

Core Course II – English Literature Between 1400 – 1660

The general aim of this course to provide an exposure to the student to the range of literary forms and achievements of this period from Chaucer, considered the first major poet in the English language, to Webster, the best representative of the Senecan dimension in English theatre.

The objectives are :

1. To introduce the student to the origin of the major traditions in English poetry and to their depth, range and complexity.
2. To introduce the student to samples of great English poetry and prose ever written and to make the student perceive the history of English prose.
3. To introduce the student to the theatrical and dictional exuberance of English drama of this period and to make the student perceive the continuity of the dramatic line from Marlowe to Shakespeare, who is introduced in Course III.
4. To introduce the student to the complexity of the literary imagination of this period – the ironically humorous social criticism, the courtly idealization of love and marriage and the metaphysical weaving together of thought and feeling.

Syllabus

Unit I

Chaucer : General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales
Spenser : Prothalamion, Epithalamion

Unit II

Donne : The Canonization, The Good-morrow, “Death be not Proud..”
Marvell : Thoughts in a Garden
 To His Coymistress
Cowley : Hymn : To Light

Unit III

Bacon : Of Truth, Of Death, Of Unity In Religion, Of Adversity, Of Revenge.
The Bibel : The Book of Job

Unit IV

Marlowe : Dr. Faustus
Jonson : Volpone

Unit V

Kyd : The Spanish Tragedy.
Webster : The Duchess of Malfi