



# Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce

(An Autonomous College under Savitribai Phule Pune University)  
Senapati Bapat Road, Pune (Maharashtra) 411 004.

## M.A. ENGLISH (SEMESTER – 4)

### Writing for Academics, Editing and Publishing

**Objective:** The course explores writing as a practice and its essentials in an attempt to help develop the individual's writing skills and find expression according to the genre and market for which one writes. It will explore forms of writing through classroom discussions, writing exercises and constructive peer critiques. The course will also involve analysis of a wide variety of selected readings. The emphasis of the course is on extensive writing, writing practices and constructive self and peer criticism. Students will need to submit at least two projects – non-fiction and fiction, as well as an academic essay on topics of their choice and a group writing assignment besides the daily writing that will take place during the class hours.

#### Unit 1 - Writing Essentials

##### a) Ice breaker (2 classes)

- Sentences as worlds
- Fooling around with the sentence: imploding and exploding sentences
- Word play and etymology
- Forming new words

##### b) The Essentials of Writing: The writing toolbox

- Writing the coherent paragraph
- Thesis sentences and their importance. Types of thesis sentences vis-à-vis their subjects
- Body paragraphs
- Conclusions

##### c) Individual Exercise in writing out the essay followed by peer critique

#### UNIT 2 - Non-fiction: Creating compelling narratives from the world around us

- Theme
- Subject
- Paragraph formation (a continuation from and refinement of the paragraph writing done in unit 1)
- Presenting ideas in a structured manner
- Introducing and concluding
- Finding ideas around you: writing about the self and the world as it evolves
- The blank page before you and taking risk



## **Categories**

- I. Creative Non-fiction
- II. Memoir
- III. Formal Essay
- IV. Review Writing
- V. Writing for the Digital Media
- VI. Writing for the Print Media

**Individual and group exercises in writing a couple of different forms followed by peer critique**

### **UNIT 3- Fiction**

- Ideas
- Writing the narrative
- Scene
- Character
- Flat characters and vertical depth
- Dialogue (words to use and not use, to repeat or not while introducing speech; pace of dialogue; tone; frequency, register, etc)
- Description – push the envelope
- Tone, style, language, pace (will have elements in common with the preceding unit)
- Structure: short story and the novel

**Complete a short story each and in groups: individual writing and group dynamics with peer reviews and self assessment.**

### **UNIT 4 After You Have Written**

- I. Incubation and Editing: The essentials of editing. Will include self edit and peer edit
- II. How to tap into writing markets

### **UNIT 5- Academic Writing**

- 1) Kinds of academic writing –
  - Scholarly articles
  - Case Studies
  - Research proposals
  - Book reviews,
  - Brief research reports,
- 2) learning to respond to the field
  - Summarizing, agreement/ disagreement, Argument, Literature review
  - Citation, Plagiarism,
- 3) Styles – MLA, Chicago, Harvard, etc

**Writing a short research essay followed by peer-review**

