MODULE 1 – THE ROMANTIC AGE

- Emotions versus Reason
- Early Romantic Poetry
- Romantic Poetry
- William Wordsworth:
  - “Lyrical Ballads”: the manifesto of English Romanticism
    - Text 1: Daffodils
    - Text 2: My Heart Leaps up
- S. T. Coleridge: the man and the poet – imagination and fancy – the ideal in the real
    - Text 1: Part I
    - Text 2: Part IV
    - Text 3: Part VII
- P.B. Shelley: a tempestuous life – the poet of freedom and love – the role of imagination – the poet’s task – nature – style.
  - Text: “Ode to the West Wind”
- The Sublime and the Gothic Novel
  - Text 1: Edmund Burke “The sublime as the source of Gothic Horror”
  - Text 2: Ann Radcliffe “Terror”
- Mary Shelley: Frankenstein and the modern Prometheus.
  - Text: The Creature Comes to Life

MODULE 2: THE VICTORIAN AGE

  - Text: Antonia Byatt “The Victorian Wife”
The mission of the civilised people: the White Man’s Burden – Charles Darwin and evolution
  - Text: Rudyard Kipling “The Mission of the Colonizer”
  - Text: “The Speckled Band”
Prose: the Victorian novel – Dickens and the novel of instalments – the late Victorian novel – contradictory literary tendencies – Drama
CHARLES DICKENS – life and early works – themes of Dickens’s novels – settings of his novel
– characters and plot – Dickens’s style – the novelist’s reputation
*Oliver Twist*: Oliver Twist, the plot - workhouse conditions – country idyll – twist of fate.
Text: “Oliver wants some more”
*Hard Times*: Dickens’s social concern
Text: “A classroom definition of a horse”
*A Christmas Carol*: the plot, themes, Dickens and Christmas.
Text: “Scrooge’s Transformation”
Text: “Ignorance and Want”

EMILY DICKINSON: a life of seclusion - poetry of isolation - the eternal issues of life -
poetry of economy and control.
- Text 1: *Wild Nights - Wild Nights*
- Text 2: *Because I Could not*
- Text 3: *I Heard s Fly buzz – when I died*
- Text 4: *A Narrow Fellow in the Grass*

MODULE 3: AESTHETICISM

JOHN KEATS
Early life - odes and ballads – death in Rome – the cult of beauty: Ode on a Grecian Urn – Keat’s
style – the role of imagination – beauty and art – negative capability.
- Text: “*Ode on a Grecian Urn*”

Aestheticism and Decadence
OSCAR WILDE
Early life – first works and literary success – the final years.

The Picture of Dorian Gray
The aesthetic doctrine – Dorian Gray as a mystery story – the novel’s moral purpose – a life of
unprincipled pleasure – a Faustian pact
- Text 1: “*Basil’s Study*”
- Text 2: “*Beauty is a form of Genius*”
- Text 3: “*Chapter XI*”
The Dandy – The cult of Beauty in Wilde, Huysmans and D’Annunzio
Oscar Wilde’s *Aphorisms*.

MODULE 4: THE 20TH CENTURY

Anxiety and Rebellion: a deep cultural crisis – Freud’s influence – the theory of relativity – external
time vs internal time.
Modern Poetry: tradition and experimentation – Georgian poets – the war poets – Imagism and the
beginning of modern poetry – Symbolism and free verse.

SOCIETY AND LETTERS: a mass society – the spirit of rupture – modernism – changing views of
society: sociology, psychoanalysis and anthropology – the emancipation of women: Emmeline
Pankhurst – changing role of the writer – cosmopolitans and exiles – prose fiction: the first three
decades – prose: the Thirties and after – poetry before and after the Thirties.


THE WAR POETS:
Rupert Brooke: “*The Soldier*”
Wilfred Owen: “*Dulce et Decorum Est*”
T.S. ELIOT
Life – achievement.
- Text: “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”
The Waste Land: a generation turning point; structure and sources; a symphony of voices.
- Text 1: “The Burial of the Dead”
- Text 2: “The Fire Sermon”

W.H. AUDEN
- Text 1: “There’s no place for us”
- Text 2: “The Unknown Citizen”
- Text 3: “Funeral Blues”

JAMES JOYCE
Life – achievement.
The Modern Novel and the Stream of Consciousness – The Interior Monologue
Ulysses: a pioneering novel; Why Ulysses?; the novel to end all novels; amorous nocturnal memories.
- Text: “…yes I will Yes”

GEORGE ORWELL
Life – achievement.
The Dystopian Novel
Animal Farm: political fable and allegory; plot.
- Text 1: “The Execution”
- Text 2: “Those were his very last words, comrades …”
- Text 3: “Animal Farm: history as fable”

Nineteen Eighty-Four: the political dystopia; plot; a dystopian novel; Winston Smith; themes.
- Text 1: “Big Brother is watching you”
- Text 2: “Newspeak”

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