

Morigaon College (Autonomous)

Department of English

FYUGP

English Major/ Minor – Semester I

History of English Literature: Anglo-Saxon to the Renaissance
(With Special Reference to Select Literary Texts)

Credits: 4 (2 Credits per Unit)

Course Code: ENG-CORE-(MJ/MN)-MC-0100104

Course Description

This course introduces students to the origins and developments of English literature from the Anglo-Saxon to the Renaissance period. It covers major socio-political and historical events, literary movements, genres, and representative authors. Students will also study selected canonical texts to understand the evolution of English poetry, drama, and prose traditions.

Course Objectives

The course aims to:

- Provide an understanding of the socio-political and historical conditions that shaped early English literature.
- Familiarise students with major literary movements, genres, and writers from the Anglo-Saxon to Renaissance period.
- Develop students' ability to read, analyse, and interpret representative literary texts.
- Enable comprehension of literary forms such as epic, romance, drama, allegory, sonnet, and metaphysical poetry.
- Strengthen the foundation for further study of English literature in subsequent semesters.

Course Outcomes (COs)

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CO1: Describe key socio-political and historical developments from the Anglo-Saxon to the Renaissance period.
- CO2: Identify major literary movements, genres, and authors of the early English literary tradition.
- CO3: Analyse the themes, style, and literary techniques found in representative texts and authors such as *Beowulf*, Chaucer, Spenser, Shakespeare, Marlowe, and Donne.
- CO4: Explain the evolution of English drama from Miracle and Morality plays to the mature Renaissance drama.
- CO5: Evaluate the influence of Renaissance humanism on the rise of modern English poetry, prose, and drama.
- CO6: Demonstrate foundational skills in close reading and critical response to early English texts.

UNIT I – Socio-Historical Background (2 Credits)

Themes & Topics:

- Anglo-Saxon Age: socio-political structure and culture
- Epic and Heroic Poetry: Beowulf
- Norman Conquest & Feudalism
- Medieval Romances, Fable, and Allegory
- Major Writers: Chaucer, Gower, Langland
- Renaissance in Europe: humanism, classical revival
- Rise and Development of English Drama
 - Mystery Plays
 - Miracle Plays
 - Morality Plays
 - Interludes
- Elizabethan Drama, Poetry and Prose
- Revenge Tragedy
- Bacon and the rise of the English Essay
- Metaphysical Poetry: features, style, worldview

UNIT II – Literary Texts (2 Credits)

Poetry

- Geoffrey Chaucer: *Prologue to The Canterbury Tales* (Lines 1–200)
- Shakespeare: *Sonnets* *30, * 65, 113
- Spenser: *Amoretti Sonnet* 75
- John Donne:
 - **A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning*
 - *Death Be Not Proud*

Drama

- William Shakespeare: **Hamlet*
- Christopher Marlowe: *Doctor Faustus*

Note: Texts with asterisk are meant for detailed study.

Suggested Reading

- Andrew Sanders – *A Short Oxford History of English Literature*
- David Daiches – *A Critical History of English Literature*
- W.J. Long - *History of English Literature*
- C.S. Lewis – *The Allegory of Love*
- M.H. Abrams – *A Glossary of Literary Terms*
- A.C. Bradley – *Shakespearean Tragedy*

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SEC Semester I

Introduction to Creative Writing

Course Code: SEC-ENG-MC-0100103

Credits: 3 (1 Credit per Unit)

Total marks = 75: (Internal Assessment: 30 + External Evaluation: 45)

Introduction to Creative Writing

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the principles and practice of creative writing. Students explore key elements of craft—such as imagery, character, plot, dialogue, and point of view—through guided exercises, readings, and workshops. Emphasis is placed on observation, imagination, and effective use of language. By the end of the course, students will produce original creative work that demonstrates both creativity and technique.

Course Objectives (COs)

The course aims to:

- Introduce students to the nature, scope, and practice of creative writing.
- Develop skills of observation, imagination, and sensory perception essential for creative expression.
- Familiarise students with elements of craft in poetry, drama, and fiction.
- Provide hands-on writing experience through exercises, workshops, and assignments.
- Enable students to analyse and produce creative texts using appropriate techniques and stylistic choices.

Course Outcomes (COs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain fundamental concepts in creative writing and its historical development.
2. Demonstrate improved observational, imaginative, and sensory writing skills.
3. Apply literary devices such as imagery, metaphor, and dialogue in creative compositions.
4. Construct effective narratives with attention to plot, character, structure, and point of view.
5. Produce original poems, short stories, or dramatic scenes using craft elements.
6. Critically revise and refine their writings through feedback and workshop practices.

Unit 1: Introduction to Creative Writing (1 Credit)

Topics:

- What is creative writing? Definition and the creative process
- History and evolution of creative writing.
- Freewriting: concept, purpose, and practice.

- Observation, sensory perception, and imagination in writing.

Practical Components:

- Sensory writing activities.
- Guided freewriting activities.
- Transforming a flat paragraph into a vivid, image-rich one.

Unit 2: Poetry and Drama (1 Credit)

Topics & Concepts:

- Elements of Craft: Language, imagery, simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, irony, assonance, consonance, pun etc.
- Showing vs telling; vivid imagery; metaphor and simile.
- Writing dialogue: natural vs crafted dialogue; subtext; basic formatting.
- Short poems and dialogues examples.

Practical Components:

- Dialogue improvisation exercises; transcription of spontaneous dialogue.
- Compose short poems and dialogues.
- Write a short scene using only dialogue—no narration.

Unit 3: Fiction: Novel and Short Story (1 Credit)

Topics:

- Understanding plot, structure, and character.
- Narrative arc, pacing, tension, and conflict.
- Short story craft: balancing character, plot, and tone.
- Character creation: motivation; internal vs external conflict.
- Point of View & Voice: First-, second-, and third-person POV.
- Reliability, voice, and tone.

Practical Components:

- Rewrite the same scene from two different points of view.
- Rewrite a paragraph changing the narrator's age, attitude, or emotional state.

Suggested Readings:

Sharples, Mike, *How we Write: Writing as Creative Design*, London: Routledge, 1999.

Ursula K. Le Guin, *Steering the Craft: A Twenty-First-Century Guide to Sailing the Sea of Story*
