

# **STUDENTS' RESEARCH PAPER WRITING AND PRESENTATION COMPETITION**

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

### **Topic: Popular Culture**

**(For students of the Department of English only)**

January – March, 2022

As in previous years, we will continue with our annual departmental research paper writing and presentation competition. This year we will focus on Popular Culture.

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

That the study of popular culture is now a distinctive branch of research in humanities is beyond doubt. Though intellectual interest in the popular is not entirely novel, it was only in 1964 with the formation of the Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies that the study of popular culture merited specialised attention. The scholars of the CCCS drew on Marxist and post-structuralist theories to analyse topics as diverse as jazz music, and mugging. Studying popular culture can lay bare power structures and assumptions which masquerade as unflinching truths. As literature students, we have been trained to examine texts and characters from diverse historical and geographical backgrounds. Now, you must question and expand the idea of the text itself. As part of your research paper, you are free to analyse any expression or aspect of popular culture. The following include, but are not limited to, some of the topics that you can choose to work on:

- a. Any genre of popular music
- b. TV shows
- c. Web series
- d. Movies
- e. Anime and Manga
- f. Reality TV
- g. Popular fiction
- h. Comics
- i. Social Media posts
- j. Forms of popular theatre
- k. Food studies

Cash prizes will be given to the winners and all participants will be given certificates.

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

1. You must first write a short abstract (a rough summary) of what you intend to do. This should be within 150 – 300 words.

2. Since research means looking deeply into a small selected area, narrow your subject to a few aspects of your selected literary text. By literature, we mean anything which may be read and understood as a text whether it is in print, oral, digital or electronic form or is presented through the visual or performing arts.
3. You will be assigned a mentor, from amongst the teachers of the Department, who will guide you in your research, writing and presentation.
4. The Department will also organise a few sessions on “How to Write a Research Paper.”
5. You must write in your own words. Plagiarism above 10% will not be accepted. The plagiarism check will be done using software resources in the college library.
6. The length of the final paper can be from 2400 to 3200 words.
7. Citations must be in the APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition format.
8. You may work individually or in groups of two.
9. All submissions may be made to rcdoeng@gmail.com

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Submission of the abstract: 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

Submission of the final paper: 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022

Presentation: 1<sup>st</sup> week of March, 2022.