

General Information

Course name	History of British Literature 1	ECTS Credits	5
		Semester	summer

Aims

Students will acquire basic knowledge of the given periods of British literature, with the focus on the evolution of the English language and culture. They will develop their academic skills: close reading of literary texts; formulation of academic argument.

Contents

Course content: The course will focus on the literature written in the English language in the British Isles over centuries from the Anglo-Saxon period till the end of Romanticism. The course will concentrate on the greatest works and the most distinguished authors to present an overview of the main literary movements, the most important literary techniques and the ideas that dominated the world of letters.

LECTURES AND SEMINARS- DESCRIPTION

LECTURES- Topics

Anglo-Saxon Literature

Medieval literature

Tudor&Elizabethan Verse

Elizabethan Drama

William Shakespeare

17th century poetry (Cavalier &Metaphysical)

John Milton

Literature of the Restoration Period (John Dryden)

Augustan Prose & Satire (Jonathan Swift)

Popular Narrative (Daniel Defoe)

Rise of the Novel

18th Century Poetry (Alexander Pope)

The Age of Romanticism (William Blake)

Poets of the Age of Romanticism I

Poets of the Age of Romanticism II

Novel at the Turn of Centuries (18th /19th)

SEMINARS

1. Introduction to course

2. Beowulf (excerpt)

3. Geoffrey Chaucer: Canterbury Tales: The Wife of Bath's Tale

4. Renaissance poetry: Sr Thomas Wyatt: "I Abide and Abide and Better Abide," Edmund

Spenser: "The Faerie Queene," William Shakespeare "Sonnet 18"

5. William Shakespeare: "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

6. Credit test 1

7. John Donne: "Meditation XVII," "The Sun Rising"

8. John Milton: "Lycidas"

9. Jonathan Swift: "A Modest Proposal"

10. Tutorials

11. Alexander Pope: "Essay on Criticism"

12. William Blake: "London," Samuel Taylor Coleridge: "Kubla Khan"
 13. Credit test 2
 14. Tutorials

Evaluation

Continuous assessment: Students will be asked to sit two credit tests (week 6 and 13). The sum of the scores from these two tests must be at least 65% in order for a student to be allowed to take the final exam. Since there are no retakes, the students must be present at both credit tests. Each student is required to have their own copy of the seminar materials. Failing to do so will result in considering the student absent for the given seminar session. Each student is allowed two absences of the seminar sessions at most. A higher number of missed seminars will result in failing the course, irrespective of exam results.

Final assessment: Written examination: Test based on the lecture content and compulsory reading. Mark % 93–100, 86–92, 78–85, 72–77, 65–71, 64-0. NOTICE that LECTURE OUTLINES will be provided on the internet site ffweb.ff.upjs.sk/vyuka. The outlines present some basic facts and extracts from the literary works discussed during lectures. The outlines, however, should not be perceived as a sole study source. Performing well on the final exam requires taking careful lecture notes and studying of the recommended literature.

Bibliography

Recommended texts:

- Abrams, M.H. A Glossary of Literary Terms, Heinle & Heinle, 1999
 Abrams, M. H. The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Volume I, II, W.W. Norton & Company, New York, London, 1993, or any more recent edition
 Baštín, Š., Olexa, J., Studená, Z. Dějiny anglické a americké literatury. Bratislava: Obzor, 1993.
 Carter, R & McRae, J. , The Routledge History of Literature in English, London: Routledge, 2001.
 Day, M.S. History of English Literature III. New York: Doubleday and Company, 1963.
 Franko, Štefan Theory of Anglophonic Literatures, Prešov 1994
 Holman, C. Hugh A Handbook to Literature, London: Collier Macmillan Publishers, 1986, or a more recent edition
 Sanders, Andrew The Short Oxford History of English Literature, Oxford: Clarendon, 1994.
 Stříbrný, Z. Dějiny anglické literatury I, II. Praha, 1987

Compulsory reading - exam:

- The Dream of the Rood, G. Chaucer The Canterbury Tales, W. Shakespeare
 Macbeth, Hamlet, Jonathan Swift A Modest Proposal Daniel Defoe Moll Flanders Mary Shelley Frankenstein
 Jane Austen Pride and Prejudice, Keats Ode to a Nightingale, William Blake Songs of Innocence and Experience, T. Coleridge The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, George Gordon Lord Byron So We'll Go No More a Roving William Wordsworth The World is too much with us