

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
SYLLABUS FOR M.A. ENGLISH: SEMESTER 2

Semester 2

Core Courses

Paper Eng 0201 Literature of the Romantic Period

Paper Eng 0202 Literature of the Victorian Period

Paper Eng 0203 Literary Criticism and Theory I

Paper Eng 0204 Literature and Society

Literature of the Romantic Period

Objectives: The Romantic period was path-breaking in several respects. As the “age of revolutions” (the French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution altered the course of human history), this period radicalized artistic expression and emancipated thought. Imagination was the key word in the discourse of Romanticism. Perhaps no other period of English Literature has had so much influence on the Indian literary consciousness. Industrial Revolution begins to recast the relation between the village and the city. Further, the rise of industrial capitalism, of the natural sciences, and nationalism mark this period as particularly significant. The course will introduce students to some of the basic issues in the literature and social thought of the period.

Unit1

- Thomas Gray, *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*
- William Collins, *Ode to Evening*
- William Blake, *Songs of Innocence*: The Chimney Sweeper, The Little Boy Lost, The Little Boy Found, Holy Thursday. *Songs of Experience*: The Chimney Sweeper, Holy Thursday, London, Book of Thel
- William Wordsworth, *Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey*, *The Prelude* (extracts)
- S.T. Coleridge, *This Lime Tree Bower My Prison*, *Kubla Khan*, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
- P.B. Shelley, *Ode to the West Wind*, *Asia: From Prometheus Unbound*
- John Keats, *Ode to a Nightingale*, *Ode to Autumn*, *The Eve of St. Agnes*
- Charlotte Smith, *Elegiac Sonnets*, No. 44. (Written in the Church Yard at Middleton in Sussex), *Elegiac Sonnets*, No. 70. (On Being Cautioned against Walking on a Headland Overlooking the Sea, because It Was Frequented by a Lunatic)
- Felicia Hemans, *The Homes of England*, *Indian Woman's Death-Song*

Unit 2

- Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*
- Ann Radcliffe, *The Mysteries of Udolfo*

Unit 3

- John Keats's Letters – Letter to George and Tom Keats, 27 December, 1817 (On Negative Capability), Letter to Benjamin Bailey, 22nd November, 1817 ('On the Imagination' and 'a Life of Sensations rather than of Thoughts')
- Charles Lamb, "A Chapter on Ears", "On the Artificial Comedy of the Last Century", "Modern Gallantry", "Poor Relations" from *Elia* and *The Last Essays of Elia*

- William Hazlitt, “On Actors and Acting. I and II”, “On the Pleasure of Painting. I and II”, “The Indian Jugglers” from *Selected Essays* (1917) edited by George Sampson
- De Quincey, “On the Knocking at the Gate, in Macbeth”, “On Murder Considered as one of the Fine Arts”
- Mary Wollstonecraft, *Selections from A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

Additional Readings

- Burke, *A Philosophical Inquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful* (1757)
- Goldsmith, *Citizen of the World* (1762), "An Essay on the Theatre: or A Comparison between Laughing and Sentimental Comedy" (1773)

Suggested Readings

- Bate, Jonathan. *Shakespeare and the English Romantic Imagination*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1986.
- Bate, Walter Jackson. *The Burden of the Past and the English Poet*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1970.
- Bloom, Harold (ed.). *Romanticism and Consciousness*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. 1970.
- Brown, Marshall (ed.). *The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism*, vol. 5: *Romanticism*. New York: CUP, 2000.
- de Man, Paul. *The Rhetoric of Romanticism*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1984.
- Fulford, Tim and Peter Kitson (eds.). *Romanticism and Colonialism: Writing and Empire, 1780–1830*. Cambridge: CUP, 1998.
- Marilyn Gaull, *Romanticism: The Human Context* (Norton, 1988)
- M.H. Abrams, *The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic theory and the Critical Tradition*. New York, 1953.
- Wolfson, Susan. *Borderlines: The Shiftings of Gender in British Romanticism*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 2006.
- Ernest Dressel North. *The Wit and Wisdom of Charles Lamb*. New York, London: Putnam, 1892.
- M. Kirkham, *Jane Austen, Feminism and Fiction*. Brighton, 1983.
- M. Butler, *Romantics, Rebels and Reactionaries: English Literature and its Background*. Oxford, 1981.
- M.Praz, *The Romantic Agony* (London 1933)

- K.Raine, William Blake (London, 1970)
- S. Prickett, Coleridge and Wordsworth and the Poetry of Growth (Cambridge, 1970)
- S.M. Sperry, Keats, the Poet (Princeton, 1973)
- D. King-Hele, Shelley, His Thought and Work (London, 1960)

Paper Eng 0202: Literature of the Victorian Period

English 0202: Literature of the Victorian Period:

Objectives: The Victorian period saw a further consolidation of the changes instituted in the earlier period. With the rise of Colonialism and Imperialism, Europe had a hegemonic control over the rest of the world. Social Realism became a preferred mode in fiction and drama. Some of the great achievements of the period were in the Realistic novel. When we come toward the end of the period, we begin to look forward to the ‘modern,’ which begins to manifest itself in French literature towards the close of the 19th century. The literature, culture and thought of the period help us understand ‘modernity’ in all its complexity. This course will introduce students to some significant literary and non-literary texts of the period.

Unit 1:

- Charles Dickens *Great Expectations*
- Thomas Hardy *Tess of d’Urbervilles*

Unit 2:

- Emily Bronte *Wuthering Heights*
- George Eliot *The Mill on the Floss*

Unit 3:

Alfred Tennyson

“Break, Break, Break”, “Charge of the Light Brigade”, Selections from “In Memoriam A.H.H.”

Elizabeth B. Browning

“The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim’s Point”, “The Cry of the Children”

Robert Browning

“Porphyria’s Lover”, “My Last Duchess”, “Andrea del Sarto”

Bronte Sisters

Emily “The Prisoner A. Fragmant”, “Death”

Charlotte “The Wife’s Will”, “Evening Solace”

Anne “If this be all”, “A Word to the ‘Elect’”

Pre-Raphaelites

D.G. Rossetti “The Blessed Damozel”, “Redemption”

Christina Rossetti “The Thread of Life”, “Bride Song”

Matthew Arnold

“Dover Beach”, “The Scholar Gipsy”

Unit 4:

Matthew Arnold, “The Study of Poetry”

Thomas Carlyle, “The Hero as a Poet: Dante, Shakespeare”

John Ruskin, Selected passages from *Sesame and Lilies* (“Of Queens’ Gardens”)

John Stuart Mill & Jeremy Bentham Selections from *Utilitarianism*

Suggested Readings

- Auerbach, Nina. *Woman and the Demon: The Life of a Victorian Myth*. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1982.

- Bloom, Harold (ed.). *Bloom's Modern Critical Interpretations: Charles Dickens' Great Expectations*. New York: Bloom's Literary Criticism, 2010.
- Byron, Glennis. *Dramatic Monologue*. New York: Routledge, 2003.
- Cunningham, Valentine (ed.). *Victorian Poets: A Critical Reader*. Manchester: Miley Blackwell, 2014.
- Gilbert Sandra and Susan Gubar. *The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination, 2nd ed.* Yale University Press: New Haven and London, USA and U.K., 2000.
- Johns Hopkins UP, 1985.
- Jusova, Iveta. *New Woman and the Empire*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2005.
- Kranidis, Rita S. *Subversive Discourse: The Cultural Production of Late Victorian Feminist Novels*. London: Macmillan, 1995.
- Martin, Loy D. *Browning's Dramatic Monologues and the Post Romantic Subject*. Baltimore:
- Poovey, Mary. *Uneven Developments: the Ideological Work of Gender in mid-Victorian England*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988.
- Showalter, Elaine. *A Literature of Their Own: British Women Novelists from Bronte to Lessing*. London: Virago, 1978.

Paper Eng 0203: Literary Criticism and Theory - 1

Objectives and Learning outcome:

- To introduce to students, the major works of literary criticism from the Western tradition;
- To make them aware of the evolution of the literary critical ideas of the last 200 years;
- To impart knowledge of the intellectual history of modernity and its relation to arts and culture.

Unit 1 – Classical Criticism

Plato, Selections from *Republic* (Books III and X)

Aristotle, “On Tragedy (From *Poetics*)”

Horace, “Ars Poetica” Bharata Muni – Rasa theory from ‘*Natyashastra*’

Recommended reading:

Longinus, “On the Sublime”

Unit 2 – Renaissance and Neoclassical Criticism

Sidney, *An Apology for Poetry*

Dryden, “An Essay on Dramatic Poesy”

Pope, “Essay on Criticism”

Johnson, “Preface to Shakespeare”

Recommended Reading:

Bacon, *Advancement of Learning*

Hobbes, “Answer to Davenant's preface to *Gondibert*”

Unit 3 – Romantic and Victorian Criticism

Wordsworth, “*Preface to The Lyrical Ballads*”

Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria*. (Ch. IV, XIII, and XIV)

Immanuel Kant – selections from “*The Critique of Aesthetic Judgment*”

Arnold, “The Function of Criticism at the Present Time”

Recommended Reading:

Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

Shelley, *A Defence of Poetry*

Unit 4 – Modern Criticism

Selections from

Cleanth Brooks -Irony as a principle of structure

Martin Esslin – *The Theatre of the Absurd*.

Rene Wellek and Warren – selections from “*Theory of Literature*”

Northrop Frye - *The Archetypes of Literature*

Recommended reading:

Georg Lukacs, *The Theory of the Novel*, Chapters 4 and 5

Charles Darwin, “Natural Selection” from *The Origin of the Species*

Suggested Readings

M.H. Abrams, *The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic theory and the Critical Tradition* (New York, 1953)

David Lodge: (ed.) *Modern Criticism and Theory- A Reader* (Pearson, 2005)

---. *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature* (OUP, 2005)

James Reeves, *The Critical Sense: Practical Criticism of Prose and Poetry* (William

Heinemann)

The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism (2001)

M.S. Nagarajan, *English Literary Criticism and Theory*. Orient Blackswan Pvt. Ltd.

Gary Day, *Literary Criticism: A New History*. Edinburgh UP, 2008

Plato, *The Republic*, Book X, tr. Benjamin Jowett (New York: Random House, 1957).

Paper Eng 0204: Literature and Society

Objectives: The objective of the present paper is to introduce a range of texts that deal with issues of gender, race, caste and class so as to develop sensitivity amongst students towards the manners in which these complex phenomena intersect with each other to create experiences of marginality or privilege. The paper examines texts from different countries and social locations. In addition, the larger historical and political constructs (such as discourses of family, nation, religion and science) that impact individual experience of gender, race, caste and class are foregrounded in the discussion of these texts and films.

Unit 1

- Thomas Hardy- Jude the Obscure
- John Osborn – Look Back in Anger
- T. S Eliot – Gerontion

Unit 2

- Conrad -Heart of Darkness;
- Chinua Achebe - Things fall Apart.
- Derek Walcott- The Sea is History, A City's Death by fire, A far cry from Africa
- Wole Soyinka – Civilian & Soldier , Procession 1- Hanging Day

Unit 3

- Ibsen – Doll's House
- Nathaniel Hawthorne – the scarlet letter
- Sylvia Plath – Daddy, Margaret Atwood - 'Spelling

Unit 4

- Hanif Mohammed _ Our Lady of Alice Bhatti
- Amitav Ghosh – The Imam and the Indian (Title essay)
- Namvar Singh – Decolonizing the Indian Mind

Recommended Reading

- Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar. *The Mad Woman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination*. New Haven: Yale UP, 2000.
- Frantz Fanon. *Black Skin White Masks* trans. by Charles Lam Markmann, London, Pluto Press: 1986.
- Bell hooks. "Homeplace: A Site of Resistance," *Yearning: Race, Gender and Cultural Politics*. London: Turnaround, 1991.
- Lewis Gordon. "Existential Dynamics of Theorizing Black Invisibility," *Existence in Black*. New York & London: Routledge, 1997.
- Charles W. Mills. *Blackness Visible: Essays on Philosophy and Race*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998, p.107.
- Edward Said (ed), *Literature & Society*
- Elaine Showalter. "Towards the Feminist Poetics" in David Lodge. *Twentieth Century Literary Criticism: A Reader*, Vol. I.
- Lawrence Levine, *Black Culture and Black Consciousness*, Oxford: OUP, 1977

- Houston Baker, Jr. *Blues, Ideology, and Afro-American Literature*, Chicago: Chicago Univ. Press, 1964.
- Bill Ashcroft – *The Post-colonial Studies Reader*
- Alister Davies- *British Culture of the Post- war: An introduction to literature & society*