A Brief Course Outline:

 Literary studies have long conceded the importance of the study of the culture in which a text is produced and in which it is studied. This course purports to address questions like ‘what is literature’, ‘what is culture’, ‘what is the relationship between literature and culture’ and also ‘how are socio-cultural and historical events represented in contemporary literary production’? Such queries are sought to be answered through analyses of texts. This course is designed to study both the text and the context. In this course therefore we will be dealing with various texts that will train one to ‘read’ a literary text – be it a representative canonical text, a popular novel, a postcolonial novel, a detective novel, filmic adaptation of a literary text, representation in television serials, films, advertisements, or any other such cultural production that may be termed a ‘literary text’.

 The course is designed to allow study of contemporary literatures in all their diversity. While contemporary culture influences literary production, literature in its turn shapes cultural movements. The intent in this course is to study the various ramifications of this important dialectics between the two. Literature is one of several cultural representations and any study of it would be incomplete without a study of the various ‘literary texts’ that co-exist in literary and cultural history.

 The tentative list of texts are: Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice, the film adaptation titled “Bride and Prejudice”, Chetan Bhagat’s novels and their film version, Saradindu Bandyopadhyay’s novel and its film adaptation, lectures will be delivered on cultural representations in advertisements and television serials, Khushwant Singh’s Train to Pakistan/ Bapsi Sidhwa’s Ice Candy Man.
This course is designed to meet the requirements and interests of learners who want to perform effectively in both personal and professional life through a practical, learner-centered, activity-oriented, skill-based and functional approach to English in the oral as well as the written modes. Its objectives are to:

a) Develop communicative skills of learners in a professional context and thereby enable them to compete for a professional career and perform effectively in it.
b) Build learners’ confidence and fluency in the use of English leading to the development of the ability to communicate spontaneously and creatively.
c) Develop the skills of writing in different specific communicative situations (both personal/social and professional).
d) Develop skills of reading for the purpose of effective communication.
e) Help learners use grammar for effective communication and link grammatical structures to meanings, use and situations.