

## **Course Title: Classical Poetry**

**Semester: 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Course Code: ELL 103**

### **Course Description**

This course focuses on the study of poetry from Geoffrey Chaucer to Alexander Pope. The term 'classical' understandably refers to the lasting appeal and artistic pleasure of the poetical works selected for this course. Though belonging to different poetical genres, the poetry of Chaucer, Shakespeare, Donne, Milton, and Pope have stood the tests of time and no further study in this genre of literature is possible without studying these benchmarks of English poetry. The teachers of classical poetry need to inculcate a spirit of studying the aesthetic concerns of the times of these poetical masterpieces along with giving a holistic understanding of different genres of poetry, namely epic, ballad, sonnet, lyric, and elegy etc. Offering a study of the congenial humor and gentle satire of Chaucer's *Prologue to Canterbury Tales* (c. 1389), the puritanical strain of Milton's epic *Paradise Lost* (1667), the fiery quality of Love and divine poetry of the metaphysical poet John Donne, some sonnets of William Shakespeare and famous mock epic of Alexander Pope, this course is designed to cover the classical aspects of English poetry. By teaching the fundamentals of poetry that this course entails, the teachers may introduce a diversity of poetic expressions that will help the students further their inquiry into this genre in the coming semesters.

### **Learning Outcomes**

This course aims to:

1. Trace the generic specific historical development of classical poetry, but also to develop a keen awareness of poetic language and tone of the period.
2. Introduce various forms and styles of the genre of poetry for creating an in-depth understanding of this genre.

### **Course Contents**

#### **Unit-I**

##### **1.1 William Shakespeare (1564-1616)**

- 1.1.1 Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? (Sonnet 18)
- 1.1.2 Let me not to the marriage of true minds (Sonnet 116)

#### **Unit-II**

##### **2.1 John Donne (1572-1631)**

Love Poems:

- 2.1.1 Song
- 2.1.2 The Sun Rising
- 2.1.3 The Relic
- 2.1.4 The Good Morrow
- 2.1.5 Valediction: Forbidding Mourning
- 2.1.6 Holy Sonnets
- 2.1.7 Thou hast made me, and shall thy work decay?
- 2.1.8 Death be not proud, though some have called thee

#### **Unit-III**

##### **3.1 John Milton (1608-1674)**

- 3.1.1 Paradise Lost. Book I (1667)
- 3.1.2 Paradise Lost Book 9 (The main contention and critical summary)

#### **Unit-IV**

##### **4.1 Alexander Pope (1688-1744)**

- 4.1.1 Rape of the Lock (1712)

### **Teaching and Learning Strategies:**

Following teaching strategies to be adopted:

1. Class Discussion
2. Reading and analyzing the text through interactive sessions.
3. Class presentations.
4. Group Discussions
5. Lectures, seminars and tutorials.

**Assignments:**

Two assignments, one before midterms and one after midterm, to be submitted. The students are advised to get their topics approved by the teacher. And there is a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism. (Please consult HEC policy on Plagiarism).

**Assessment and Examination:**

Sr. No.	Elements	Weightage	Details
64.	Midterm Assessment		It takes place at the mid-point of the semester.
65.	Formative Assessment		It is continuous assessment. It includes: classroom participation, attendance, assignments and presentations, homework, attitude and behavior, hands-on-activities, short tests, quizzes etc.
66.	Final Assessment		It takes place at the end of the semester. It is mostly in the form of a test, but owing to the nature of the course the teacher may assess their students based on term paper, research proposal development, field work and report writing etc.

**Recommended Readings**

- Abbs, P. & Richardson, J. *The Forms of Poetry*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP. 1995.
- Barnet, Sylvan. *A Short Guide to Writing about Literature* (7th Edition). New York: Harper and Collins. 1996.
- Boulton, Marjorie. *The Anatomy of Poetry*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul. 1977.
- Kamran, Rubina and Syed Farrukh Zad. Ed. *A Quintessence of Classical Poetry*. National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad.
- Kennedy, X. J. Gioia, D. *An Introduction to Poetry*: (8th Edition). New York: Harper Collins College Publishers. 1994.