

**FOURTH SEMESTER****ENG 250*****British Prose*****(Total Credits – 4/ Total Marks – 100)****Introduction**

This course is intended to guide students in reading British prose from the sixteenth to the twentieth century through a selection of well-known prose writers. The units cover early prose writers like Bacon, Addison and Steele to modernist writers like Lawrence and Russell while covering Romantic essayists (Lamb, Hazlitt and Chesterton) and feminist writers (Mary Wollstonecraft and Virginia Woolf). This selection would allow students to familiarise themselves with multiple perspectives, themes and styles within the genre.

**Course Objectives**

- To familiarise students with prose writing.
- To equip them to understand the cultural, political and historical contexts.
- To encourage students to engage with the many representative writers.
- To acquaint students with the different styles and subjects of prose writing.

**Learning Outcomes**

- This course will help students to identify different styles and themes in prose writing. The course will allow them to see how prose writing can become the vehicle of self-expression and expression of myriad associated socio-political issues.
- Students will develop their critical thinking and analysis skills by closely reading and analysing these texts.
- Further, the students will develop interests in British literary and socio-political movements and their impact on our contemporary thought and imagination.

**UNIT I**

- Francis Bacon: Essay 32 "Of Discourse", Essay 46 "Of Gardens", Essay 50 "Of Studies".
- Joseph Addison: "Pleasures of Imagination"
- Richard Steele: "The Character of Will Wimble"

**UNIT II**

- Mary Wollstonecraft: "Human Rights and the Duties They Involve"
- Charles Lamb: "My Relations"
- William Hazlitt: "On Going a Journey"

**UNIT III**

- G. K. Chesterton: "A Defence of Detective Stories"
- Virginia Woolf: "Professions for Women"

**UNIT IV**

- D. H. Lawrence: "The Spirit of Place"
- Bertrand Russell: "A Free Man's Worship"

**Suggested Reading**

1. Addison, Joseph. 'Pleasures of Imagination'. Spectator, No. 411, June 1712.
2. Bacon, Francis. The Essays. Penguin Classics, 1985.
3. Chesterton, G. K. The Defendant. The Project Gutenberg, 2004.
4. Humphreys, Arthur Raleigh. Steele, Addison, and Their Periodical Essays. British Council, 1959.
5. Lamb, Charles. The Essays of Elia: Classic Articles on English Culture, Religion, History and Society in the early 1800s. Pantianos Classics, 1915.
6. Lawrence, D. H. Studies in Classic American Literature (Chapter 1). Thomas Seltzer, 1923.
7. Morrison, Robert (ed.). The Oxford Handbook of British Romantic Prose. OUP, 2024.
8. Russell, Bertrand. Bertrand Russell's Best. Routledge, 2009.
9. Seckel, Al (ed.). Bertrand Russell on God and Religion. Prometheus Books, 1986.
10. Steele, Richard. 'The Character of Will Wimble'. Spectator, July 4, 1711.
11. Wollstonecraft, Mary. A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (Chapter 1). T. Fisher Unwin, 1891.
12. Woolf, Virginia. A Room of One's Own and Three Guineas. Penguin Classics, 2019.

