

Core Course III – Shakespeare

The aim of this paper is to expose the student to the depth and range of the dramatic achievement of the Elizabethan period as exemplified in Shakespeare and to make the student appreciate the verbal felicity and thematic diversity of Shakespeare's plays.

The objectives are :

1. To make the student grasp the generic prolificacy of Shakespeare's plays - from different types of comedy through tragedy, tregi-comedy, and Romance to Problem / Dark plays.
2. To make the student appreciate the dramatic fusion of humour, solemnity, thought, emotion, images and symbol and English rhythm in Shakespeare
3. To acquaint the students with the socio-political, geographical and exploratory dimensions of the period and their impact on Shakespeare.
4. To draw the attention of the student to the language and style of Shakespeare.
5. To acquaint the student with Shakespeare's poetic imagination.

The generic diversity of Shakespeare's plays has been represented in each unit. The structure of Shakespearean theatre, the composition of the audience and their taste, and the themes and structure of Shakespeare's poems, included in Unit V, may be studied in relation to the four earlier units for a better comprehension of the literary conventions and the extra-literary dimensions of Shakespeare's works. Shakespeare criticism may begin with textual criticism and various editions, pass through Bradley, Raleigh and Dowden to Dover Wilson, Wilson Knight and Caroline Spurgeon.

Syllabus

Unit I : Twelfth Night

Unit II : Macbeth

Unit III : The Tempest

Unit IV : Measure for Measure

Unit V : Shakespearean Comedy, tragedy – Shakespeare's Historical plays – Problem plays - Shakespeare's Theatre – Sonnets - Fools and Clowns – Use of songs, supernatural and soliloquies.