

Semester IV

Paper 8

ENG-HC-4016 British Literature: The 18th Century

Credits: 5 (Theory) + 1 (Tutorial)

Marks: 80 (End-Semester Examination) + 20 (Internal Assessment)

This paper aims to familiarize the students with British literature in the 18th century. A very interesting age in which reason and rationality dominated, this age saw the publication of some of the best novels and works of non-fictional prose and poetry in the English language. Though it was not predominantly an age of drama yet one cannot but pay attention to the few plays of the century. Although the texts in the course are mostly by men it must be noted that quite a number of women writers were also part of the literary scene. The texts in the course are representative of the age and to some extent representative of the forms as well. The selected texts hope to give the students an overview of the age and the writings that the age produced.

Texts:

- Jonathan Swift: *Gulliver's Travels* (Books III and IV)
- Samuel Johnson: 'London'
- Thomas Gray: 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard'
- Daniel Defoe: *Moll Flanders*
- Joseph Addison: "Pleasures of the Imagination", *The Spectator*, 411
- Oliver Goldsmith: *She Stoops to Conquer*

Suggested Topics and Background Prose Readings for Class Presentations Topics

- The Enlightenment and Neoclassicism
- Restoration Comedy
- The Country and the City
- The Novel and the Periodical Press

Readings

- Jeremy Collier, *A Short View of the Immorality and Profaneness of the English Stage* (London: Routledge, 1996).
- Daniel Defoe, 'The Complete English Tradesman' (Letter XXII), 'The Great Law of Subordination Considered' (Letter IV), and 'The Complete English Gentleman', in *Literature and Social Order in Eighteenth-Century England*, ed. Stephen Copley (London: Croom Helm, 1984).
- Samuel Johnson, 'Essay 156', in *The Rambler*, in *Selected Writings: Samuel Johnson*, ed. Peter Martin (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2009) pp. 194–7; *Rasselas* Chapter 10; 'Pope's Intellectual Character: Pope and Dryden Compared', from *The Life of Pope*, in *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, vol. 1, ed. Stephen Greenblatt, 8th edn (New York: Norton, 2006) pp. 2693–4, 2774–7.

Paper 9

ENG-HC-4026 British Romantic Literature

Credits: 5 (Theory) + 1 (Tutorial)

Marks: 80 (End-Semester Examination) + 20 (Internal Assessment)

The nineteenth century begins with the triumph of the Romantic imagination, expressing itself most memorably in the poetry of Blake, Burns, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, and Keats. The poetry of the age fashions itself partly in revolt to the spirit of the previous age, with very different ideas about the relationship between humans and nature and the role of the poet taking hold. This paper includes selections from works of major Romantic poets which address these issues, enabling students to appreciate the essence of the Romantic vision. In addition they will read that remarkable oddity, *Frankenstein*, a novel that also illuminates Romanticism from another angle.

Texts:

- William Blake: ‘The Lamb’, ‘The Chimney Sweeper’ (from *The Songs of Innocence and The Songs of Experience*); ‘The Tyger’ (*The Songs of Experience*); ‘Introduction’ to *The Songs of Innocence*
- Robert Burns: ‘A Bard’s Epitaph’; ‘Scots Wha Hae’
- William Wordsworth: ‘Tintern Abbey’; ‘Upon Westminster Bridge’
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge: ‘Kubla Khan’; ‘Dejection: An Ode’
- Percy Bysshe Shelley: ‘Ode to the West Wind’; ‘Hymn to Intellectual Beauty’; *The Cenci*
- John Keats: ‘Ode to a Nightingale’; ‘To Autumn’; ‘On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer’
- Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*

Suggested Topics and Background Prose Readings for Class Presentations

Topics

- Reason and Imagination
- Conceptions of Nature
- Literature and Revolution
- The Gothic
- The Romantic Lyric

Readings

- William Wordsworth, ‘Preface to Lyrical Ballads’, in *Romantic Prose and Poetry*, ed.
- Harold Bloom and Lionel Trilling (New York: OUP, 1973) pp. 594–611.
- John Keats, ‘Letter to George and Thomas Keats, 21 December 1817’, and ‘Letter to Richard Woodhouse, 27 October, 1818’, in *Romantic Prose and Poetry*, ed. Harold
- Bloom and Lionel Trilling (New York: OUP, 1973) pp. 766–68, 777–8.
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, ‘Preface’ to *Emile or Education*, tr. Allan Bloom
- (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1991).
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria*, ed. George Watson (London: Everyman, 1993) chap. XIII, pp. 161–66.

Paper 10

ENG-HC-4036 British Literature: The 19th Century

Credits: 5 (Theory) + 1 (Tutorial)

Marks: 80 (End-Semester Examination) + 20 (Internal Assessment)

The middle and later parts of the 19th century sees the novel coming into its own, although Jane Austen has already established the prestige of the novel form through her incisive explorations of the complexity of human motive and conduct, especially in their worldly affairs. The texts chosen will expose the students to the ground-breaking efforts of the poets as well to the works of fiction writers who manage to consolidate and refine upon the achievements of the novelists of the previous era. Austen to Rossetti represents a remarkable literary development and range of works, addressing a very diverse array of social preoccupations.

Texts:

- Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*
- Charlotte Bronte: *Jane Eyre*
- Charles Dickens: *The Pickwick Papers* (Chapter 1 The Pickwickians; Chapter 2 The Journey Begins; Chapter 23 In Which Mr. Samuel Weller Begins to Devote His Energies; Chapter 56 An Important Conference Takes Place; Chapter 57 In which the Pickwick Club is Finally Dissolved)
- Thomas Hardy: 'The Three Strangers'
- Alfred Tennyson: 'The Defence of Lucknow'
- Robert Browning: 'Love among the Ruins'
- Christina Rossetti: 'Goblin Market'

Suggested Topics and Background Prose Readings for Class Presentations Topics

- Utilitarianism
- The 19th Century Novel
- Marriage and Sexuality
- The Writer and Society
- Faith and Doubt
- The Dramatic Monologue

Readings

- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, 'Mode of Production: The Basis of Social Life', 'The Social Nature of Consciousness', and 'Classes and Ideology', in *A Reader in Marxist Philosophy*, ed. Howard Selsam and Harry Martel (New York: International Publishers, 1963) pp. 186–8, 190–1, 199–201.
- Charles Darwin, 'Natural Selection and Sexual Selection', in *The Descent of Man in The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 8th edn, vol. 2, ed. Stephen Greenblatt (New York: Norton, 2006) pp. 1545–9.
- John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women* in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 8th edn, vol. 2, ed. Stephen Greenblatt (New York: Norton, 2006) chap. 1, pp. 1061–9.