

Revised Course Outline

BS-English, Semester-VIII, Literature

Subject: Prose Instructor: Dr M Asif Khan

Syllabus:

1. Francis Bacon: Essays, the following essays:

1. Of Truth
2. Of Revenge
3. Of Marriage and Single Life

*** Topics for critical discussion:**

1. Bacon's philosophy/worldly wisdom
2. Bacon's morality
3. Renaissance elements in Bacon's essays

2. J. S. Mill: On Liberty, read summary/text of the first two chapters (the text is not compulsory)

*** Topics for discussion:**

1. The nature and scope of Mill's concept of liberty (Chapter 1)
2. Mill's views on the 'liberty of thought and discussion' (Chapter 2)

3. Bertrand Russell: Sceptical Essays, read summary/text of the following selected essays (the text is not compulsory):

1. Introduction: On the Value of Scepticism (Chapter 1)
2. Dreams and Facts (Chapter 2)
3. Can Men Be Rational? (Chapter 4)

*** Topics for discussion:**

1. Russell as a rationalist (Chapter 1)
2. Our wishes, beliefs and rationality (Chapter 2)
3. Is rationality possible? (Chapter 4)

*** Text Books:**

1. Francis Bacon: Essays, Edited by John Pitcher, London: Penguin, 1985.
2. J. S. Mill: On Liberty, Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1976.
3. Bertrand Russell: Sceptical Essays, London: Unwin Paperbacks, 1985.

*** Online sources:**

For Bacon:

<https://www.gradesaver.com/francis-bacon-essays-and-major-works/study-guide/themes>

<https://www.enotes.com/topics/essays-francis-bacon/themes>

<https://archive.org/details/baconsessay00baco/page/n12/mode/2up>

<https://www.fulltextarchive.com/page/Essays/>

<https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/files/Essays.pdf>

For Mill:

<https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/mill/liberty.pdf>

[http://armytage.net/pdsdata/\[Gray\] J S MILLS ON LIBERTY CL \(Routledge Philosophical Books/Book4You\).pdf](http://armytage.net/pdsdata/[Gray] J S MILLS ON LIBERTY CL (Routledge Philosophical Books/Book4You).pdf)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On_Liberty

http://openmindplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/John-Stuart-Mill_On-Liberty_Excerpts.pdf

For Russell:

<https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.222966/page/n11/mode/2up>

*** Sample exam questions:**

Q. 1. "Revenge is a kind of wild justice". Explain this statement by Bacon in the light of his philosophy. (Textual explanation, 7 marks). **Note: The Question on textual explanation is not compulsory.**

Q. 2. Give some quotations from Bacon to explain his moral approach. (15 marks)

Q. 3. Explain Mill's views regarding the freedom of speech.

Q. 4. Discuss Russell as a rationalist.
