

Core Course VIII - Twentieth Century Literature

The general aim of this course is to introduce the student to the high – quality experimental literary explorations of and the ramifying ideological positions that inform twentieth century English literature. The aim is to make the student explore the socio-political and philosophical matrices of twentieth century literature.

Objectives :

1. To introduce the student to the religio-political, artistic, realistic and lyrical – surrealist dimensions of twentieth century English poetry.
2. To make the student perceive the continuity, with differences, of the elegy-tradition in twentieth century English poetry.
3. To make the student appreciate the expository and argumentative functions of English prose in the twentieth century.
4. To draw the student's attention to the revival of English drama in the twentieth century and to get the student acquainted with avant garde drama.
5. To introduce the student to the experimental vigour and the variety / depth of twentieth century English novel.

Fair representation has been given in the first two units to the complex variety of English poetry in the twentieth century. The third unit has been so designed as to represent the best prose compositions of the period. The intention is to make the student learn to write effectively in the expository and argumentative modes using the prescribed prose texts as model. The fourth unit includes English plays representing the new poetic drama with social – moral consciousness and the existentialism / absurdism oriented avantgarde writing. The fifth unit represents the new directions taken by the English novel in the twentieth century.

Unit I

Hopkins	: The Windhover
Eliot T.S.	: Love Song of J.Alfred Prufrock
Yeats, W.B.	: Easter 1916 Sailing to Byzantium
Dylan Thomas	: After the Funeral Do Not Go Gentle Into That Night

Unit II

Philip Larkin : Church going, Toads.
Ted Hughes : The Jaguar. Pike
W.H. Auden : In Memory of W.B. Yeats
Cecil Day Lewis : The Poet
Louis Macneice : Prayer Before Birth

Unit III

E.M. Forster : The Duty of the Society to the Artist.
Bertrand Russell : Knowledge and Wisdom
Joyce Cary : The Making of an Artist
Hilarie Belloc : Comfortable Words

Unit IV

T.S. Eliot : Cocktail Party
Samuel, Beckett : Waiting for Godot

Unit V

Virginia Woolf : Mrs.Dalloway
D.H. Lawrence : Sons and Lovers
James Joyce : The Portrait of the Artist as a Youngman.