



UNIVERSITÉ ALASSANE OUATTARA

UFR LANGUES ET LITTÉRATURE

Département : ANGLAIS

SYLLABUS

1- Course

Title of Course **BRITISH LITERATURE**

Level & Field of Specialization: **LICENCE 2: LANGUAGE & CULTURE OF ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES**

FULL TIME: LECTURE (CM) : 15H/

2- LECTURER

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TEACHERS IN CHARGE OF TUTORIAL:

- Dr Silué NANNOUGOU(Assistant)
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- Dr KONAN Benihoi Marius (Assistant)

3- COURSE PRESENTATION AND OBJECTIVES

This course will be, for most you Licence 2 students, your first direct encounter with English literature in its original form. The objective is to make this journey both challenging and rewarding. Over the next eight parts, students are instructed on the medieval world of Geoffrey Chaucer, the Renaissance drama of Shakespeare, into the Romantic revolution of Wordsworth and Keats, the Victorian novels of Dickens and Bronte, and finally the fractured, experimental voices of Modernism in T. S. Eliot and Virginia Woolf, up to the present day.

These different aspects of British literature are an occasion for learners to know about key figures like knights and queens, pilgrims and merchants, poets and philosophers, lovers, dreamers, factory workers, and alienated modern men. They all belong to different periods of British life. The course is intended, in general, to offer students a map of British Literature, a critical understanding of its major periods and movements. It further aims to equip them with the essential tools to navigate this map: the skills of close reading, critical interpretation, and clear academic writing on British literature.

4- General Objective

The objective of this lecture is to offer students a map of British Literature, a critical understanding of its major periods and movements, seeking to equip them with the tools to navigate this map: the skills of close reading, critical interpretation, and clear academic writing.

5- Specific Objectives

By the end of this course Licence 2 students will be able to:

- (1) Perform close reading of literary texts, attending to language, structure, tone, and meaning-making across diverse genres and periods.
- (2) Interpret the relationship between literature and society, understanding how texts both reflect and reshapes their cultural and historical moments.
- (3) Trace the development of British literature across eight periods, identifying key movement, authors, and formal innovations in historical context.
- (4) Analyze enduring themes such as identity, power, exile, morality, and imagination, while comparing how they evolve across time, and why not gender?
- (5) Formulate clear, persuasive arguments through critical writing, grounded in textual evidence and informed by scholarly conversation.

6-Methodology

Our methodology will rest on three pillars: first, a series of short lectures to provide historical and thematic context; second, discussions devoted to close reading and debate; and third, tutorial-style essays, written for each next coming course (following the first class) as opportunities for practice, reflection, and intellectual growth.

7- Bibliography

No specialized knowledge is required for this course. The only prerequisites are a working knowledge of English and a readiness to read carefully, think critically, and write reflectively.

TUTORIAL OF BRITISH LITERATURE L2

PART I : APPLICATION PHASE (COURSE QUESTIONS)

1-Old English Literature

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the approximate time period of Old English literature?
 - a) 400 - 800 AD
 - b) 450 - 1150 AD
 - c) 600 - 1066 AD
 - d) 800 - 1200 AD
2. Which epic poem features the hero Beowulf?
 - a) The Battle of Maldon
 - b) The Dream of the Rood
 - c) Beowulf
 - d) The Exeter Book
3. What significant event marked the end of the Old English period?
 - a) The Anglo-Saxon invasion
 - b) The Viking raids
 - c) The Norman Conquest
 - d) The establishment of Christianity
4. What literary device is prominently used in Old English poetry, where the initial consonant sounds of words are repeated?
 - a) Rhyme

- b) Metaphor
 - c) Alliteration
 - d) Imagery
5. Which of the following is a major collection of Old English poetry?
- a) The Venerable Bede's Works
 - b) The Exeter Book
 - c) Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
 - d) The Canterbury Tales
6. Name one theme commonly found in Old English literature.
7. What is a "kenning"? Provide one example.
8. Briefly explain the significance of the Christianization of England on Old English literature.
9. Who is the primary historical figure associated with the compilation of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle?
10. Describe the role of oral tradition in the creation and transmission of Old English literature.

2- Middle English Literature

Questions:

1. Who is the most famous author from the Middle English period known for "The Canterbury Tales"?
 - A) Geoffrey Chaucer
 - B) John Milton
 - C) Sir Thomas Malory
 - D) William Langland
2. In "The Canterbury Tales," what is the name of the pilgrimage destination?
 - A) Canterbury Cathedral
 - B) York Minster
 - C) Westminster Abbey
 - D) St. Paul's Cathedral
3. Which tale in "The Canterbury Tales" is primarily concerned with the nature of love and relationships?
 - A) The Miller's Tale
 - B) The Wife of Bath's Tale
 - C) The Knight's Tale
 - D) The Pardoner's Tale
4. What is the narrative style used in "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"?
 - A) First-person narrative
 - B) Frame narrative
 - C) Epic poem
 - D) Alliterative verse
5. Which of the following works is attributed to William Langland?
 - A) Piers Plowman
 - B) The Divine Comedy
 - C) The Pearl
 - D) The Book of the Duchess
6. In Middle English literature, what is a common theme found in many texts?
 - A) The quest for power
 - B) The exploration of human identity and morality
 - C) The depiction of classical mythology
 - D) The celebration of regionalism
7. What is the term used for the social and literary structure that outlines society and its classes, which is often depicted in Chaucer's works?
 - A) Chivalric code
 - B) The Great Chain of Being
 - C) Courtly love
 - D) The feudal system
8. Which character in "The Canterbury Tales" is known for being a good example of a devout Christian?
 - A) The Parson

- B) The Friar
- C) The Summoner
- D) The Reeve

9. What is the primary language of administration and literature in England before the widespread use of English?

- A) Latin
- B) French
- C) Celtic
- D) Germanic

10. Who is the hero in the poem "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"?

- A) Sir Lancelot
- B) Sir Kay
- C) Sir Gawain
- D) Sir Bedivere

3-The Renaissance Period in British Literature

Question 1: What is the approximate time frame of the Renaissance period in England?

- A) 1300-1400
- B) 1400-1500
- C) 1500-1660
- D) 1660-1700

Question 2: Which famous English playwright is often associated with the Renaissance period?

- A) Geoffrey Chaucer
- B) Christopher Marlowe
- C) William Shakespeare
- D) John Milton

Question 3: What literary form became extremely popular during the Renaissance, characterized by 14 lines and a specific rhyme scheme?

- A) Ode
- B) Sonnet
- C) Epic
- D) Ballad

Question 4: Which work is considered a landmark of Renaissance humanism and was written by Sir Thomas More?

- A) The Prince
- B) Utopia
- C) The Faerie Queene
- D) Paradise Lost

Question 5: Who was the queen of England during the height of the English Renaissance, known for her patronage of the arts?

- A) Mary I
- B) Elizabeth I
- C) Victoria I
- D) Anne Boleyn

4- Shakespearean Period

Question 1: What is the full name of William Shakespeare?

- a) William Shakespeare
- b) William James Shakespeare
- c) William John Shakespeare
- d) William Henry Shakespeare

Question 2: In which year is it believed that Shakespeare was born?

- a) 1556
- b) 1564
- c) 1582

d) 1590

Question 3: Which of the following plays is NOT written by Shakespeare?

a) Hamlet

b) A Midsummer Night's Dream

c) The Tempest

d) The Duchess of Malfi

Question 4: What type of literary works is Shakespeare most famous for?

a) Novels

b) Essays

c) Poems and plays

d) Short stories

Question 5: Which theater is most famously associated with Shakespeare's plays?

a) The Globe Theatre

b) The Blackfriars Theatre

c) The Rose Theatre

d) The Lyceum Theatre

5-Romanticism in British Literature

Question 1: What years are generally considered as the time frame for the Romantic period in British literature?

a) 1750-1800

b) 1800-1850

c) 1850-1900

d) 1900-1950

Question 2: Which of the following poets is NOT typically associated with the Romantic movement?

a) William Wordsworth

b) John Keats

c) Samuel Taylor Coleridge

d) Charles Dickens

Question 3: What is a common theme found in Romantic poetry?

a) Industrial progress

b) Nature and the sublime

c) Realism and everyday life

d) Political satire

Question 4: Which work is considered one of the seminal texts of the Romantic era?

a) "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley

b) "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen

c) "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde

d) "Great Expectations" by Charles Dickens

Question 5: The Romantic period emphasized individualism and personal emotion. Which literary form became particularly popular during this time?

a) The sonnet

b) The epic

c) The lyric poem

d) The short story

6-Victorian Period in British Literature

Question 1: Who is considered one of the foremost novelists of the Victorian era, known for works such as "Great Expectations" and "A Tale of Two Cities"?

Question 2: What literary movement, characterized by a focus on realism and everyday life, emerged during the Victorian era?

Question 3: Which poet wrote the famous collection "In Memoriam," which reflects on loss and mourning?

Question 4: Name the author of "Jane Eyre," a novel that explores themes of morality, religion, and feminism.

Question 5: Which Victorian writer is known for their novels that often contain social commentary, particularly regarding class and gender, such as "Middlemarch"?

7-Modernism in British Literature

Question 1:

Which novel is considered one of the defining works of modernist literature, written by Virginia Woolf?

- A) To the Lighthouse
- B) Pride and Prejudice
- C) Great Expectations
- D) Brave New World

Question 2:

Who wrote the poem "The Waste Land," which is often regarded as a cornerstone of modernist poetry?

- A) W.H. Auden
- B) T.S. Eliot
- C) Ezra Pound
- D) Wilfred Owen

Question 3:

What narrative technique, involving a stream of consciousness, is frequently associated with modernist writers?

- A) First-person narration
- B) Linear narrative
- C) Non-linear narrative
- D) Free indirect discourse

Question 4:

Which British author is known for his exploration of existential themes and for works like "The Stranger"?

- A) James Joyce
- B) D.H. Lawrence
- C) Samuel Beckett
- D) H.G. Wells

Question 5:

The Modernist period primarily took place during which years?

- A) 1800-1850
- B) 1850-1900
- C) 1900-1945
- D) 1945-1970

8- Post-Modernism in British Literature

Question 1:

Which of the following authors is known for their innovative and often metafictional approach to storytelling, particularly in the novel "The Unbearable Lightness of Being"?

- A) Salman Rushdie
- B) Julian Barnes
- C) Milan Kundera
- D) Ian McEwan

Question 2:

What is a common theme in post-modernist literature that involves the blending of genres and styles?

- A) Realism
- B) Pastiche
- C) Naturalism
- D) Romanticism

Question 3:

Which post-modern novel by Salman Rushdie incorporates magical realism and deals with the history and culture of India?

- A) Midnight's Children
- B) The Satanic Verses
- C) The Ground Beneath Her Feet
- D) Shalimar the Clown

Question 4:

The term "deconstruction," associated with philosophical ideas that challenge traditional narratives, is often connected to which literary theorist?

- A) Michel Foucault
- B) Jacques Derrida
- C) Roland Barthes
- D) Edward Said

Question 5:

Which literary work famously begins with the line "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," but is often used in a post-modern context to highlight contradictions?

- A) A Tale of Two Cities
- B) The Catcher in the Rye
- C) The French Lieutenant's Woman
- D) Madame Bovary

PART II: READ THE FOLLOWING TEXTS AND PROVIDE SUCCINCT ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS

Exercise 1: Old English Literature

Text: *The Wanderer*

Selected Passage:

*Oft him anhaga are gebideð,
metudes miltse, þeah þe he modcearig
geond lagulade longe sceolde
hreran mid hondum hrimcealde sæ,
wadan wræclastas. Wyrð bið ful aræd.*

Close Reading Prompts:

1. How do metaphors of cold and sea reflect emotional exile?
2. What is the significance of *wyrð* in this context?
3. How does the shift from personal grief to universal reflection function poetically?

Exercise 2: Middle English Fiction

Text: *The Wife of Bath's Prologue* (Chaucer)

Selected Passage:

*Experience, though noon auctoritee
Were in this world, is right ynogh for me
To speke of wo that is in mariage:
For lordynges, sith I twelf yeer was of age,
Thonked be God that is eterne on lyve,
Housbondes at chirche dore I have had fyve—*

Close Reading Prompts:

1. How does the Wife claim authority through lived experience?
2. In what ways does Chaucer blend irony and empowerment in her voice?
3. How is rhetorical repetition used to construct narrative authority?

Exercise 3: The Renaissance Period

Text: *Doctor Faustus* (Christopher Marlowe)

Selected Passage:

*Settle thy studies, Faustus, and begin
To sound the depth of that thou wilt profess:
Having commenced, be a divine in show,
Yet level at the end of every art,
And live and die in Aristotle's works.*

Close Reading Prompts:

1. How does Marlowe use imperative verbs to signal intellectual ambition?
2. What is the rhetorical impact of listing classical knowledge?
3. Is Faustus presented as empowered or already doomed?

Exercise 4: Shakespeare

Text: *Hamlet*, Act 3, Scene 1

Selected Passage:

*To be, or not to be: that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And, by opposing, end them.*

Close Reading Prompts:

1. What structural features (e.g. antithesis, metaphor) define this soliloquy?
2. How is indecision dramatized grammatically?
3. How does Hamlet's philosophical language reflect the modern self?

Exercise 5: Romanticism

Text: *Frankenstein* (Mary Shelley)

Selected Passage:

*I ought to be thy Adam, but I am rather the fallen angel,
whom thou drivest from joy for no misdeed.
Everywhere I see bliss, from which I alone am irrevocably excluded.*

Close Reading Prompts:

1. How does Shelley invert religious allusion to frame the creature's suffering?
2. What is the tone of this passage, and how is it constructed?
3. In what ways does the creature's voice challenge the idea of monstrosity?

Exercise 6 : Victorian Literature Text:

Text: *Heart of Darkness* (Joseph Conrad)

Selected Passage:

*This too has been one of the dark places of the earth.
They were conquerors, and for that you want only brute force—
nothing to boast of, when you have it, since your strength is just an accident arising from the
weakness of others.*

Close Reading Prompts:

1. How does Conrad problematize imperial conquest through tone and syntax?
2. What moral judgment is implied by “accident arising from the weakness of others”?
3. How does this early passage foreshadow Marlow's journey?

Exercise 7: MODERNISM

Text: *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* (T.S. Eliot)

Selected Passage:

*Let us go then, you and I,
When the evening is spread out against the sky
Like a patient etherized upon a table;*

Close Reading Prompts:

1. How does Eliot's imagery disrupt traditional romantic expectation?
2. What is the effect of medicalized, sterile metaphors?
3. How does this opening set the tone for modernist alienation?

Exercise 8 : Postmodernism and Diasporic Voices

Text: *Girl, Woman, Other* (Bernardine Evaristo)

Selected Passage:

*Amma is walking along the promenade of the waterloo bridge on the way to the national theatre
where she is opening her new play,
The Last Amazon of Dahomey*

Close Reading Prompts :

1. How does the lack of punctuation affect voice and rhythm?
2. What does the visual layout suggest about form and identity?
3. How does Evaristo foreground gender, space, and performance in this brief opening?