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## E-Content

**IFTM University, Moradabad**



IFTM UNIVERSITY



**COURSE- B.A. GENERAL**

**SEMESTER- V**

**SUBJECT- HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**SUBJECT CODE- BEL-502**

**TOPIC: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF 'HISTORY OF  
ENGLISH LITERATURE'**

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# OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

- The paper has been designed to give the students a firsthand knowledge of the prominent movements, trends and genres of English Literature from Classical Age to the Modern Age.
- The students would be given the knowledge of the political, economic, social and intellectual background to enable them to study the work as representative of the age.
- To produce graduates familiar with representative literary texts from a significant number of historical, geographical, and cultural contexts, with particular focus on the Modern and contemporary periods.
- To produce graduates able to apply their knowledge and understanding of critical, theoretical, and technical traditions to the production of original literary works.
- To produce graduates familiar with the contemporary literary publishing milieu.



# ENGLISH LITERATURE: BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT

## INTRODUCTION

One of the richest literature of the world. It has vitality, rich variety and continuity. As literature is the reflection of society, the various changes which have come about in English society, from the earliest to the modern time, have left their stamp on English literature.



# INTRODUCTION OF 'HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE'

## DIFFERENT PHASES IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

These phases may be termed as 'Ages' or 'Periods', which are named after the central literary figures or the important rulers of England.

We have the 'Ages' of Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, Pope, Johnson. Wordsworth, Tennyson, Hardy and the Elizabethan Age, the Jacobean Period, the Age of Queen Anne, the Victorian Age, the Georgian Period.

Some of these phases are named after certain literary movements, as the Classical Age, the Romantic Age.



# OLD & MIDDLE ENGLISH (500 TO 1350AD)

**Middle English** (abbreviated to **ME**) was a form of the English language spoken after the Norman conquest (1066) until the late 15th century. English underwent distinct variations and developments following the Old English period.



# THE ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD(410 TO 1066 AD)



The term Anglo-Saxon is a relatively modern one. It refers to settlers from the German regions of Angeln and Saxony, who made their way over to Britain after the fall of the Roman Empire around AD 410.

The **Anglo-Saxon period** lasted for 600 years, from 410 to 1066, and in that **time** Britain's political landscape underwent many changes.



# THE ANGLO NORMAN PERIOD (1066-1350AD)

- **Anglo-Norman** literature is literature composed in the **Anglo-Norman** language developed during the **period** 1066–1204 when the Duchy of Normandy and the Kingdom of England were united in the **Anglo-Norman** realm.
- An Anglo-Norman variety of French continued to exist into the early 15th century, though it was in decline at least from the 1350s

# AGE OF CHAUCER (1350 TO 1400 AD)



**Geoffrey Chaucer** (1343-1400 AD) was a medieval English poet, writer, and philosopher best known for his work *The Canterbury Tales*, a masterpiece of world literature.



# AGE OF REVIVAL(1400 TO 1550 AD)

- In the history of English Literature, the age of Revival started in the year 1400 and went on till the year 1550.

This age has witnessed rebellions like –

- Cade's rebellion (1400 - 1450)
- The War of Roses (1455 - 1485)

# ELIZABETHAN AGE(1550 TO 1600)

- The great queen Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558, and her reign lasting up to 1603, is golden age in the history of English literature.







# JACOBAN & CAROLINE AGE(1600 TO 1640 AD)

## CAROLINE ERA

The **Caroline** era refers to the period in English and Scottish history named for the 24-year reign of Charles I(1625–1649). The term is derived from *Carolus*, the Latin for Charles. The Caroline era followed the Jacobean era, the reign of Charles's father James I & VI(1603–1625), overlapped with the English Civil War(1642–1651), and was followed by the English Interregnum until The Restoration in 1660.



# JACOBEOAN ERA

The **Jacobean era** was the period in English and Scottish history that coincides with the reign of James VI of Scotland who also inherited the crown of England in 1603 as James I. The Jacobean era succeeds the Elizabethan era and precedes the Caroline era. The term "Jacobean" is often used for the distinctive styles of Jacobean architecture, visual arts, decorative arts, and literature which characterized that period.



# CIVIL WAR & INTERREGNUM(1640 TO 1640AD)

The years of the British Civil War and Interregnum constituted a turning point not only in the political, social, and religious history of seventeenth-century England but also in the use and meaning of English language and literature. At a time of crisis and constitutional turmoil, literature itself acquired new functions and played a dynamic part in the fragmentation of religious and political authority.



## RESTORATION AGE (1660 TO 1700 AD)

The period from 1660 to 1700 is named as the Restoration period. In 1660 King Charles II was brought to the throne. The people of England were suffering from tension due to the strict rule of Cromwell. Thus the nation welcomed the Restoration of Charles II. This Restoration brought about a revolutionary change in social life and literature.



# ENLIGHTENMENT AGE (1700 TO 1800 AD)

The 18th century in Europe was The Age of Enlightenment and literature explored themes of social upheaval, reversals of personal status, political satire, geographical exploration and the comparison between the supposed natural state of man and the supposed civilized state of man.





# ROMANTIC AGE (1800 TO 1850)



**Romanticism** (also known as the **Romantic era**) was an artistic, literary, musical and intellectual movement that originated in Europe towards the end of the 18th century, and in most areas was at its peak in the approximate period from 1800 to 1850.

# VICTORIAN AGE (1850 TO 1900 AD)



**Victorian literature** is literature, mainly written in English, during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837–1901) (the Victorian era). It was preceded by Romanticism and followed by the Edwardian era(1901–1910).



# MODERN AGE(1900 TO 1950 AD)

The **20th (twentieth) century** was a century that began on January 1, 1901 and ended on December 31, 2000. It was the tenth and final century of the 2nd millennium. Unlike most century years, the year 2000 was a leap year, and the next century leap year in the Gregorian calendar after 1600.

The 20th century began with the end of an era. The end of the Victorian era. But with that, also came change. The world was becoming more technologically advanced. People were asking for more rights and we suddenly began wondering more about ourselves. It was also a time for tragedy, violence and death.



## POST MODERN AGE (1950 TO 2000 AD)

- **Postmodern literature** is a form of literature which is marked, both stylistically and ideologically, by a reliance on such literary conventions as fragmentation, paradox, unreliable narrators, often unrealistic and downright impossible plots, games, parody, paranoia, dark humour and authorial self-reference.
- **Postmodernism** is a broad movement that developed in the mid- to late 20th century across philosophy, the arts, architecture, and criticism, marking a departure from modernism. The term has been more generally applied to describe a historical era said to follow after modernity and the tendencies of this era.



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THANKS