

**Attributes: Course Objective**

This paper is designed to introduce students to English literary and social history in terms of ideas and/or events that bear on the production of texts earmarked for study of the basics of English literature. Students will here be expected to familiarise themselves with the literary and social aspirations of English as revealed in its literature through the different periods and ages. Topics are broad and general enough to be readily manageable in the first semester and have been selected with a view to sensitising students to the vast panorama of socio-cultural changes across different ages.

**Learning Outcome**

This paper on English Literary and Social History aims to enable students to acquaint themselves with literary and cultural institutions understand the contexts of literature engage with social and political realities that have impacted English literature learn the different trajectories of social and cultural movement analyse the inter-connections between texts, contexts and influences situate modes of reading through an examination of social and cultural embeddedness in the context of English literature.

**Key Features**

- A chronological focus on English literary and cultural history.
- An engagement with the essential timeline for contextualizing literature.
- A focus on location, culture, text and context in the shaping of literary traditions.
- A close processing of cultural and social imperatives in the development of the worlds of literary markers
- An engagement that enables the placement of literary studies within a broad but grounded spectrum of reading processes that open new pathways of critical reception

**Unit 1: Medieval to the Renaissance (1 Credit)**

- Feudalism and the Medieval World
- Chaucer, Langland, Gower
- Medieval and Renaissance English Theatre
- Elizabethan and Metaphysical Poetry
- The Print Revolution

**Unit 2: The Enlightenment to the Nineteenth Century (1 Credit)**

- The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment
- Restoration Drama
- Defoe and the Rise of the Novel
- The Industrial Revolution
- Romantic and Victorian Poetry
- Fiction in the Nineteenth Century

**Unit 3: Modern to the Present (1 Credit)**

- The Contexts of the Modernism: Fiction, Poetry, Drama
- Literature in the Postcolonial World
- The 'Woman' Question and Gender Studies
- Popular Culture and Literature
- Migration, Consumerism and Globalisation
- Postmodern and Contemporary Literature

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

The Norman Conquest | Dream Allegory | Courtly Love | The University Wits | The Reformation and English Literature | Interludes | Moralities & Miracle Plays | Puritanism  
| Darwinism | Suffragette Movement | Bestsellers | Social Media and Literature

**Recommended Reading:**

Andrew Sanders. *The Short Oxford History of English Literature*, Fourth edition, Oxford: OUP, 2004

J. M. Roberts. *The Penguin History of the World*, London: Penguin, 2004 Robert Tombs.

*The English and their History*, London: Penguin, 2015

Ronald Carter and John McRae. *The Routledge History of Literature in English: Britain and Ireland*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn, London: Routledge, 2021

Simon Jenkins. *A Short History of England*, London: Profile Books, 2018