

UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS
B.A. DEGREE COURSE IN ENGLISH
SYLLABUS WITH EFFECT FROM 2020-2021

Title of the Course	ALLIED: BEN- DSA01 -BACKGROUND TO ENGLISH LITERATURE-I		
Category of the Course	Year & Semester First Year & First Semester	Credits 5	Subject Code BEN-DSA01
Hours:	90		
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To introduce basic concepts about English history, literary forms and literary periods with linguistic, historical and Legendary background • To enable students, understand the contexts and background from Medieval British literature up until the Elizabethan and Jacobean Age 		
Course Introduction (to be considered for internal assessment only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why study the social, political and literary history of England, their legends and the ways in which they have had an impact on the writers and their works? • What are literary forms? What is Prosody? • What is the importance of the evolution of English Language? • What is the significance of this course as an allied to understand the core courses? • How should this course be integrated with the study of literary texts? 		
Course Components BEN-DSA01	<p>Unit 1: I. Literary Forms</p> <p>1.1 Poetry – Metrical Romance, Ballad [Folk, Literary, Mock], Lyric, Sonnet [Petrarchan, Spenserian, Shakespearean]</p> <p>1.2 Drama [Mystery and Morality Plays, Tragedy [Classical, Senecan, Romantic, Heroic, Neo-Classical,], Masque and Anti-Masque</p> <p>1.3 Prose- Fable, Parable, Essay [Aphoristic, Personal, Periodical, Critical]</p> <p>1.4 Fiction [Short-story, Novel], Non- Fiction [Biography, Auto-Biography]</p> <p>1.5 Periods of English Literature – (pages 279-285)</p> <p>II. Literary Elements</p> <p>1.6 Poetry – Rhyme, Metre, Stanza, Verse [Blank Verse, Heroic /Couplet, Quatrain etc] Refrain</p> <p>1.7 Drama- Plot- Prologue, Acts, Scenes, Epilogue, subplot, Unity of Time, Place, Action. Action – Conflict, Reversal of Fortune, Crisis, Rising Action, Climax, Denouement - Character – Hero [tragic flaw], Heroine, Villain, Stock Character, Foil Dialogue - Aside/ Soliloquy, Monologue, Choric Function - Stage/Setting – Proscenium Arch, Box set, Scenery, Props, <i>dues ex machina</i></p> <p>1.8 Prose – Fiction: Plot, Narration, Characterization [flat/ round characters], Setting [Text - <i>A Glossary of Literary Terms</i> by M.H. Abrams & Geoffrey Galt Harpham. Eleventh Edition. Cengage,2019 (Indian Reprint)]</p>		
	<p>Unit 2: Impact of the History of English Language on Literature from 11th to 17th Century</p> <p>2.1 The Descent of the English Language</p> <p>2.2 The Old English (Anglo-Saxon) Period</p> <p>2.3 The Middle English Period</p> <p>[Text. <i>History of English Language</i> by F.T. Wood. Trinity Press. Revised edition, 2016]</p>		

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	<p>Unit 3: Impact of Socio- Political History on Literature from 11th to 17th Century</p> <p>3.1 ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND – (pages 138 -139)</p> <p>3.2 MEDIEVAL ENGLAND The Norman Conquest [1066] –(pages 80-84). A Struggle for Power –Magna Carta [1215] – (pages 126-128). Henry VI and the Wars of Roses [1421- 71] – (pages 199-212)</p> <p>3.3 TUDOR DYNASTY Henry VIII and the Break with Rome. –(pages 231- 253). Queen Mary–(pages 261-264)</p> <p>3.4 ELIZABETH I AND THE SUCCESSION – (pages 265-274) The Conquest of the Armada– (pages 275- 286). The English Renaissance – pages 287-291. Elizabethan England – (pages 292- 310)</p> <p>3.5 CIVILWAR AND CROMWELL [1642 – 58] Charles I and Parliament – pages 311-317. Civil War – (pages 326-340)</p> <p>[Text Book: <i>A History of England</i>. John Thorn, Roger Lockyer and David Smith. AITBS Publishers, India. 2012]</p>
	<p>Unit 4: Literary History</p> <p>4.1 Anglo-Saxon Literature – Romanized Britons, Arthurian romance, alliterative verse, development of English Christianity – (pages 3- 6). Development of Middle English Prose and Verse”- The Norman conquest, Anglo-French language, French cultural domination of Europe, French as the courtly language, west Saxon dialect – (pages 31- 35).</p> <p>4.2 Middle English Literature - Courtly French romance, the fable as a famous medieval literary form –(pages 68 – 70). Chaucer –(pages 89 – 91); Gower – (pages 121 – 123)</p> <p>4.3 The Early Tudor Scene – new geographical discoveries and their impact on literature, beginning of the idea of national state – (pages – 147 – 148). Spenser and his Time – (pages 165 – 166 first paragraph). Drama from the Miracle Plays to Marlowe - English poetic drama, dramatic elaborations of the liturgy, transition from liturgical drama to miracle play – (pages 208 – 210); “University Wits” – Elizabethan popular drama –(page 226); “Christopher Marlowe” – ‘Tamburlaine, the Great’ – (page 235). Shakespeare – professional man of the theatre - (page 246) Drama from Jonson to the Closing of Theatres – Shakespeare and Ben Jonson – (pages 309 – 311 first paragraph); Analysis of English Poetic drama – (page 344-last paragraph).</p> <p>4.4 Poetry after Spenser: The Jonsonian and the Metaphysical Traditions– (page 360); Donne’s influence –(page 368). John Milton – seventeenth century political background, effects of Civil war, Milton’s formative years –(pages 390 – 392).</p> <p>4.5 Prose in the 16th and 17th Centuries - pamphleteering, colloquial prose formalised – (pages 458-459); Bible translations – (pages 461-472); Holinshed’s ‘Chronicles’ – (page 474); Walter Raleigh’s ‘History of the World’ – (page 475); Francis Bacon – (pages 485 – 488); Thomas Hobbes – (pages 495-496)</p> <p>[Text - <i>A Critical History of English Literature- Volume I – From the Beginning to Milton</i> by David Daiches. Revised. Indian Edition 2010. Supernova Publishers.]</p>

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	<p>Unit 5: Impact of European and British Legend on Literature</p> <p>5.1 Valhalla – the Valkyrior – page 179. Thor’s Visit to Jotunheim – page 183. The death of Baldur – the Elves – Runic Letters – Skalds – Iceland – page 186.</p> <p>5.2 The Druids – Iona - page 193: 3 King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table – page 198</p> <p>5. 3 Arthur – page 212, Sir Gawain –page 222, Launcelot of the Lake – page 229, Tristram and Iseult – page 241, Perceval – page 256</p> <p>5.4 Beowulf- page 329</p> <p>5.5 Robin Hood and his Merry Men – page 334</p> <p>[Text - <i>Bulfinch’s Mythology: The Classic Introduction to Myth and Legend</i>. Complete and Unabridged by Thomas Bulfinch. Penguin, 2014]</p>
<p>Learning Outcomes:</p>	<p>At the end of this course students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and define basic terms and concepts which are needed for advanced courses in British literatures • Describe the distinct periods of British literature • Write brief notes on seminal literary forms and devices • Write brief essays on seminal writers and their period from Medieval Europe up to the Britain of the Elizabethan and Jacobean Age • Write brief essays on the historical background of the same period

Prescribed Texts

- *A Glossary of Literary Terms* by M.H. Abrams & Geoffrey Galt Harpham. Eleventh Edition. Cengage, 2019 (Indian Reprint)
- *History of English Language* by F.T. Wood. Trinity Press. Revised edition, 2016. Unit 1: 1-67
- *A History of England*. John Thorn, Roger Lockyer and David Smith. AITBS Publishers, India. 2012
- *A Critical History of English Literature- Volume I – From the Beginning to Milton* by David Daiches. Revised. Indian Edition 2010. Supernova Publishers
- *Bulfinch’s Mythology*
- *The Penguin History of Europe* by J.M. Roberts, 1996 Unit 3: pages: 120- 138
European Renaissance, Reformation and Counter- Reformation– pages 222 – 230
Modernity and modern history[End of Medieval Period] – pages 233-238
Enlightenment – pages 267-271
- *A History of England*. John Thorn, Roger Lockyer and David Smith. AITBS Publishers, India. 2012.
- *History of English Language: British Council Archive*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= fJiHmR85cU>

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BOOKS AND WEB SOURCES FOR FURTHER REFERENCE

(to be considered for internal assessment only)

- Carter, Ronald and John McRae, The Routledge History of Literature in English: Britain and Ireland. Routledge, 2001.
- Childs, Peter and Roger Fowler ed. The Routledge Dictionary of Literary Terms. Routledge. 2006
- Rees, R. J., English Literature: An Introduction for Foreign Readers, Macmillan.
- Periods of English Literature | Online Education | Paradigm Change
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzZ0wHgogjc>

RECOMMENDED MOOC

- History of English Language and Literature: Dr.Prof.Merin Simi Raj. Co-ordinated by IITM (NPTEL)

https://nptel.ac.in/content/syllabus_pdf/109106124.pdf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UghgTDWSyQM>

TEDX TALKS

- Claire Bower: Where did English come from?
https://www.ted.com/talks/claire_bower_where_did_english_come_from/transcript?language=en
- How the Normans changed the history of Europe - Mark Robinson
<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-the-normans-changed-the-history-of-europe-mark-robinson>
