

M.A. Semester –I
SHAKESPEARE AND HIS
CONTEMPORARIES

Course Code: MENG 103
Course Credit : 06 (DSC)

Shakespeare and His Contemporaries

Units: 1 to 20

By: Dr. Pallavi Bhardwaj



Centre for Distance and Online Education
Himachal Pradesh University
Summer Hill, Shimla, 171005

CONTENTS

UNIT NO.	TOPICS	PAGE NO.
1	Origin of Drama: An Overview	3
2	Christopher Marlowe: Life and Works	13
3	<i>Doctor Faustus</i> : Major Aspects	16
4	<i>Doctor Faustus</i> : An Overview	22
5	<i>Doctor Faustus</i> : Critical Analysis	29
6	William Shakespeare: Life and Works	40
7	<i>Twelfth Night</i> : An Overview	45
8	<i>Twelfth Night</i> : Major Aspects	51
9	<i>Twelfth Night</i> : Critical Analysis-I	57
10	<i>Twelfth Night</i> : Critical Analysis-II	68
11	<i>The Tempest</i> : Major Aspects-I	80
12	<i>The Tempest</i> : Major Aspects-II	87
13	<i>The Tempest</i> : Critical Analysis-I	95
14	<i>The Tempest</i> : Critical Analysis-II	107
15	Ben Jonson: Life and Works	115
16	<i>Volpone</i> : An Overview	121
17	<i>Volpone</i> : Critical Analysis-I	127
18	<i>Volpone</i> : Critical Analysis-II	134
19	<i>Volpone</i> : Major Aspects-I	146
20	<i>Volpone</i> : Major Aspects-II	151

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE: SHAKESPEARE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES

Unit-1 ORIGIN OF DRAMA: AN OVERVIEW

Structure

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Learning Objectives

1.3 Origin of Drama

Self Check Exercise-1

1.4 Earlier Plays

Self Check Exercise-2

1.5 Summary

1.6 Glossary

1.7 Answers to Self Check Exercise

1.8 References/Suggested Readings

1.9 Terminal Questions

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This course in Renaissance drama introduces you to some of the best plays from the golden age of drama in England. Within the Renaissance period from around 1508 to 1660, the last quarter of the sixteenth century and the first quarter of the seventeenth century (i.e. the years 1576-1625) constitute the golden age of English drama. Doctor Faustus and Twelfth Night from the last decade of the sixteenth century and Volpone and The Tempest from the beginning of the seventeenth century provide a fairly good idea of the rich variety of drama during this period. Doctor Faustus (c. 1593) is a tragedy, Twelfth Night (c. 1601) a romantic comedy, Volpone (1605) a satiric comedy, and The Tempest (1611) a dramatic romance which has some features of tragedy and some of comedy. This lesson briefly describes the drama of ancient Greece and Rome and the medieval mystery and morality plays of England because some of their features are reflected in the plays in your course.

1.2 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This objective of this unit is to introduce you to the concepts of tragedy, comedy, the three unities, double plot, and type characters—in the context of the influence of ancient classical drama and medieval English mystery and morality plays on the plays prescribed in this course.

1.3 ORIGIN OF DRAMA

ORIGIN OF GREEK DRAMA: GREEK TRAGEDIES AND THREE UNITIES

In Europe drama emerged in Greece in the sixth century BC out of religious worship. At first a chorus of fifty dancers used to dance vigorously and sing songs in honour of God Dionysus. Then in sixth century BC Thespis introduced an actor who could engage in dialogue with the chorus leader, and thus drama was born in the west. (In India drama had become a fully developed art form by then, as we see in the plays of Bhasa who was a

M.A. Semester-I

Course: DSC MENG 102

ENGLISH

(POETRY FROM CHAUCER TO POPE)

UNIT: 1-23

Dr. Ashwani Rana

**Centre for Distance Education and Open Learning (CDOE)
Himachal Pradesh University,
Summer Hill, Shimla - 171005**

CONTENTS

CHAU CER

UNIT-1 AGE OF CHAU CER	6
UNIT-2 LIFE OF CHAU CER	10
UNIT-3 CANTERBURY TALES: MIRROR OF MEDIEVAL SOCIETY	14
UNIT-4 CANTERBURY TALES: CHARACTERS	20
UNIT-5 CHAU CER: FORM AND TECHNIQUE	27
UNIT-6 NUN'S PRIEST TALE-I	34
UNIT-7 NUN'S PRIEST TALE-II	40

JOHN DONNE

UNIT-8 JOHN DONNE: AGE	59
UNIT-9 JOHN DONNE: LIFE AND WORKS	64
UNIT-10 DONNE'S POETIC CRAFT	75
UNIT-11 DONNE'S POETRY-I	83
UNIT-12 DONNE'S POETRY-II	90
UNIT-13 DONNE'S POETRY-III	98

JOHN MILTON

UNIT-14 JOHN MILTON: AGE	109
UNIT-15 MILTON AS A LATE RENNAISSANCE POET	118

UNIT-16 MILTON’S LIFE AND WORKS	124
UNIT-17 “L’ALLEGRO”	139
UNIT-18 LYCIDAS	145
UNIT-19 PARADISE LOST BOOK-1	159
ALEXANDER POPE	
UNIT-20 ALEXANDER POPE: AGE	166
UNIT-21 LIFE AND WORKS OF ALEXANDER POPE	170
UNIT-22 RAPE OF THE LOCK	178
UNIT-23 AN EPISTLE TO DR. ARBUTHNOT	188

STRUCTURE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.2 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1.3 AGE OF CHAUCER

SELF-CHECK EXERCISE

1.4 SUMMARY

1.5 GLOSSARY

1.6 ANSWERS TO SELF-CHECK EXERCISE

1.7 REFERENCES/SUGGESTED READING

1.8 TERMINAL QUESTIONS

M.A. Semester-II

Course: DSC MENG 202

ENGLISH
(Romantic and Victorian Poetry)

UNIT: 1-21

Dr. Ashwani Rana

Centre for Distance Education and Open Learning (CDOE)
Himachal Pradesh University,
Summer Hill, Shimla - 171005

CONTENTS

	Page
UNIT 1 ROMANTIC PERIOD	4
UNIT 2 WILLIAM BLAKE: INTRODUCTION	7
UNIT 3 WILLIAM BLAKE: SONGS OF INNOCENCE	9
UNIT 4 WILLIAM BLAKE: SONGS OF EXPERIENCE	11
UNIT-5 WILLIAM WORDSWORTH: INTRODUCTION	16
UNIT-6 WILLIAM WORDSWORTH: TINTERN ABBEY	23
UNIT-7 WILLIAM WORDSWORTH: ODE: INTIMATIONS OF IMMORALITY FROM RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD	33
UNIT 8 S. T. COLERIDGE: INTRODUCTION	40
UNIT-9 COLERIDGE: KUBLA KHAN	44
UNIT 10: COLERIDGE: THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER	50
UNIT-11 JOHN KEATS: INTRODUCTION	56
UNIT-12 JOHN KEATS: ODES-I	60
UNIT-13 JOHN KEATS: ODES-II	67
UNIT-14 VICTORIAN AGE	72
UNIT-15 ROBERT BROWNING: LOVE POEMS	80
UNIT-16 ROBERT BROWNING: DRAMATIC MONOLOGUES	86
UNIT-17 ROBERT BROWNING: POETRY-I	92
UNIT- 18 ROBERT BROWNING: POETRY-II	102
UNIT-19 ALFRED LORD TENNYSON: INTRODUCTION	114
UNIT-20 LORD TENNYSON: POETRY-I	127

Unit 1 Romantic Period

STRUCTURE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.2 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1.3 PRE-ROMANTIC PERIOD

SELF –CHECK EXERCISE-I

1.4 ROMANTIC PERIOD

SELF –CHECK EXERCISE-II

1.5 SUMMARY

1.6 GLOSSARY

1.7 ANSWERS TO SELF –CHECK EXERCISE-I

1.8 SUGGESTED READING

1.9 TERMINAL QUESTIONS

M.A. Ist Semester

**Course: DSC MENG 101
(Compulsory)**

**ENGLISH
HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE FROM CHAUCER TO
1800....**

Units: 1-20

**Written
by
Dr. Arun Guleria**

**International Centre for Distance and Online Education
Summer Hill, Shimla - 171005**

Units	Blocks	Page No.s
	Block -I	
Unit – 1	14th-Century England: Socio-Political Upheaval, Economic Shifts, Literary Renaissance	1
Unit -2	The Age of Geoffrey Chaucer	11
Unit -3	The Age of Chaucer: Chaucer’s Contemporaries	25
Unit -4	Chaucer’s Imitators and The Fifteenth Century	34
	Block-II	
Unit -5	The Renaissance: General Introduction	41
Unit – 6	The Renaissance: Drama	51
Unit -7	Evolution and Diversity in Elizabethan Drama: Types, Playwrights, and Contributions	66
Unit -8	The Renaissance: Poetry	77
Unit -9	The Renaissance: Prose	92
Unit -10	Changing Views on Literature: Renaissance Criticism	101
	Block-III	
Unit – 11	Unveiling Literary Transformation: Drama, Comedy, and the Comedy of Humours in Puritan and Jacobean Eras	110
Unit -12	Versatility in Words: Flourishing Poetry and Prose in the Age of Milton	119
Unit -13	Restoration Literature	135
Unit -14	Restoration Literature: Poetry, Comedy and Heroic Tragedy	145
Unit -15	Restoration Prose	159
	Block-IV	
Unit – 16	The 18th Century's Socio-Political Upheaval and its Literary Echoes	168
Unit -17	Classicism: The Classical School of Poetry	177
Unit -18	Classicism: Its Survival	187
Unit -19	Unveiling the 18th Century Novel: From Evolution to Revolution	197
Unit -20	Eighteenth-Century Miscellaneous Works	208

Block-1
Unit- 1
14th-Century England: Socio-Political Upheaval, Economic Shifts, Literary Renaissance

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Learning Objectives

1.3 A Glimpse into 14th-Century England: Kings, Wars, Plague, and Power

Self-Check Exercise-I

1.4 Chaucer's Age: A Comprehensive Analysis

Self-Check Exercise-II

1.5 Socio-Political Conditions and Literary Expression in 14th-Century England

Self-Check Exercise-III

1.6 Summary

1.7 Glossary

1.8 Answers to Self-Check Exercises

1.9 Suggested Readings/ References

1.10 Terminal Questions

1.1 Introduction

Dear readers, as we start on a journey to become intimately acquainted with English literature's history. Our voyage commences with a glimpse into the 14th century, a period marked by fascinating interplays of power, war, plague, and transformative shifts in governance. As we probing into the intricacies of this era, we witness the emergence of key figures, societal forces, and literary expressions that have left an indelible mark on the course of English literature. Our exploration begins by examining the complex socio-political and economic conditions that served as the backdrop for literary creativity. This century witnessed not only the reign of monarchs but also the tumultuous impact of the Hundred Years' War, the grim shadow of the Black Death, and the nascent inklings of parliamentary influence. Amidst these changes, the importance of the nobility's role, the rise of

**M.A. Semester –I
ENGLISH**

**Course Code: MENG-104
Course Credit: 06 (DSC)**

Nineteenth Century Fiction

Units: 1 to 20

**By: Dr. Nisha Thakur
Mr. Vrishank Verma**



**Centre for Distance and Online Education
Himachal Pradesh University
Summer Hill, Shimla, 171005**

CONTENTS

UNIT NO.	TOPICS	PAGE NO.
1	A Brief Introduction to the Bronte Sisters	3
2	<i>Wuthering Heights</i> : An Introduction to the Background of Novel	8
3	Narration and Narrative Technique in <i>Wuthering Heights</i>	17
4	Characters and their Relationship in the Novel <i>Wuthering Heights</i>	28
5	Important Critical Concerns in <i>Wuthering Heights</i>	37
6	An Introduction to Charles Dickens	52
7	<i>Hard Times</i> : Story and Structure	59
8	Characters and Characterization in <i>Hard Times</i>	73
9	<i>Hard Times</i> : Major Critical Aspects	81
10	Major Themes Highlighted in <i>Hard Times</i>	92
11	Thomas Hardy: An Introduction to the Life and Career	98
12	<i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i> : A Detailed Outline of the Novel	110
13	<i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i> :: A Critical Overview	129
14	Character and Characterization in the Novel <i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i>	135
15	<i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i> : Major Themes	140
16	An Introduction to George Eliot	145
17	<i>The Mill on the Floss</i> : Major Themes	152
18	Major Critical Concerns in <i>The Mill on the Floss</i>	158
19	Major and Minor Characters in <i>The Mill on the Floss</i>	165
20	Major Themes and Symbols in <i>The Mill on The Floss</i>	174

Unit-1 A Brief Introduction to the Bronte Sisters

Structure

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Learning Objectives
- 1.3 Bronte Sisters
- Self-Check Exercise-I
- 1.4 Summary
- 1.5 Glossary
- 1.6 Answers to Self-Check Exercise
- 1.7 References/Suggested Readings
- 1.8 Terminal Questions

1.1 Introduction

The Brontë sisters—Charlotte, Emily, and Anne—are towering figures in English literature, known for their ground breaking novels that continue to captivate and inspire readers and scholars alike. Born in the early 19th century in Thornton, Yorkshire, the sisters faced a series of personal tragedies that deeply influenced their writing. Their works, characterized by passionate storytelling and profound exploration of the human condition, have earned a lasting place in literary history. This chapter delves into their lives, literary achievements, and the enduring legacy of their contributions to the world of literature.

1.2 Learning Objectives

Dear students this Unit will make you aware of the Bronte sisters of the Nineteenth Century. The section will give a comprehensive view of the Bronte sisters importance in the Nineteenth century.

1.3 Life and Career

A. Early Lives and Family Background

Charlotte Brontë was born on April 21, 1816, followed by Emily on July 30, 1818, and Anne on January 17, 1820. They had two other sisters, Maria and Elizabeth, who died young, and a brother, Branwell. Their father, Patrick Brontë, was an Anglican clergyman appointed as the rector of Haworth, a village on the Yorkshire moors. After the death of their mother in 1821, their Aunt Elizabeth moved in to help care for the family. The children's education was a priority for Patrick, who believed that proper education was crucial for their future prospects. The Brontë siblings often entertained themselves with storytelling and imaginative games, laying the foundation for their future literary endeavors.

B. Literary Beginnings and Personal Struggles

The Brontë sisters' literary journey began early, inspired by their isolated upbringing and vivid imaginations. They were first published under pseudonyms—Currer (Charlotte), Ellis (Emily), and Acton (Anne) Bell—in a volume of poetry in 1846. Although it sold only two copies, the sisters did not abandon their literary ambitions.

M.A. Vth Semester

Course: DSCMENG 201
(Compulsory)

ENGLISH

HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE: NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURIES

Units: 1-20

**Written
by
Dr. Arun Guleria**

**Centre for Distance Education and Online Education (CDOE)
Himachal Pradesh University,
Summer Hill, Shimla – 171005**

Contents		
Units	Blocks	Page No.s
	Block -I	
Unit – 1	Socio-Political Landscape of the Pre-Romantic Era	1-10
Unit -2	The Pre-Romantics	11-27
Unit -3	The Romantic Movement	28-44
Unit -4	Romanticism, Historical Fiction, and Literary Contributions	45-60
	Block-II	
Unit -5	Victorian Britain: A Journey Through Time and Transformation	61-69
Unit – 6	Victorian Literature and the Quest for Balance	70-83
Unit -7	Victorian Verses: Evolution of Poetry in the 19th Century	84-101
Unit -8	Victorian Poetry: From Optimism to Pessimism - Shaping an Era	102-114
Unit -9	Victorian Verse: Spasmodic Poetic Passion, Pre-Raphaelite Aesthetics, and the Wit of Light Verse	115-125
Unit -10	Victorian Prose: Diverse Genres and Influential Authors	126-139
Unit – 11	Evolution of English Essays and Novels in the Victorian Era	140-160
	Block-III	
Unit -12	20th-Century English Literature: Navigating Transformations, Trends, and Themes	161-177
Unit -13	English Poetry from the 20th Century to the Interwar Period and Beyond	178-189
Unit -14	Navigating the Literary Landscape: Novels of the 20th Century and Beyond	190-201
Unit -15	20th-Century Novelists: Pushing Boundaries and Challenging Norms	202-214
Unit – 16	Drama Evolution: Contrasting Victorian Era and 20th Century Theatrical Transformation	215-225
Unit -17	Dramatic Exploration: Absurd Drama and the World of Problem Plays	226-235
Unit -18	20th Century Essayists and the Legacy of Earlier Masters	236-246
Unit -19	The Evolution of Literary Criticism Through Time: A Multifaceted Journey	247-251
Unit -20	Literary Theories and Critical Impact in the Twentieth Century	260-280

Block- I

Unit-1

Socio-Political Landscape of the Pre-Romantic Era

1.1. Introduction

1.2. Learning Objectives

1.3. The historical context of the pre-Romantic period

Self-Check Exercise-I

1.4. Socio-political conditions of the pre-Romantic Era

Self-Check Exercise-II

1.5. Pioneers of Pre-Romanticism: Shaping the Path to Romantic Literature

Self-Check Exercise-III

1.6. Summary

1.7. Glossary

1.8. Answers to Self-Check Exercises

1.9. Suggested Readings/ References

1.10. Terminal Questions

**M.A. Semester –II
ENGLISH**

**Course Code: MENG-203
Course Credit: 06 (DSC)**

Modern Fiction

Units: 1 to 21

By: Dr. Nisha Thakur



**Centre for Distance and Online Education
Himachal Pradesh University
Summer Hill, Shimla, 171005**

CONTENTS

UNIT NO.	TOPICS	PAGE NO.
1	Modern Period in English Literature	3
2	E.M Forster: Life and Career	16
3	<i>Passage to India</i> : A Modern Classic	24
4	<i>A Passage to India</i> : An Elaborated Overview	35
5	<i>A Passage to India</i> : A Critical Analysis	61
6	<i>A Passage to India</i> : Forster Technique of Writing	84
7	<i>A Passage to India</i> : Other Major Critical Concerns	100
8	D.H. Lawrence: Life and Career	118
9	<i>Sons and Lovers</i> : An Overview	126
10	<i>Sons and Lovers</i> : Psychological Depth and Narrative Complexity	135
11	<i>Sons and Lovers</i> : Major Themes	141
12	<i>Sons and Lovers</i> : Character Analysis and Important Quotes	153
13	<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> : An Overview	161
14	<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> : Themes and Symbols	166
15	<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> : Major Critical Concerns	174
16	Virginia Woolf: Life and Literary Contribution	184
17	Mrs. Dalloway: Story and Characters	195
18	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> : Themes and Other Major Critical Concerns	206
19	Joseph Conrad: Life and Career	217
20	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> : Major Critical Interpretation-I	227
21	Heart of Darkness: Major Critical Interpretation-II	235

Unit-1 Modern Period in English Literature

Structure

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Learning Objectives
- 1.3 Modern Period in English Literature
- Self- Check Exercise-I
- 1.4 Summary
- 1.5 Glossary
- 1.6 Answers to Self- Check Exercise
- 1.7 References/ Suggested Readings
- 1.8 Terminal Questions

1.1 Introduction

"Modern fiction" denotes a literary genre that originated in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, marked by a significant departure from traditional narrative forms and conventions. This genre encapsulates the cultural, social, and psychological transformations of the modern era, emphasizing experimentation with form, style, and narrative techniques over conventional storytelling. Literary modernism afforded authors unprecedented freedom to innovate in their modes of expression. Modernist works frequently feature free-flowing inner dialogues and non-linear narratives, foregrounding the subjective experiences and emotions of characters. Notable writers within this literary movement include W.B. Yeats, Joseph Conrad, Samuel Beckett, D.H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, T.S. Eliot, and William Carlos Williams.

1.2 Learning Objectives

Dear students, the present chapter introduce you to the Modern Fiction. By the end of the lesson you will be able to answer the question on chief characteristics, themes and authors of Modern Fiction.

1.3 Modern Period in English Literature

The modern period in English literature, spanning from the onset of the 20th century until 1965, represents a radical departure from previous literary norms. This era is characterized by a pronounced break from traditional modes of engaging with the world. Whereas earlier literary periods discouraged experimentation and individualism, the modern period celebrated these qualities as virtues. The advent of modernism brought numerous cultural shocks, most notably the traumatic impact of World War I and II. These conflicts, spanning from 1914 to 1919 and 1939 to 1945 respectively, left a profound and unsettling legacy, with widespread uncertainty and a pervasive sense of disorientation among the populace.

Key elements of modernist literature include: