

# **ENGDSC-202**

## **British Prose**

### **(Beginnings to the Twentieth Century)**

**Course Objective:** This course aims to immerse students in the rich tapestry of British prose from its origins up to the twentieth century. It seeks to furnish students with a thorough comprehension of the evolution and historical significance of non-fictional prose in Britain, exploring seminal works across various epochs. Participants will be introduced to distinguished essayists and their seminal contributions to British intellectual and literary traditions, as well as the impact of these works on global discourse. By delving into the social, political, and cultural contexts that influenced these non-fictional texts, students will acquire insights into the distinct attributes of British non-fiction and its role in both reflecting and shaping societal norms and values.

**Learning Outcome:** Upon successful completion of this course, students are anticipated to develop a comprehensive foundation in the analysis and interpretation of pivotal British prose and essays. They will engage deeply with the texts, appreciating their historical context, rhetorical strategies, and thematic elements. Students will identify major essayists and their contributions to the intellectual and literary canon of Britain, along with the distinguishing features of various eras. Furthermore, the course is designed to enhance students' critical thinking skills, enabling them to participate in informed discussions and formulate nuanced opinions on the texts and their wider significance.

#### **Unit I: A Brief History of British Prose**

1. Origins and Early Forms of British Prose
2. The Renaissance and Humanist Influence on British Prose
3. The Enlightenment and the Advent of Periodical Essays
4. Romanticism and the Personal Essay
5. Victorian Era: Social Critique and Reform through Prose

#### **Unit II: The Renaissance**

1. Francis Bacon: "Of Studies", "Of Discourse"
2. John Lyly: "Euphues Introduced" (From *Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit*)

#### **Unit III: Restoration and Enlightenment**

1. Samuel Pepys: "The Great Fire" (From *The Diary*)
2. Richard Steele: "The Spectator's Club"

#### **Unit IV: Romantic and Victorian Age**

1. Charles Lamb: "The Londoner"
2. John Henry Cardinal Newman: "Knowledge its own end" (From *The Idea of a University*)

## Unit V: Modern Age

1. G.K. Chesterton: "The Worship of the Wealthy"
2. A.G. Gardiner: "On Saying Please"

### Prescribed Texts:

1. Greenblatt, Stephen, et al., editors. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. 10th ed., Vol. 1 & 2, W. W. Norton & Company, 2018.
2. Cairncross, A.S., and Goutam Ghosal, editors. *Eight Essayists*. Trinity Press, 2015.

### Recommended Reading:

1. Carter, Ronald, and John McRae. *The Routledge History of Literature in English: Britain and Ireland*. 3rd ed., Routledge, 2021.
2. Choudhury, Bibhash. *English Social and Cultural History: An Introductory Guide and Glossary*. 2nd ed., PHI Learning, 2019.
3. Read, Herbert. *English Prose Style*. G. Bell and Sons, 1928.
4. Boulton, Marjorie. *The Anatomy of Prose*. Routledge, 2015.
5. Eagleton, Terry. *How to Read Literature*. Yale University Press, 2014.
6. Atkins, G. Douglas. *Reading Essays: An Invitation*. University of Georgia Press, 2008.
7. Lopate, Phillip, editor. *The Art of the Personal Essay: An Anthology from the Classical Era to the Present*. Anchor Books, 1994.
8. Chevalier, Tracy, editor. *Encyclopedia of the Essay*. Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 1997.

### Scheme of Examination:

The Core Course will be of 100 marks.

Internal Examination: 30 marks.

End Semester Examination: 70 marks.

### End Semester Examination (70 Marks):

1. STA: To answer 2 questions out of 3 from each unit @ 2 marks per question  
(3 questions per unit x 5 units = 15 questions)  
2 questions x 5 units x 2marks each = 20 marks
2. Broad Type/Essay Type Answer with "either/or" option:  
{like "either (a) or (b)", "either (a) and (b) or (c) and (d)", etc.}  
To answer 1 question out of 2 from each unit @ 10 marks per question  
(1 question x 5 units x 10 marks each = 50 marks)

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