

Semester-II

Core III British Poetry and Drama

Course Objectives

- The course seeks to provide the students a historical background of the literature of the time.
- It aims to introduce to the students British poetry and drama from the 14th to the 17th centuries.
- It aims to offer the students an exploration of certain seminal texts that set the course of British poetry and plays.

Unit-1

A historical overview

The period is remarkable in many ways. 14th century poetry evokes an unmistakable sense of “modern” and the spirit of Renaissance is marked in the Elizabethan Drama. The Reformation brings about sweeping changes in religion and politics. A period of expansion of horizons; both intellectual and geographical.

Unit-2

Chaucer: “The Wife of Bath’s Tale”

Unit-3

Thomas Campion: “Follow Thy Fair Sun, Unhappy Shadow”, Sir Philip Sidney: “Leave, O Love, which reachest but to dust”, Edmund Waller: “Go, lovely Rose”, Ben Jonson: “Song to Celia”, William Shakespeare: Sonnets: “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”, “When to the seasons of sweet silent thought”, “Let me not to the marriage of true minds.”

Unit-4

William Shakespeare: *Macbeth*

Marlowe: *The Jew of Malta*

Prescribed Texts

The Short Oxford History of English Literature by Andrews Sanders. Oxford: OUP

Weller Series: *Macbeth & Twelfth Night The Jew of Malta* by Christopher Marlowe

The Shoemaker’s Holiday by Thomas Dekker

Seventeenth-Century British Poetry, 1603-1660 edited by Rumrich and Chaplin. A Norton Critical Edition

The Broadview Anthology of Sixteenth-Century Poetry and Prose. Edited by Marie Loughlin; Sandra Bell; Patricia Brace

All prescribed pieces are available as digital copies at internet archive.

www.archive.org

Suggested Readings

- ✓ *A History of English Literature: Traversing Centuries* by Chaudhury & Goswami. Orient Blackswan
- ✓ *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human* by Harold Bloom
- ✓ ‘Madness as Method: A Study of Shakespearean Tragic Hero’, *Atlantic Critical Review*, Ed. Mohit K. Roy, Delhi,, Vol. 5, No.2, April-June 2006, pp.1-10.
- ✓ *Marlowe: A Critical Study* by J. B. Steane. Cambridge University Press
- ✓ *Critical Essays on Christopher Marlowe* by Emily Carroll Bartels. G.K. Hall