

15. ENGLISH

Preface

The FYUG programme in English, up to the second semester, comprises two Major/ Minor Courses, two Ability Enhancement Courses (AEC) and one Multi-Disciplinary Course (MDC). There are five papers and 17 credits with a total of 425 grade points over two semesters. The Major/ Minor Courses, being subjects in a core discipline and comprising Introduction to English Literature and British Poetry: Milton to the Present, are taught in both semesters. So are the Ability Enhancement Courses, comprising Alternative English in the first semester and Communicative English in the second. The Multi-Disciplinary Course, comprising Introduction to Theatre and Performance, is taken up in the second semester.

The two Major/ Minor Courses are designed to introduce students to the origin and development of English literature and provide a comprehensive guide to English poetry, its development, forms and movements over the ages. So is the Alternative English paper under AEC. Communicative English is designed to train students to develop their communication skills in dealing with modern-day situations. The Introduction to Theatre and Performance will introduce students to the basic concepts of Theatre and Performance.

Programme Outcome

Through Major/ Minor Courses and the Alternative English paper, the students will gain the aptitude to read and understand various literary texts and genres, thus enabling them to think critically and demonstrate a coherent and systematic knowledge of the different aspects of the English language and literature. In addition, Communicative English will help them develop effective communication skills, while Introduction to Theatre and Performance will help them gain the ability to translate dramatic theory into practice.

ENG-100: INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LITERATURE

(Contact Hours: 60, Credits: 4)

The course is designed to introduce students to the origin and development of English literature. It will offer a broad overview of the major literary movements from the old English period to postmodernism and the present era with brief descriptions of key works. By introducing students to the broad categories of poetry, drama and fiction, the course will help them develop an understanding of major genres, literary tendencies and important socio-political movements of the various ages.

Course Objectives:

1. To equip students with the ability to understand and engage with various literary and critical concepts and categories.
2. To enable students to read texts with close attention to themes, conventions, contexts and value systems.
3. To train students to situate their reading and their positions in terms of community, class, caste, religion, gender and politics and to develop their understanding of the global and local.
4. To inculcate in students the ability to communicate ideas, opinions and values and to expand their knowledge of the subject as it moves from the classroom to life and life-worlds.
5. To develop critical thinking and ethical awareness in students.

Learning Outcomes

The students will gain the aptitude to read and understand various literary texts and genres, thus enabling them to think critically and demonstrate a coherent and systematic knowledge of the different aspects of English language and literature. They will also develop a keener literary judgement and a clearer understanding of literary and ethical values.

UNIT I: Introduction to the Literary Periods

(This unit will focus only on the major movements, providing a brief outline—about 400 words—of each.) *

Literary Periods:

1. Old English (450-1066)
2. Middle English (1066-1500)
3. The Renaissance (1500-1660)
4. The Elizabethan Age (1558-1603)
5. The Jacobean Age (1603-1625)
6. The Restoration Period (1660-1700)
7. The Romantic Period (1785-1832)

8. The Victorian Period (1832-1901)
9. Modernism (1914-1945)
10. Postmodernism (1945 to the Present)

* Sample outlines are available. See “Christian, et al.” in Suggested Reading.

UNIT II: Introduction to English Poetry

(This unit will focus on prominent genres—providing a brief outline of each—relevant literary terms and select texts.)

Brief Outlines of Poetry Genres:

1. Lyric (Elegy, Dirge, Sonnet, Ode)
2. Narrative Poetry (Ballad, Epic, Mock Epic, Allegory)
3. Didactic Poetry (Satire)
4. Epistolary Poetry
5. Pastoral Poetry
6. Dramatic Poetry (Dramatic Monologue)

Representative Poets and Texts (14th to 17th Century)

- a. Geoffrey Chaucer: “The Tale of the Wyf of Bathes”
- b. William Shakespeare: “Sonnet 18”
- c. John Donne: “The Sunne Rising”
- d. Abraham Cowley: “Platonic Love”

UNIT III: Introduction to English Drama

(This unit will focus on prominent genres—providing a brief outline of each—relevant literary terms and a select text.)

Brief Outlines of Drama Genres:

1. Mime Theatre
2. Morality Play
3. Tragedy
4. Comedy
5. Tragi-comedy
6. Historical Play
7. Melodrama
8. Mystery Play
9. Theatre of the Absurd
10. Street Theatre

Representative Playwright and Text (16th Century)

William Shakespeare – *The Merchant of Venice*

UNIT IV: Introduction to English Fiction

(This unit will focus on prominent genres—providing a brief outline of each—relevant literary terms and a select text.)

Brief Outlines of Fiction Genres:

1. Realistic Fiction
2. Romance
3. Picaresque Novel
4. Epistolary Novel
5. Historical Fiction
6. Science Fiction
7. Speculative Fiction
8. Crime/ Mystery
9. Magic Realism
10. Young Adult Fiction

Representative Author and Text (18th Century)

Daniel Defoe: *Robinson Crusoe*

Suggested Reading

Alexander, Michael. *History of English Literature*. Macmillan Press Ltd., 2000.

Allison, Alexander, et al., ed. *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*. W. W. Norton and Company, 1983.

Christian, et al., ed. "Literary Movements". 13 May 2023, StudySmarter, www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/english-literature/literary-movements/

Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*. Fingerprint Publications. 2017.

Mangan, Michael. *A Preface to Shakespeare's Comedies*. Routledge, 1996.

Prasad, B. *A Background to the Study of English Literature*. Macmillan Ltd., 2010.

Robert Scholes, et al., ed. *Elements of Literature*. Oxford University Press, 2004.

Sampson, George. *The Concise Cambridge History of English Literature*. Cambridge University Press, 1946.

Sanders, Andrew. *Oxford History of English Literature*. Oxford University Press, 2005.

Shakespeare, William. *The Merchant of Venice*. Dover Publications Inc., 1995.

Stephen Greenblatt, et al., ed. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature. Vol. A, The Middle Ages*. W.W. Norton & Co. Ltd., 2006.