

U.G. 1st Semester

Paper: ENG101C (Core) Medieval Age (500-1500)

Credits: 5 = 4 + 1 + 0 (64 Lectures)

Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

The objective of this paper is to introduce students to the beginnings of English literature. By closely associating socio-historical and political contexts to the literary productions of the times, this sets the tone of the rest of the syllabus. The present paper covers the widest chronological range in the whole history of English literature. Generally referred to as “Middle Ages” “Dark Ages” or “Medieval age” the period roughly spanned around one thousand years and was full of political, social, cultural shifts and turbulence. While an attempt has been made to help the student appreciate some of the milestones of this phase, the effort is also to underline how the nomenclatures like “middle” or “dark” fall short of doing justice to this long age of uneven times.

For the sake of convenience, the period has been divided into three phases: a) Old English period, b) Norman English period and c) Fourteenth and fifteenth century. One unit for each of these periods covering major socio-historical event and prominent literary productions of the age has been framed. The aim is to facilitate an understanding of the evolution of both the English society and literature towards stability. It is during this long period that English language emerged out of many interactions and influences. A unit has been solely devoted to cover the evolution of English language. The last unit is devoted to the emergence and development of English drama which would become the dominant literary genre of the Renaissance period.

UNIT 1: Old English Period/ Anglo Saxon Period (12 lectures)

- The shift from the Roman Empire to the German invaders
- The settlement of the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes
- The socio-political and cultural scenario of England
- The coming of Christianity in England and its spread
- Anglo-Saxon literature: Salient features and dominant literary forms
- The heroic and the Christian poetry

Texts:

- *Beowulf (lines 736-789)*
- *“The Wife’s Lament”*

UNIT 2: Anglo-Norman Period (13 lectures)

- The socio-political impact of the Norman Conquest
- The coming of Feudalism
- The Crusades
- The growth of town culture
- The growth and corruption of the church
- The major literary forms: the legends of King Arthur and his Knights, romances, *lais*, fables

Texts:

-*Geoffrey of Monmouth, History of the Kings of Britain (Selections, pp 130-31)*

-*Marie de France, "Chevrefoil (The Honeysuckle)"*

UNIT 3: Fourteenth and Fifteenth Century (20 lectures)

- The decline of feudalism:
 - The Crusades
 - The significance of Magna Carta Act
 - Black Death (1361)
 - Peasants' Revolt (1381)
- The corruption of the church and the demands for reformation, Lollardy, John Wycliffe's translation of *the Bible*
- The consolidation of the position of English language
- Book production during middle ages, William Caxton and the print revolution
- Dominant literary genres and terms: romances, narrative poems, dream vision poems, allegory, religious writings, alliterative revival

Texts:

- *Sir Gawayne and the Green Knight* (lines 444-495)*
- Geoffrey Chaucer, "The Prologue to the Canterbury Tales"(1-42, 445-476)*
- William Langland, *The Vision of Piers Plowman* (lines 1-25)
- Julian of Norwich, from *A Book of Showings to the Anchoress Julian of Norwich* (chapter 3)
- John Lydgate, *The Testament of John Lydgate* (lines 754- 761, 850- 897)

UNIT 4: Evolution of English language (13 lectures)

- The Indo European family of languages
- Old English Period: Non-Christian (pagan) and Christian Period
- Characteristics of Old English (vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar)
- Celtic, Latin, Scandinavian and French influences in the English language
- Processes of word formation

UNIT 5: Evolution of English Drama (6 lectures)

- The religious roots
- Morality, miracle and mystery plays

Text:

- *Everyman* (non-detailed)

Note: All the readings in this paper, except John Lydgate are from *The Norton Anthology of English Literature. The Middle Ages. Volume A.*

Recommended Readings:

Boris Ford, ed. *The New Pelican Guide to English Literature, Vol-1.*

D. Bevington, ed. *Medieval Drama.*

David Wallace. *The Cambridge History of Medieval English Literature.*

E. Treharne and G. Walker eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Literature in English.*

F. M. Stenton, *Anglo-Saxon England.*

F. T. Wood. *An outline History of the English language.*

James Simpson and Alfred David. *Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Middle Ages.*

Larry Scanlon. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval English Literature 1100-1500.*

C.S. Lewis. *The Allegory of Love*

Peter Brown. *A Companion to Medieval English Literature and Culture.*

Paper: ENG102C (Core)
The Age of Renaissance (1485-1660)
Credits: 5 = 4+1+0 (64 Lectures)

Objectives and Learning Outcome:

The Renaissance is generally regarded as the first age of Enlightenment following the period generally known as the “Dark Medieval Age.” This paper traces the political, cultural, religious, economic and social structures of the age, the ways in which these influenced the literary developments of the age as well as how literature affected them. The paper attempts to familiarise students with the various literary ventures of this age through the prescribed literary texts which will help in understanding and appreciating the essence of the Renaissance. In addition, the students shall be expected to emphasise on the elements of “modernity” while also appreciating why this age is now preferably named as the early modern age.

UNIT 1: Historical background (8 lectures)

- Political upheavals (internal conflicts and external threats)
- Dissolution of Monasteries
- Education system and the Grammar Schools
- Renaissance Humanism
- The Reformation
- New discoveries and innovations
- Travel and Exploration
- Print Revolution
- The English and the Others
- Beginnings of Colonial ventures

UNIT 2: Literary background (8 lectures)

- Revival of classical knowledge
- Translations and the new learning
- Writers, printers and patrons
- Tudor style: Ornament, plainness and wonder
- Theatre: Reaching new heights during Elizabethan and Jacobean period, and the Puritan ban
- Greek influence, University Wits, Shakespearean tragedy and comedy, Jacobean tragedies, comedy of humours, etc.
- Renaissance poetry: sonnets, metaphysical poetry, epics, courtly love, etc.
- Renaissance Prose: travel writings, religious writings, speeches, etc

UNIT 3: Poetry (17 lectures)

William Shakespeare : Sonnets 30, 65, 130*

Philip Sidney	: Selected Sonnets from <i>Astrophel and Stella</i> (1, 15, 45)*
John Donne	: "A Valediction: Forbidden Mourning", "The Sunne Rising", "Death Be Not Proud"*
Henry Howard	: "The Sootie Season"
Thomas Wyatt	: "Farewell Love and all Thy Laws Forever"
Edmund Spenser	: <i>The Faerie Queene</i> . Book 1, Canto 1 (Lines 1- 59)
Lady Mary Wroth	: "When Night's Black Mantle"

UNIT 4: Prose (13 lectures)

Niccolo Machiavelli	: Selected Chapters from <i>The Prince</i> (15, 16, 18, 25) *
Michel de Montaigne	: Cowardice, the Mother of Cruelty*
Pico della Mirandola	: Selection from <i>The Oration on the Dignity of Man</i> *
Francis Bacon	: Of Revenge, Of Fame, Of Love*
<i>The Bible</i>	: Genesis (Chapters 1- 4)
Baldassare Castiglione	: Selection from <i>The Book of the Courtier</i> (excerpt from Bk 4 on 'the courtier' and 'love' and 'beauty', pp 324-8, 330-5, Penguin Edition)

UNIT 5: Drama (18 lectures)

William Shakespeare	: <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> *
Christopher Marlowe	: <i>The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus</i> *
Ben Jonson	: <i>Every Man in His Humour</i>

Note. * marked texts are for detailed study

Recommended Reading:

Edward Albert, *History of English Literature*.

F. Arthur Kinney (ed). *A Companion to Renaissance Drama*.

Jerry Brotton, *The Renaissance: A Very Short Introduction*.

Joan von Emden. *The Metaphysical Poets*.

Michael Hattaway (ed). *A Companion to English Renaissance Literature and Culture*.

R. A. Braunmuller, and Michael Hattaway(eds). *The Cambridge Companion to English Renaissance Drama*.

Ronald Carter and John McRae. *The Routledge History of Literature in English*.

Peter Womack. *English Renaissance Drama*.

Stephen Greenblatt. *Renaissance Self Fashioning: From More to Shakespeare*

Tom MacFaul. *Poetry and Paternity in Renaissance England*.

Paper: ENG103M (Modular General Elective)

Elective English

Credits: 4 = 4+0+0 (64 Lectures)

Objectives and Learning outcome:

This paper intends to provide a general idea of English literature through a choice of texts which belong to different genres such as poetry, short story, non-fictional prose and the one-act play. It is desired that the students shall be able to respond to the literary representations in English which will enable them to appreciate and become aware of the various issues and concerns that the larger body of English literature deals with.

Unit I: Poetry (20 lectures)

- Shakespeare : Sonnet 116
- William Wordsworth : "The Solitary Reaper"
- John Keats : "Ode to Autumn"
- Robert Browning : "The Patriot"
- G.M. Hopkins : "Pied Beauty"
- W. B. Yeats : "Wild Swans at Coole"
- Robert Frost : "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening"
- Nissim Ezekiel : "Night of the Scorpion"
- Jayanta Mahapatra : "Dawn at Puri"
- Vikram Seth : "The Frog and the Nightingale"

Unit II: Short Story (16 lectures)

- R. K. Narayan : "An Astrologer's Day"
- O' Henry : "The Romance of a Busy Broker"

Unit III: Non-fictional Prose (16 lectures)

- Bernard Shaw : "Life and Learning"
- George Orwell : "Shooting an Elephant"

Unit IV: One Act Play (12 lectures)

- A.A. Milne : *Portrait of a Gentleman in Slippers*