

✓ ENG-150: BRITISH POETRY: MILTON TO THE PRESENT

(Contact Hours: 60, Credits: 4)

This course is a continuation of *Introduction to Poetry* dealt with in the first Semester. It is intended to provide a comprehensive guide to English poetry, its development, forms and movements over the ages. Beginning with Milton, it moves on to the Metaphysical Poets, represented by John Donne, and the Augustan period, represented by Alexander Pope. The Romantics are represented by Gray, Blake and Keats, the Victorians by Browning and Hardy, offering students the scope to view their poetry against the background of a clash between faith and scepticism, hope and despair.

The course is also designed to familiarise students with the “new” poetry which came into being at the beginning of the twentieth century in the UK, which embodies the crisis, disillusionment, and radical scepticism of the times. Beginning with Yeats and Eliot, the course includes English, Welsh and Irish poets, who add a “regional” flavour to the complexity and exciting diversity of Modern English Poetry.

Course Objectives

1. To provide a comprehensive guide to English poetry, its development, forms and movements over the ages.
2. To familiarise students with the “new” poetry, which came into being at the beginning of the 20th Century in the UK.
3. To equip them with the ability to understand and appreciate the various elements and aspects of poetry.
4. To encourage reading and discussion of poetry as a means to explore issues of identity, culture, human relationships, nature and topics relating to life and customs.

Learning Outcomes

This course will help students gain expertise in the study of poetry, its various elements, genres, techniques and devices. By engaging in close reading and analysis of literary texts, students will develop their critical thinking skills, thus inculcating the spirit of enquiry and questioning in them. Further, students will be provided with the relevant materials in their endeavour to explore culture, history, and human values.

UNIT I

1. John Milton: “Paradise Lost” (Book I, lines 1-125)
2. Alexander Pope: “Ode on Solitude”
3. Thomas Gray: “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard”

UNIT II

1. William Blake: “The Lamb” and “The Tyger”

2. John Keats: "Ode to Autumn"
3. Robert Browning: "My Last Duchess"

UNIT III

1. Thomas Hardy: "Let Me Enjoy"
2. William Butler Yeats: "The Second Coming"
3. T. S. Eliot: "Whisper of Immortality"

UNIT

IV

1. Ted Hughes: "A Woman Unconscious"
2. Seamus Heaney: "Digging"
3. Lynne Rees: "Never"

Suggested Reading

- Bloom, H. *The Best Poems of the English Language*. Harper Collins, 2004.
- Bowra, C. M. *The Romantic Imagination*. OUP, 1999.
- Bromwich, David. *Skeptical Music: Essays on Modern Poetry*. University of Chicago Press, 2001.
- Corcoran, Neil. *English Poetry since 1940*. Longmans, 1993.
- Corns, T. N., ed. *The Cambridge Companion to English Poetry*. Cambridge University Press, 1973.
- Draper, R. P. *An Introduction to Twentieth-Century Poetry in English*. St Martin's Press, 1999.
- Duran, Angelica. *Concise Companion of Milton*, Blackwell, 2006.
- Frye, N. *Fearful Symmetry: A Study of William Blake*. University of Toronto Press, 2004.
- Neill, E. *Trial by Ordeal: Thomas Hardy and the Critics*. Columbia Camden House, 1999.
- Keats, John. *Complete Poems and Selected Letters of John Keats* (with an Introduction by Edward Hirsch). Modern Library, 2001.
- Howarth, Peter. *British Poetry in the Age of Modernism*. Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- Keating, P. J. *Robert Browning: A Reader's Guide*. Writers & Their Background Series, 1974.
- Manning, Peter. *Reading Romantics: Texts and Contexts*, Viking, 1990.
- Perkins, David. *A History of Modern Poetry (2 Volumes)*. Harvard University Press, 1987.