# BACHELOR'S PROGRAMME ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE 1ST YEAR OF STUDY, 2ND SEMESTER

Course title	ENGLISH LITERATURE
Course code	MM1922
Course type	full attendance/tutorial
Course Level	1st cycle (bachelor's degree)
YEAR OF STUDY, SEMESTER	1st year of study,2nd semester
Number of ECTS credits	5
Number of Hours per week	4 (2 lecture hours + 2 seminar hours)
NAME OF LECTURE HOLDER	Conf. Univ. Dr. Iulia Milica
NAME OF SEMINAR HOLDER	Conf. Univ. Dr. Iulia Milica / Assist. Ioana Baciu
Prerequisites	Advanced level of English

## A GENERAL AND COURSE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCES

# General competences:

- → to be able to understand and operate with a series of theoretical concepts within the frame of English literature in the Middle Ages and Early Modern periods;
- → to the able to connect historical, social and economic contexts with literary developments and explain how the literature of the period mirrors the mind of the Medieval / Early Modern world.

## Course-specific competences:

- → to understand the main characteristics of Old, Medieval and Early Modern Literature and to operate with concepts connected to literary genres, stylistics, rhetoric;
- → to be acquainted with the main historical moments, social and economic transformations in England during the centuries studied.

## B LEARNING OUTCOMES

- → At the end of the course the students will be able to explain the literary concepts and analyze then in the literature studied.
- → At the end of the course, the students will be able to connect the main literary developments with the historical, social and economical transformations of the period.

### C LECTURE CONTENT

LECTURE 1: General presentation of the aims of the course; introduction into the study of English Literature; historical timeline (The Middle Ages and the Renaissance). **The Anglo-Saxon World: Culture and Literature I**: general presentation of the culture of the Anglo-Saxons, social organization, religious beliefs, the importance of the conversion to Christianity.

LECTURE 2: **The Anglo-Saxon World: Culture and Literature II:** Anglo-Saxon literature: poetry; Anglo-Saxon prose (Bede and Alfred the Great).

LECTURE 3: **Medieval Literature I**: general presentation of the main historical events and the main social and cultural traits of the period; literary timeline – the main characteristics of Middle English literature, influences from other literary traditions, genres and techniques.

LECTURE 4: Medieval Literature II: Chivalric Romances (the Arthurian cycle).

LECTURE 5: Medieval Literature III: Geoffrey Chaucer.

LECTURE 6: **Medieval Literature IV**: Religious writings: allegory, dream vision (William Langland), mystical writers (Julian of Norwich, Margery Kempe). Medieval Drama.

LECTURE 7: **The English Renaissance**: definition, traits, historical and cultural context; Humanism; Sir Thomas More, Francis Bacon, Sir Philip Sidney, Edmund Spenser.

LECTURE 8: **The English Theatre in Shakespeare's Time:** the development of English drama up to Shakespeare; Thomas Kyd, Christopher Marlowe, other playwrights; theatre companies in the Elizabethan and Jacobean England.

LECTURE 9: **William Shakespeare:** life and works – general presentation, chronology of plays; problems of authorship; publication of plays and editors; classifications and definitions. Shakespeare's poems and sonnets.

LECTURE 10: Shakespeare and the comedy tradition: traits, influences, sources, themes.

LECTURE 11: Shakespeare's representation of English history – the historical play and visions of kingship, ideology and truth.

LECTURE 12: The tragedy from the Ancient tradition to Shakespeare's times. Shakespeare's tragic vision.

LECTURE 13: Romances, problem plays, dark comedies, tragic-comedies – problems in defining and classifying the last plays.

LECTURE 14: William Shakespeare: performance and adaptation.

#### D RECOMMENDED READING FOR LECTURES

Iulia Milică, Old, Middlle and Early Modern Literature (textbook for students).

Alexander, Michael, A History of English Literature, Macmillan Foundations, 2000 (Part I, Part II) Bloom, Harold, Shakespeare. The Invention of the Human, Riverhead Books, New York, 1998, (Shakespeare's Universalism).

Daiches, David, *A Critical History of English Literature*, vol I, vol II, London, Secker and Warburg, 1995, (capitolele 1-9).

Fulk, R.D. and Christopher M. Cain, *A History of Old English Literature*, Blackwell Publishing, 2005, (Introduction: Anglo-Saxon England and Its Literature: A Social History, Chapter 1: The Chronology and Varieties of Old English Literature).

Hattaway, Michael (ed.), *A Blackwell Companion to English Renaissance Literature and Culture*, Blackwell Publishing, 2003, (Introduction by Michael Hattaway).

McEvoy, Sean, Shakespeare: The Basics, Routledge, London and New York, 2000.

Shaughnessey, Robert, *The Routledge Companion to William Shakespeare*, Routledge, London and New York, 2010 (Introduction and the articles on the plays studied in the seminar).

#### E SEMINAR CONTENT

SEMINAR 1: General presentation of the aims of the seminar, of the requirements and of the texts to be analyzed.

SEMINAR 2: Anglo-Saxon Poetry: Elegies (The Wanderer) and Christian poetry (The Dream of the Rood).

SEMINAR 3: *Beowulf* - Epic poem: definition, traits, the hero in the Anglo-Saxon imagination, Pagan and Christian elements.

SEMINAR 4: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight: traits of the chivalric romance, the knight's qualities.

SEMINAR 5: Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales: The Wife of Bath's Tale.

SEMINAR 6: Christopher Marlowe: Dr. Faustus.

SEMINAR 7: William Shakespeare: Sonnets.

SEMINAR 8: William Shakespeare: A Midsummer Night's Dream.

SEMINAR 9: William Shakespeare: *Richard III.* SEMINAR 10: William Shakespeare: *Macbeth.* 

SEMINAR 11: William Shakespeare: *Hamlet*.

SEMINAR 12: William Shakespeare: King Lear.

SEMINAR 13: William Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet.

SEMINAR 14: William Shakespeare: *The Tempest.* 

### F RECOMMENDED READING FOR SEMINARS

Literary texts will be provided during the first seminar. The complete works must be written in English, but Romanian translations are also allowed for the complete text. In class, we will use fragments in English.

- 1. Levitchi, Leon, Istoria literaturii engleze si americane, vol. 1, Editura All , 1998.
- 2. Sanders, Andrew, *Scurta istorie Oxford a literaturii engleze*, trad. de Mihaela Anghelescu-Irimia, Editura Univers, Bucuresti, 1997.
- 3. Daiches, David, A Critical History of English Literature (Volume 1), Mandarin, 1960.
- 4. Carter, Ronald and John McRae, *The Routledge History of Literature in English*, Routledge, 1997, <a href="http://library.aceondo.net/ebooks/English\_Language/the\_routledge\_history\_of\_literature\_in\_english\_britain\_and\_ireland\_Ronald\_carter.pdf">http://library.aceondo.net/ebooks/English\_Language/the\_routledge\_history\_of\_literature\_in\_english\_britain\_and\_ireland\_Ronald\_carter.pdf</a>.

## Useful internet sites:

- LUMINARIUM: Anthology of Middle English Literature: http://www.luminarium.org/medlit/.
- NORTON ANTHOLOGY
  - The Middle Ages: http://wwnorton.com/college/english/nael9/section/volA/overview.aspx.
  - The Renaissance: http://wwnorton.com/college/english/nael9/section/volB/overview.aspx.

- Medieval Literature, Arts and Humanities (Course Syllabus with links) <a href="http://public.wsu.edu/~delahoyd/medieval/index.html">http://public.wsu.edu/~delahoyd/medieval/index.html</a>.
- The Cambridge History of English and American Literature <a href="http://www.bartleby.com/cambridge/">http://www.bartleby.com/cambridge/</a>.

G EDUCATION STYLE	
G   EDUCATION STYLE  LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS  ASSESSMENT METHODS	Presentations, discussions, group work.  • Final written examination, consisting of questions from the topics and texts discussed during the semester (8 points out of 10);  • Seminar participation, tests and homework will count for the final grade (2 points out of 10).
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION	English and Romanian