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 – 1)

LITERATURE OF THE RENAISSANCE

Objectives: This period in British Literature, known as the Renaissance, marked the transition from the medieval to the modern with radical changes in different spheres of life. The decline of religion, dissolution of feudal system along with the "new learning," and the questioning spirit found among the Humanists all impacted the culture and the literature of the period. In England and other cultural centers like Italy and France, the attributes of early modernity are visible in the literary texts and genres of the period, which make this period foundational to subsequent literary developments. The texts prescribed in the course address not only socio-cultural issues of the time but also the different genres and forms like tragedy, comedy, sonnet, metaphysical poetry, etc. The following is the recommended course content:

Unit 1

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

Unit 2

Christopher Marlowe, *Dr. Faustus.*
Ben Jonson, *The Alchemist.*

Unit 3

William Shakespeare- Sonnet 18: 'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?', Sonnet 73 : 'That time of year thou mayst in me behold', Sonnet 116: 'Let me not to the marriage of true minds', Sonnet 130 : 'My mistress' eyes', Sonnet 147: 'My love is as a fever, longing still'

John Donne, "Canonization," "The Flea," "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning", "The Apparition", "Sweetest Love, I Do Not Goe", "Holy Sonnet 14"

Andrew Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress", "The Garden", "On Mr. Milton's "Paradise Lost", "The Gallery"

Unit 4

Bacon, Excerpts from *Essays*

Burton, Excerpts from *Anatomy of Melancholy*

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Suggested Readings

- Bradbrook, M. C. *Themes and Conventions in Elizabethan Tragedy.* Cambridge: CUP, 1980.
- Bradley, A.C. *Shakespearean Tragedy: Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth.* New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers, 2000.
- Browne, Thomas. *Religio Medici.*
- Machiavelli, *The Discourses.*
- Greenblatt, Stephen and Ramie Targof. (eds.). New York: NYRB Classics, 2012.
- Burton, Richard. *Anatomy of Melancholy*. Jackson, Holbrook. (ed.). New York: Vintage Books, 1977.
- Braunmuller, A.R. and Michael Hattawayeds (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to English*
- *Renaissance Drama.*Cambridge: CUP, 2003.
- Fenton, James. *An Introduction to English Poetry.* Harmondsworth: Penguin, 2003.
- Mousley, Andy. *Renaissance Drama and Contemporary Literary Theory*. Hampshire:
- Palgrave Macmillan, 2000.
- Simkin, Stevie. *Marlowe: The Plays.* Hampshire: Palgrave, Macmillan 2001.
- Spiller, Michael R.G.*The Development of the Sonnet: An Introduction.* London: Routledge,
- 1992.
- *The Sonnet Sequence: A Study of the Strategies.* New York: Twayne, 1997.
- Empson, William. *Some Versions of Pastoral*. New York: New Directions, 1974.
- Greenblatt, Stephen.*Renaissance Self-Fashioning From More to Shakespeare.*Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1980.
- Jonathan Dollimore, *Radical Tragedy.* Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1964.
- Jean Howard and Phyllis Rackin, *Engendering a Nation.* London and NY: Routledge, 1988.
- Michael Schoenfeldt, *Bodies and Selves in Early Modern England.*Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1999.
- S.Viswanathan, *Exploring Shakespeare.* Hyderabad: Orient Longman, 2005.
- F.G. Selbyed.*Bacon's Essays*.London: Macmillan: 1889
- Richard Rambuss. *Closet Devotions*. Durham, NC: Duke UP, 1998.