

## **İKA 610 Literature and Culture (Tentative Reading List and Course Outline)**

2015-2016 Fall

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### **1. Aim and Contents:**

The aim of the course is to study the relationship between literature and culture in Britain with particular focus on certain periods; beginning with Old English period to the 20<sup>th</sup> C. Authors, movements, ideologies, cultural, historical and political developments will be studied in the selected literary texts to develop an awareness of the connection between culture and literature.

### **2. Course Outline:**

**Week I (15 September) :** Some preliminary remarks on the aim, contents and requirements of the course.

**Week II (22 September):**

- Old English Period
- Life and Culture
- Social Structure
- Heroic ideal
- Literature
- *Beowulf* as a cultural text

**Week III (29 September) :**

**Week IV (6 October):**

- Medieval Period
- Life and society
- Feudal system
- Church
- Literary genres
- Women's place in the society, and her representation in the predominant literary tradition: Lays of Marie de France, *Yonec* and *Le Fresne*
- The representation of social classes in *The Canterbury Tales* with particular emphasis on Chaucer's Knight and "The Knight's Tale"

**Week V (13 October):**

**Week VI (20 October):**

- Renaissance
- Life and society
- Art and literature
- Court life
- Queen Elizabeth I and the idea of the Golden Age: E. Spenser's "April" Eclogue from *The Shepheardes Calender*
- Sidney's "A Letter Written by Sir Philip Sidney to Queen Elizabeth, Touching Her Marriage With Monsieur"
- Overseas expansion: *The Discovery of Guiana* by Sir Walter Raleigh
- The condition of Ireland: Spenser's "*A Veue of the present state of Irelande*"
- Racism and stereotyping in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*

**Week VII (27 October):**

- 17<sup>th</sup> C.
- Life and society
- The Civil War and its consequences
- The literary tradition: Metaphysical poetry and John Donne
- Women and Science, *The Atomic Poems* of Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle

**Week VIII (3 November):**

**Week IX (10 November):**

- 18<sup>th</sup> C
- Life and society
- The rise of the middle class, the changing reading public
- J.Swift "A Modest Proposal"

- Colonialism and imperialism: D. Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*
- Class and individual: *Moll Flanders*

**Week X (17 November):**

**Week XI (24 November):**

- 19<sup>th</sup>
- Life and society
- Industrial revolution, society and individual: Matthew Arnold's "Dover Beach" and "Culture and Anarchy"
- Colonial issues: Rudyard Kipling's "The White Man's Burden", "Recessional"
- Sir H. Rider Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines*
- Women's social roles and Elizabeth Barrett Browning *Aurora Leigh* (Books I and V)

**Week XII (1 December):**

**Week XIII (8 December):**

**Week XIV (15 December):**

**Week XV (22 December):**

- 20<sup>th</sup> C
- Life and society
- Issues such as gender, class, race, ethnicity, identity, multiculturalism, otherness, hybridity, popular culture, post-colonialism will be discussed.
- A.Sillitoe, *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*
- J.Arden, *Live Like Pigs*.
- W.Russell, *Educating Rita*.
- Selected poems of J.Kay
- Selected poems of L. Kwesi Johnson
- Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- V.S. Naipaul, *The Mimic Men*
- H.Kureishi *The Buddha of Suburbia*
- Maggie Gee, *My Driver*
- I. Welsh *Trainspotting*
- Rupert Thomson *Divided Kingdom*