

Uniqueness of Department of English, Visva-Bharati

The Department of English is oriented to strike a sensitive balance between traditional and contemporary thrust areas of English studies. Promoting Indian Knowledge Systems, the curriculum includes courses on Indian Classical literature, Indian writings in English and in English translations, Dalit literature, Folk Literature, Literature from Northeast India, etc. Recognizing the distinct legacy of Visva-Bharati, the curriculum includes papers on Rabindranath Tagore's literary and philosophical writings.

The department also puts emphasis on the new allied fields of studies like performance studies, cinema studies and visual art studies. While the department encourages interdisciplinary research on representation of gender in literature and other art forms, it also promotes discourse on gender issues through curricular inclusion of courses on feminism and gender theories, performativity, women's writings, queer writings, etc. Another contemporary thrust area for the department is ecocriticism and research related to the Anthropocene.

The academic activities of the department including seminars, conferences, workshops and special invited lectures engage in emerging areas of domain research. A few recent academic events include a seminar on Literature and Pandemic, Indian Travel Writing, Researching Literature and Culture in the Twenty-First Century, the New Education Policy and the Liberal Arts University, Film Appreciation Workshop, Teaching Dalit Literature, etc.