



SOPHIA COLLEGE

(AUTONOMOUS)

Affiliated to the University of Mumbai

Syllabi for Semesters III and IV

Programme: B. A.

Course: English

(Choice-Based Credit System with effect from the year 2021-22)

UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI

SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

SYLLABUS FOR S.Y.B.A. (ENGLISH)

Paper II: HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

SEMESTER III

Course Title: HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE – I
(FROM THE MEDIEVAL AGE TO THE RENAISSANCE)

SEMESTER IV

Course Title: HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE – II
(FROM THE ELIZABETHAN AGE TO THE CAROLINE PERIOD)

Total no. of lectures per semester: 60

No. of credits per semester: 3

Course: History of English Literature

Semester Three – History of English Literature - I (From the Medieval Age to the Renaissance)

Objectives:

- to introduce students to medieval and renaissance literatures
- to familiarise them with the characteristic features of the major genres of the period
- to enable them to critically analyse other representative texts and art of the period
- to provide learners with an understanding of the development of the tradition of English literature
- to enable them to view the connections between the histories of literary traditions across cultures

Learning Outcomes:

Learners will be able to

- understand the link between texts and the cultural contexts in which they are produced and consumed
- understand the development of the tradition of English literature
- view the connections between the histories of literary traditions across cultures
- apply theory to a range of texts
- understand the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary academic studies
- understand the intersectional nature of contemporary literary and cultural theory
- apply theory to examine issues of privilege and oppression in multiple areas of life as represented in literature
- interrogate the construction of the canon

Unit I: Middle English Literature

- Socio-historical and cultural context: Norman conquest, Black Death, Wars of the Roses, scholasticism, translations and the construction of an English national identity
- Literary trends: allegory, legends, romance, ballad

Unit II: Poetry

Geoffrey Chaucer: “General Prologue” to *The Canterbury Tales*

OR

William Langland: *Piers Plowman*

Unit III: Renaissance Literature

- Socio-historical and cultural context: Renaissance, reformation, humanism
- Literary trends: mystery, miracle and morality plays, sonnet

Unit IV: Sonnets and Courtly Love Poetry

Sir Philip Sidney: Sonnet I of *Astrophel and Stella* (“Loving in Truth ...”)
Edmund Spenser: Sonnet I of *Amoretti* (“Happy ye leaves ...”)

William Shakespeare: Sonnet 18 (“Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer’s Day?”)
Sonnet 116 (“Let Me Not to the Marriage of True Minds”)
Sonnet 130 (“My Mistress’ Eyes are Nothing Like the Sun”)
Aemilia Lanyer: “To the Lady Elizabeths Grace”

Question paper pattern

Semester End Examination: 75 marks

Semester III: History of English Literature- I (From the Medieval Age to the Renaissance)

Duration: 2.5 hours

- Q.1 Essay on Unit 1 (1 out of 2) (15 marks)
Q.2 Essay on Unit 2 (1 out of 2) (15 marks)
Q.3 Essay on Unit 3 (1 out of 2) (15 marks)
Q.4 Essay on Unit 4 (1 out of 2) (15 marks)
Q.5. Short notes on all units (2 out of four) (15 marks)

Internal Assessment: 25 marks

Students will be asked to submit assignments on the texts indicated below:

- Margery Kempe: *The Book of Margery Kempe*
- Margaret Cavendish: *The Blazing World*

Course Title: History of English Literature

Semester Four: History of English Literature - II (From the Elizabethan Age to the Caroline Period)

Objectives:

- to introduce students to the literature of the Elizabethan, Jacobean and Caroline periods
- to familiarise them with the characteristic features of the major genres of the period
- to enable them to critically analyse other representative texts of the period
- to provide learners with an understanding of the development of the tradition of English literature
- to enable them to view the connections between the histories of literary traditions across cultures

Learning Outcomes:

Learners will be able to

- understand the link between texts and the cultural contexts in which they are produced and consumed
- understand the development of the tradition of English literature
- view the connections between the histories of literary traditions across cultures
- apply theory to a range of texts
- understand the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary academic studies
- understand the intersectional nature of contemporary literary and cultural theory
- apply theory to examine issues of privilege and oppression in multiple areas of life as represented in literature
- interrogate the construction of the canon

Unit I: Elizabethan Literature

- Socio-historical and cultural context: Spanish Armada, Globe theatre, the Elizabethan court
- Literary trends: pastoral, Elizabethan drama (comedy and tragedy), travelogue

Unit II: Drama

William Shakespeare: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

OR

William Shakespeare: *Othello*

Unit III: Jacobean and Caroline Literatures

- Socio-historical and cultural context: the Authorised Version of the Bible, English Civil Wars, the development of science, the Cavaliers
- Literary trends: masque, religious poetry, metaphysical poetry

Unit IV: Metaphysical Poetry

John Donne:	“The Canonization”
George Herbert:	“The Collar”
Andrew Marvell:	“To His Coy Mistress”

Question paper pattern

Semester End Examination: 75 marks

Semester IV: History of English Literature - II (From the Elizabethan Age to the Caroline Period)

Duration: 2.5 hours

Q.1	Essay on Unit 1 (1 out of 2)	(15 marks)
Q.2	Essay on Unit 2 (1 out of 2)	(15 marks)
Q.3	Essay on Unit 3 (1 out of 2)	(15 marks)
Q.4	Essay on Unit 4 (1 out of 2)	(15 marks)
Q.5	Short notes from all units (2 out of 4)	(15 marks)

Internal Assessment: 25 marks

Students will be asked to submit assignments on areas of their choice from the options indicated below:

- Renaissance visual arts
- a review of the adaptations of Shakespearean plays
- a comparative analysis of Elizabethan plays
- Jacobean revenge tragedy

References:

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2. Allen, Valerie. *On Farting: Language and Laughter in the Middle Ages* (Springer, 2010)
3. Brooks, Cleanth. *The Well Wrought Urn: Studies in the Structure of Poetry*. Macmillan, 1970
4. Daiches, David. *A Critical History of English Literature* (1960)
5. Dollimore Jonathon and Alan Sinfield. *Political Shakespeare: New Essays in Cultural Materialism*. New York: Manchester University. 1992
6. Drakakis, John. *Alternative Shakespeares*. New York: Methuen. 2002
7. Eliot, T. S. “Tradition and Individual Talent”, *Sacred Wood: Essays on Poetry and Criticism*. Ingram, 2015
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10. Ford, Boris. *The New Pelican Guide to English Literature, Vol. 2, The Age of Shakespeare*

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13. Fulk, R D and Christopher M Cain. *A History of Old English Literature*, (Blackwell, 2003)
14. Gardner, Helen. *The Metaphysical Poets*. Saland Publishing, 2011
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25. Morrison, Toni. *Desdemona*. Oberon books, 2012
26. Parry, Graham. *The Seventeenth Century: The Intellectual and Cultural Context of English Literature. 1603-1700* (Longman: Literature in English Series, 1989)
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29. Rackin, Phyllis. *Shakespeare and Women*. Oxford University Press. 2013
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31. Roston, Murray. *Sixteenth Century English Literature* (Macmillan, 1983)
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33. Shakespeare, William. *The Oxford Shakespeare: The Complete Sonnets and Poems (Oxford World's Classics)*, 2010
34. Sinha, Samrita Sengupta. *A Midsummer Night's Dream: Essays in Critical Appropriations (Essays in Critical Appropriation)*. Setu Books, 2014
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36. Thompson, Ayanna. *Shakespeare in the Theatre: Peter Sellars* (Bloomsbury, 2018).

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