaces
- Connecting communities and encouraging dialogue

Street art projects often involve **local residents in the creative process**.

Benefits: people feel ownership of their neighbourhood, communities come together and public discussions about social issues increase

- Street art therefore acts as a **bridge between art, society, and civic participation**.

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MODULE IV
UNIT 13
WIND WOMEN –JEANNETE ARMSTRONG

About the Author

- Jeannette Armstrong is a Canadian Indigenous (Okanagan) writer, poet, and activist. Her works focus on **Indigenous culture, nature, spirituality, and respect for the earth.**
- She writes to preserve **Native traditions and environmental values.**
- The poem highlights the **power of nature and the spiritual presence of Wind Woman.** Wind is presented as a **living female spirit.**
- It emphasizes the **close relationship between humans and nature.** The poem also reflects **Indigenous beliefs about the natural world.**

Wind Woman as a Symbol

- Wind Woman represents **freedom, movement, and life force.** She travels across the land bringing **change, energy, and communication.** The wind is portrayed as a **protector and messenger of nature.**

Relationship with Humans

- Humans are shown as **part of nature, not separate from it.** The poem suggests that people must **respect natural forces** like the wind. It encourages harmony between **humans, land, and the environment.**

Literary Features

- **Personification:** Wind is described as a woman with human qualities. **Imagery:** Descriptions of movement and natural elements create vivid pictures. **Symbolism:** Wind symbolizes spiritual energy and connection with the earth

- The poem teaches that **nature is powerful and sacred**, and humans should **live respectfully with the natural world**.
- “Wind Woman” celebrates the **spiritual power of nature** and reflects Indigenous beliefs about **living in harmony with the earth**.
- The poem personifies the wind as a powerful female spirit called Wind Woman, who moves freely across the land and represents life, energy, and change. Through vivid imagery and symbolism, the poet shows that natural forces are living and sacred.
- Wind Woman reminds humans that they are part of the natural world and must respect it. The poem emphasizes harmony between people and the environment and highlights the wisdom of Indigenous traditions that view nature as a spiritual presence guiding and sustaining life.

UNIT 14

THE BEAR CAME OVER THE MOUNTAIN- ALICE MUNRO

- Alice Munro (1931–2024) was a famous Canadian short story writer. She is known for writing **deep and realistic stories about ordinary life**.
- “The Bear Came Over the Mountain” by Alice Munro tells the story of an elderly couple, Grant and Fiona. Fiona develops symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease and moves into a nursing home where she gradually forgets her husband and forms a close bond with another resident, Aubrey. Grant, who had been unfaithful earlier in their marriage, feels guilt and sadness as he watches Fiona drift away from him.
- The story explores themes of memory, aging, love, and sacrifice. In the end, Grant tries to bring Aubrey back to the home so Fiona can be happy, showing the complexity and endurance of love.
- Main Characters are **Grant** – Fiona’s husband, a retired university professor who had been unfaithful in the past. **Fiona** – Grant’s wife who develops symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease. **Aubrey** – A resident in the nursing home who becomes close to Fiona. **Marian** – Aubrey’s wife who later helps Grant bring Aubrey back.
- Grant and Fiona are an elderly married couple who have lived together for many years. Fiona begins to suffer from memory loss due to Alzheimer’s disease and moves to a nursing home. Because of the illness, she slowly forgets Grant and forms a strong emotional bond with another resident, Aubrey. Grant feels sadness and guilt because of his past affairs. When Aubrey leaves the home, Fiona becomes depressed. To make her happy, Grant tries to convince Aubrey’s wife to bring him back.

Major Themes

1. Memory and Forgetting

- The story shows how memory loss affects relationships and identity.

2. Love and Sacrifice

- Grant's final actions show that love sometimes means **sacrificing personal feelings for another person's happiness.**

3. Aging and Illness

- The story realistically portrays the challenges of **growing old and dealing with illness.**

4. Guilt and Redemption

- Grant's past unfaithfulness causes guilt, and he seeks emotional redemption through his actions.
- The story suggests that **love can change over time but still remain meaningful**, even when memory fades.

UNIT 15

EXCERPT FROM LAUGHING CANCER AWAY: AN ACTOR'S MEMOIR- INNOCENT

Innocent Vareed Thekkethala

- This memoir is written by Innocent Vareed Thekkethala, a famous Malayalam actor and former Member of Parliament. The excerpt describes his personal experience of fighting **Cancer** with courage and humour.
- It shows how a positive attitude helped him face the disease.
- Innocent Vareed Thekkethala (1948–2023) was a popular Malayalam film actor known for comedy roles.
- He also served as a Member of Parliament from the Communist Party of India (Marxist) supported constituency in Chalakudy. He wrote the memoir *Laughing Cancer Away* based on his real-life struggle with cancer.
- The author narrates the moment he learned that he had cancer. Instead of losing hope, he chose to **face the disease with humour and optimism.**
- His friends, family, and doctors supported him during the treatment.

The main themes are

1. Power of Positive Thinking

- The author shows that optimism and laughter can help people cope with serious illness.

2. Courage in Difficult Times

- Even after hearing the diagnosis of **Cancer**, he remained brave.

3. Importance of Support

- Family members, friends, and doctors play an important role in recovery.
- The memoir is written in a **simple, humorous and honest style**. Even serious situations are described with **light humour**.
- Illness should not destroy hope. **Laughter, courage, and a positive attitude** can help people overcome life's toughest challenges.
- The excerpt teaches readers that **life should be faced with courage and humour**, even in the most difficult situations like cancer.
- The excerpt from *Laughing Cancer Away: An Actor's Memoir* by Innocent Vareed Thekkethala describes the author's real-life experience of facing Cancer with courage and humour. When he is diagnosed with the disease, he initially feels shocked but soon decides to confront it positively.
- Instead of fear and sadness, he chooses laughter and optimism to deal with his illness. With the support of his family, friends, and doctors, he undergoes treatment bravely. The memoir shows how humour and a positive attitude can give strength during difficult times. It delivers an inspiring message that hope, courage, and laughter can help overcome life's greatest challenges.

UNIT 16

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF GRIFFIN AND TURNER

- A Day in the Life of Griffin and Turner'' is an essay by Nicholas Carr. The essay describes how **modern technology and the internet influence people's daily lives**.

- **Main Characters are Griffin – Represents a person who depends heavily on digital technology and the internet for work and communication. Turner – Represents a person who prefers traditional ways of working and living, with less dependence on technology.**
- The essay compares the daily routines of Griffin and Turner to show **two different lifestyles**—one dominated by digital technology and the other more traditional. It highlights how technology changes the way people **work, think, communicate, and spend time.**
- **The main themes are Impact of Technology**-Technology shapes modern life and affects productivity and thinking. **Digital Dependence**-Griffin’s life shows how people can become **dependent on digital devices. Traditional vs. Modern Life.** Turner represents a **simpler lifestyle with fewer digital distractions.**
- The essay encourages readers to **think about how much technology influences their lives** and whether a balance between digital and real-world activities is needed.
- “A Day in the Life of Griffin and Turner” shows the **contrast between technology-driven life and traditional living**, encouraging reflection on how technology affects human behaviour and daily routines.
- “A Day in the Life of Griffin and Turner” by Nicholas Carr contrasts two lifestyles shaped by technology. Griffin’s day is dominated by **digital devices, internet use, and constant connectivity**, showing how modern technology can consume time and influence thinking. Turner, in contrast, leads a simpler, more traditional life with **minimal reliance on technology**, focusing on personal interaction and slower routines.
- The essay highlights the **impact of technology on human behaviour, work, and social life.** It encourages readers to reflect on their own habits and consider finding a **balance between technology and real-life experiences.**