

# Syllabus

## ENGLISH

Four Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) Gauhati University  
& CBCS

**B.A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**

Academic Year 2024



GAUHATI UNIVERSITY  
Guwahati-781014



Sanjib Kumar Goswami

**Department of English**  
**Kamrup College, Chamata**  
**Nalbari, Assam, India-781306**

**Paper 2**  
**English CORE**  
**Forms, Genres and Concepts of English Literature**  
**(External Evaluation: 60 + Internal Assessment 40): Total Marks 100**  
**4 Credits**  
**(15 Classes Per Credit)**  
Contact + Non-Contact Classes: Total 60

**Graduate Attributes: Course Objective**

This paper is designed to introduce students to the major forms, genres and concepts of English literature. Students will here be expected to familiarise themselves with the themes, ideas and different generic dimensions of literary writing and practice. The topics are broad and general enough to be readily manageable in the second semester and have been selected with a view to enable students to connect and associate these concepts and forms with reference to texts and their specific contexts.

**Learning Outcome**

This paper on the major forms, genres and concepts of English literature aims to enable students to acquaint themselves with the fundamental categories of literary practice, both in terms of their emergence in history and by reference to the way they have evolved in practice. Students will also be able to situate and envision the interconnections between these terms, apart from engaging with the variations and departures through the study of these concepts and forms.

**Key Features**

- A genre-based focus on English literary practice.
- An engagement with the essential forms for contextualising literature.
- A focus on forms of textual writing and their impact in the shaping of literary traditions.
- A close processing of generic and formative imperatives in the development of the primary markers in English literature
- An engagement that enables the placement of English literary studies within a broad but grounded spectrum of reading processes that open new pathways of critical reception

**Unit 1: Forms and Genres in Poetry (1 Credit)**

- The Epic in English and the Western World
- Sonnet Writing and Sonnet Traditions
- Elegies and Traditions of Lament Verse in English
- Lyric Writing Poetic Practice
- Satirical Poetry

**Unit 2: Forms and Genres in Fiction (1 Credit)**

- The Novel as Narrative
- The Short Story in English
- The Picaresque Novel
- Realism, Naturalism and the Novel
- The Novella in English Literature
- Postmodern Fiction

### **Unit 3: Forms and Genres in Drama (1 Credit)**

- Tragedy in English Literature
- Comedy: Types and Forms in Comic Theatrical Practice
- Farce in English literary history
- Music in the Theatre
- Tragicomedy
- Melodrama

### **Unit 4: Basic Terms & Themes (1 Credit)**

Absurd Drama | Novel of Manners | Comedy of Manners | The Stream of Consciousness Novel | Poetic Drama | Science Fiction | Crime Fiction | Dramatic Monologue | The Bible and English Prose | The Historical Novel | Autobiography | Biography | The Self-Reflexive Novel | Metafiction | Drama of Ideas | Point of View (PoV) | The Essay | The Periodical Essay | The Personal Essay | Letters by Writers

### **Recommended Reading:**

Chris Baldick. *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*, Oxford: OUP, 2015

M.H. Abrams and Geoffrey Galt Harpham. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, Eleventh edition, Wadsworth, 2015

Ross Murfin and Supriya Ray. *The Bedford Glossary of Critical & Literary Terms*, Fourth edition, Bedford, 2019

J.A. Cuddon and M.A.R. Habib. *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*, Fifth Edition, London: Penguin, 2015