

The Islamia University of Bahawalpur

Department of English

M.A. English Literature

Course: History of English Literature I

Semester: 1st

Instructor: Syed Arslan Ahmad

Contact No. 0333-6987999

Course Description: This course is the study of the development of the English literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the Restoration period. It will examine a diverse array of works, with specific focus on the evolution of poetry and drama during the aforementioned periods.

Course Topics

▪ **The Anglo-Saxon Period**

Introduction to the Anglo-Saxon culture, and literature.

The development of poetry and prose during the Anglo-Saxon age.

Caedmon's Hymn and the religious poetry of the age.

Beowulf, and the tradition of the Heroic poetry in the age.

The development of prose writing during the age.

▪ **The Late Middle Ages**

Introduction to the Late Middle Ages.

Chivalry, Knighthood, and Courtly Love in the Middle Ages.

The influence of Geoffrey Chaucer on the English poetry.

The development in drama during the Middle Ages.

The medieval poetry.

▪ **The Renaissance Period**

The Elizabethan drama.

The tradition of sonnet writing during the Renaissance.

The causes for the popularity of William Shakespeare.

University Wits and the literary output of Christopher Marlowe.

Mid-term Examination

- **The Jacobean Period**

William Shakespeare's tragic plays.

Ben Jonson and the Jacobean comedy.

John Donne and the tradition of the metaphysical poetry.

The development in prose, and the tradition of essay writing during the age.

- **The Puritan Period**

The English Civil War and its impact on English people.

Prose and poetry during the Puritan age.

The characteristics of epic poetry, and John Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

- **The Restoration Period**

The restoration of the monarchy, and the French influence in court.

The theatre in the age of Restoration, and the characteristics of the comedy of manners.

The tradition of epic poetry, and John Dryden's *Absalom and Achitophel*

Final-term Examination

- **Required Book**

Name: A Critical History of English Literature

Author: Dr. B.R. Mullik

- **Suggested Readings**

Book: A History of English Literature

Author: Robert Huntington Fletcher

Book: The Short Oxford History of English Literature

Author: Andrew Sanders

- **Assessment Methodology**

Students will be examined continuously by means of assignments, quizzes, and discussions on the course topics. All assignments, discussions, and quizzes will cover significant concepts, and theories from the course content studied throughout the semester.

Note: If any student still has any difficulty in understanding any particular concept from the given topics, they may forward their queries to the class representatives. Furthermore, it will be the responsibility of the CR/GR to gather up the queries and forward those to me.

Arslan Ahmad