

LECTURE ONE: Introducing British and American Literary Movements

Outline of Lecture One:

- 1- Defining Literary Movements
- 2- The Importance of Studying Literary Movements
- 3- World and British Literature Periods

3-1- Early Periods of Literature

3-2- Later Periods of Literature

Aim: At the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

1. identify the meaning and the aspects of different literary periods of English literature;
2. distinguish the main features of each movement;
3. compare the main contributions of English writers, poets and playwrights.

Prerequisites:

- Students must have figured out the meaning of literature and literary texts.
- Students are able to differentiate between the literary genres.
- Students have acquired a systematic and conscious consideration of the value and function of analyzing literature.

1-Defining Literary Movements: A literary movement, period or epoch can be defined as a body of literary works (plays, novels, novellas, serialised stories, poems) composed during a set time period, or era. This body of literary works is grouped together based on certain features, such as a common perspective, philosophy or ideology, aesthetic, school of thought, or its social, political and cultural influences. The history of English literature stretches across many years. It can be divided into seven chief periods, each of which has distinct features, remarkable authors and typical pieces of literature. It can be commonly divided into: Classicism, Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism, Modernism, Postmodernism and Post-Postmodernism (Contemporary Period).

British Literary Movements: The following timeline shows the period of each British literary movement and its duration.

- 450–1066: Old English
- 1066–1500: Middle English
- 1500–1660: The Renaissance
- 1558–1603: The Elizabethan Age
- 1603–1625: The Jacobean Age
- 1660–1700: The Restoration Period
- 1785–1832: The Romantic Period
- 1832–1901: The Victorian Period
- 1914–1945: Modernism
- 1945 – 1970: Postmodernism
- 1970– present: Post-Postmodernism

2- The Importance of Studying Literary Movements: They help a-

- a- categorize authors, literary works and topics according to common features, time, place and context;
- b- compare and contrast different literary movements;
- c- highlight the aspects of each movement and the contribution of each author;
- d- analyze literary texts regarding social, cultural, economic and political contexts.

3-WORLD AND BRITISH LITERATURE PERIODS

3-1-Early Periods of Literature These periods are spans of time in which literature shared intellectual, linguistic, religious, and artistic influences. In the Western tradition, the early periods of literary history are roughly as follows below:

A. THE CLASSICAL PERIOD (1200 BCE 455 CE)

1. **HOMERIC or HEROIC PERIOD (1200–800 BCE)** Greek legends are passed along orally, including Homer's The Iliad and The Odyssey. This is a chaotic period of warrior-prince wandering sea-traders, and fierce pirates.
2. **CLASSICAL GREEK PERIOD (800–200 BCE)** Greek writers and philosophers such as Gorgias, Aesop, Plato, Socrates, Aristotle, Euripides, and Sophocles. The fifth century (499–400 BCE) in particular is renowned as The Golden Age of Greece. This is the sophisticated period of the polis, or individual City-State, and early democracy. Some of the world's finest art, poetry, drama, architecture, and philosophy originate in Athens.
3. **CLASSICAL ROMAN PERIOD (200 BCE–455 CE)** Greece's culture gives way to Roman power when Rome conquers Greece in 146 CE. The Roman Republic was traditionally founded in 509 BCE, but it is limited in size until later. Playwrights of this time include Plautus and Terence. After nearly 500 years as a Republic, Rome slides into dictatorship under Julius Caesar and finally into a monarchical empire under Caesar Augustus in 27 CE. This later period is known as the Roman Imperial period. Roman writers

include Ovid, Horace, and Virgil. Roman philosophers include Marcus Aurelius and Lucretius. Roman rhetoricians include Cicero and Quintilian.

4. PATRISTIC PERIOD (c. 70 CE–455 CE) Early Christian writings appear such as Saint Augustine, Tertullian, Saint Cyprian, Saint Ambrose and Saint Jerome.

This is the period in which Saint Jerome first compiles the Bible, when Christianity spread across Europe, and the Roman Empire suffered its dying convulsions.

In this period, barbarians attack Rome in 410 CE and the city finally falls to them completely in 455 CE.

B. THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD (455 CE–1485 CE)

1. THE OLD ENGLISH (ANGLOSAXON) PERIOD (428–1066) The so-called "Dark Ages" (455 CE – 799 CE) occur when Rome falls and barbarian tribes move into Europe. Franks, Ostrogoths, Lombards, and Goths settle in the ruins of Europe and the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes migrate to Britain, displacing native Celts into Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Early Old English poems such as Beowulf, The Wanderer, and The Seafarer originate sometime late in the Anglo-Saxon period. The Carolingian Renaissance (800–850 CE) emerges in Europe. In central Europe, texts include early medieval grammars, encyclopedias, etc. In northern Europe, this time period marks the setting of Viking sagas.

2. THE MIDDLE ENGLISH PERIOD (c. 1066–1450 CE): In 1066, Norman French armies invade and conquer England under William I. This marks the end of the Anglo-Saxon hierarchy and the emergence of the Twelfth Century Renaissance (c. 1100–1200 CE). French chivalric romances—such as works by Chrétien de Troyes—and French fables—such as the works of Marie de France and Jean de Meun—spread in popularity. Abelard and other humanists produce great scholastic and theological works.

LATE OR "HIGH" MEDIEVAL PERIOD (c. 1200–1485 CE): This often tumultuous period is marked by the Middle English writings of Geoffrey Chaucer, the "Gawain" or "Pearl" Poet, the Wakefield Master, and William Langland.

Other writers include Italian and French authors like Boccaccio, Petrarch, Dante, and Christine de Pisan.

C. THE RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION (c. 1485–1660 CE) The Renaissance takes place in the late 15th, 16th, and early 17th century in Britain, but somewhat earlier in Italy and the southern Europe, somewhat later in northern Europe.

1. EARLY TUDOR PERIOD (1485–1558): The Wars of the Roses ends in England with Henry Tudor (Henry VII) claiming the throne. Martin Luther's split with Rome marks the emergence of Protestantism, followed by Henry VIII's Anglican schism, which creates the first Protestant church in England. Edmond Spenser is a sample poet.

2. ELIZABETHAN PERIOD (1558–1603): Queen Elizabeth saves England from both Spanish invasion and internal squabbles at home. Her reign is marked by the early works of Shakespeare, Marlowe, Kydd, and Sidney.

3. JACOBEAN PERIOD (1603–1625): Shakespeare's later work, Aemilia Lanyer, Ben Jonson, and John Donne.

4. CAROLINE AGE (1625–1649): John Milton, George Herbert, Robert Herrick, the "Sons of Ben" and others write during the reign of Charles I and his Cavaliers (The Cavalier Poets).

5. COMMONWEALTH PERIOD OR PURITAN INTERREGNUM (1649–1660): Under Cromwell's Puritan dictatorship, John Milton continues to write, but we also find writers like Andrew Marvell and Sir Thomas Browne.

3–2–Later Periods of Literature These periods are spans of time in which literature shared intellectual, linguistic, religious, and artistic influences. In the Western tradition, the later periods of literary history are roughly as follows below:

D. THE ENLIGHTENMENT (NEOCLASSICAL) PERIOD (C. 1660–1790) "Neoclassical" refers to the increased influence of Classical literature upon these centuries. The Neoclassical Period is also called the "Enlightenment" due to the increased reverence for logic and

disdain for superstition. The period is marked by the rise of Deism, intellectual backlash against earlier Puritanism, and America's revolution against England.

1. RESTORATION PERIOD (c. 1660–1700): This period marks the British king's restoration to the throne after a long period of Puritan domination in England. Its symptoms include the dominance of French and Classical influences on poetry and drama. Sample writers include John Dryden, John Lock, Sir William Temple, and Samuel Pepys, and AphraBehn in England. Abroad, representative authors include Jean Racine and Molière.

2. THE AUGUSTAN AGE (c. 1700–1750): This period is marked by the imitation of Virgil and Horace's literature in English letters. The principal English writers include Addison, Steele, Swift, and Alexander Pope. Abroad, Voltaire is the dominant French writer.

3. THE AGE OF JOHNSON (c. 1750–1790): This period marks the transition toward the upcoming Romanticism though the period is still largely Neoclassical. Major writers include Dr. Samuel Johnson, Boswell, and Edward Gibbon who represent the Neoclassical tendencies, while writers like Robert Burns, Thomas Gray, Cowper, and Crabbe show movement away from the Neoclassical ideal. In America, this period is called the Colonial Period. It includes colonial and revolutionary writers like Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Thomas Paine.

E. ROMANTIC PERIOD (c. 1790–1830) Romantic poets write about nature, imagination, and individuality in England. Some Romantics include Coleridge, Blake, Keats, and Shelley in Britain and Johann von Goethe in Germany. In America, this period is called the Transcendental Period. Transcendentalists include Emerson and Thoreau. Gothic writings, (c. 1790–1890) overlap with the Romantic and Victorian periods. Writers of Gothic novels (the precursor to horror novels) include Mary Shelley, Radcliffe, Monk Lewis, and Victorians like Bram Stoker in Britain. In America, Gothic writers include Poe and Hawthorne.

F. VICTORIAN PERIOD AND THE 19th CENTURY (c. 1832–1901) Writing during the period of Queen Victoria's reign includes sentimental novels. British writers include Elizabeth Browning, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Matthew Arnold, Robert Browning, Charles Dickens, the Brontë sisters, and Jane Austen. Pre–Raphaelites, like the Rossettis and William Morris, idealize and long for the morality of the medieval world. The end of the Victorian Period is marked by intellectual movements of Asceticism and "the Decadence" in the writings of Walter Pater and Oscar Wilde. In America, Naturalist writers like Stephen Crane flourish, as do early free verse poets like Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson.

G. MODERN PERIOD (c. 1914–1945) In Britain, modernist writers include W. B. Yeats, Seamus Heaney, Dylan Thomas, W. H. Auden, Virginia Woolf, and Wilfred Owen. In America, the modernist period includes Robert Frost and Flannery O'Connor as well as the famous writers of The Lost Generation (also called the writers of The Jazz Age, 1914–1929) such as Hemingway, Steinbeck, Fitzgerald, and Faulkner. "The Harlem Renaissance" marks the rise of black writers such as Baldwin and Ellison.

Realism is the dominant fashion, but the disillusionment with the World Wars lead to new experimentation.

H. POSTMODERN PERIOD (c. 1945–1970) T. S. Eliot, Morrison, Shaw, Beckett, Stoppard, Fowles, Calvino, Ginsberg, Pynchon, and other modern writers, poets, and playwrights experiment with metafiction and fragmented poetry. Multiculturalism leads to increasing canonization of non–Caucasian writers such as Langston Hughes, Sandra Cisneros, and Zora Neal Hurston. Magic Realists such as Gabriel GarcíaMárquez, Luis Borges, AlejoCarpentier, Günter Grass, and Salman Rushdie flourish with surrealist writings embroidered in the conventions of realism.

E– POST–

POSTMODERN PERIOD (1970 onward): Post-postmodernism is an inclusive set of changes as well as developments in different domains: culture, economy, politics, philosophy and art to complete and, at times, react to postmodern era. It marks distinct features and aspects. LECTURE TWO: American Literature Periods Objectives: Aim: At the end of this lecture, students will be able to: 1. identify the main features of each literary movement in America; 2. compare the main contributions of American writers, poets and playwrights; 3. use the themes and aspects to write poetry or prose.

1– American Literary Movements: The following timeline shows the period of each American literary movement and its duration. Pre-colonial: Native American Literature 1620–1750: Puritan Literature 1607–1775: Colonial Literature 1775–1783: Revolutionary Age 1775–1830: Early National Literature 1830–1865: American Romanticism 1865–1914: Naturalism 1914–1940: Modernism and Experimentation 1945 – 1970: Postmodernism 1970– present: Post-Postmodernism Period

Period	Name	Characteristics	Famous Authors and Works
Arrived 40,000 – Native Americans	1. Oral literature: epic narratives, creation myths, stories, poems, songs.	2. Use stories to teach moral lessons and convey practical information about the natural world. 3. Deep respect for nature and animals 4. Cyclical world view 5. Figurative language/parallelism	1600–1800 Puritanism
1. Wrote mostly diaries and histories, which William Bradford (“Of expressed the connections between God and Plymouth Plantation”), First “American” their everyday lives. Anne Bradstreet (poetry), Colonies 2. Sought to “purify” the Church of England Jonathan Edwards Established by reforming to the simpler forms of worship (“Sinners in the Hands of and church organization described in the New and Angry God”), Edward Salem Witch Trials Testament Taylor (“Huswifery”) 3. Saw religion as a personal, inner experience. 4. Believed in original sin and “elect” who would be saved. 5. Used a plain style of writing	1750–1800 Rationalism	1. Mostly comprised of philosophers, Benjamin Franklin scientists, writing speeches and pamphlets. (Autobiography), Patrick Henry (“Speech to the Reason” rules) by using deductive reasoning, rather than relying on the authority of the past, on Thomas Paine (“The Bill of Rights, “The Enlightenment– religious faith, or intuition. Crisis”), Phyllis Wheatley and The Declaration of Independence were created.	1800–1860 Romanticism
1. Valued feeling, intuition, idealism, and Washington Irving (“Rip Van Winkle”), Emily Dickinson (poetry), Walt Whitman (Leaves of Grass), Edgar Allan Poe seek unspoiled nature as a path to spirituality. (“The Raven”), Nathaniel Hawthorne (The Scarlet Letter) 4. Championed individual freedom and the worth of the individual. 5. Saw poetry as the highest expression of the imagination. 6. Dark Romantics: Used dark and supernatural themes/settings (Gothic style)	1840–1860 Transcendentalism	1. Everything in the world, including human beings, is a reflection of the Divine Soul (Nature, “Self-Reliance”), Abolitionist, “The American 2. People can use their intuition to behold God’s spirit revealed in nature or in their own (Walden, Life in the Women’s Suffrage Movement) 3. Self-reliance and individualism must outweigh external authority and blind conformity to tradition	1850–1900 Realism
1. Feelings of disillusionment Mark Twain (Huckleberry 2.			

Common subjects; slums of rapidly Finn), Jack London (Call Civil War growing cities, factories replacing farmlands, of the Wild, "To Build a poor factory workers, corrupt politicians Fire,") Stephen Crane Reconstruction 3. Represented the manner and environment ("The Open Boat"), of everyday life and ordinary people as Ambrose Bierce ("An realistically as possible (regionalism) Occurrence at Owl Creek 4. Sought to explainbehaviour Bridge"), Kate Chopin (psychologically/socially). ("Story of an Hour," The Awakening) 1900–1950 Modernism 1. Sense of disillusionment and loss of faith in Lorraine Hansberry (A the "American Dream": the independence, Raisin in the Sun), F. World War I self-reliant, individual will triumph. Scott Fitzgerald (The 2. Emphasis on bold experimentation in style Great Gatsby), William The Great and form over the traditional. Faulkner ("A Rose for Depression 3. Interest in the inner workings of the human Emily"). Eudora Welty ("A mind (ex. Stream of consciousness). Worn Path"), Robert Frost World War II (poetry), T.S. Eliot (The Waste Land, "Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"), John Steinbeck (Of Mice and Men, Grapes of Wrath) 1920–1940 Harlem 1. Black cultural movement in Harlem, New James Weldon Johnson, Renaissance York Claude McKay, Countee "The New Negro 2. Some poetry rhythms based on spirituals, Cullen, Langston Hughes Movement" "The Jazz Age" and jazz, lyrics on the blues, and diction from (poetry), Zora Neale the street talk of the ghettos Hurston Prohibition "The Roaring 20s" 3. Other poetry used conventional lyrical Forms 1950–1970 1. Influenced by studies of media, language, Alice Walker, Wallace and information technology Stevens, E. E. Korean War "Postmodernism" 2. Sense that little is unique; culture endlessly Cummings, Maya duplicates and copies itself Angelou, Anne Sexton, Vietnam War 3. New literary forms and techniques: works James Baldwin, Richard composed of only dialogue or combining Wright, Sandra Cisneros, fiction and nonfiction, experimenting with Amy Tan physical appearance of their work 1970 onward «Post- Postmodernism »

Post-postmodernism is an inclusive set of changes as well as developments in different domains: culture, economy, politics philosophy and art, to complete and, at times, react to postmodern era. It marks distinct features and aspects. LECTURE THREE: Old English Literature Objectives: At the end of this lecture, students will be able to: 1– identify the theoretical framework of Old English Literature; 2– discuss its aspects and improve reading knowledge of Old English poetry or prose; 3– analyse vocabulary of the most frequently occurring words in Old English literature; 4– explain the structure and grammar to compare Old English prose to present-day English prose. Task One: Read the following verses (or listen to the audio) from The Wanderer, and then answer the questions: Oft him anhaga Often the solitary one aregebideð, finds grace for himself metudesmiltse, the mercy of the Lord, peahþe he modcearig Although he, sorry-hearted, geondlagulade must for a long time longesceolde move by hand [in context = row] 4a hreran mid hondum along the waterways, hrimcealdesæ (along) the ice-cold sea, wadanwræclastas. tread the paths of exile. Wyrdbiðfularæd! Events always go as they must! Swacwæðheardstapa, So spoke the wanderer, earfepagemyndig, mindful of hardships, wraprawælsleahta, of fierce slaughters winemægahryre: and the downfall of kinsmen: In a team work, compare Old English to/with Modern English in the poem in terms of: 1– grammar; 2– sentence structure; 3– vocabulary; 4– some of the major currents of Anglo Saxon written culture in relation to what can be known of the social, religious and aesthetic contexts of its production. 2– Definition of Old English Literature: Old English literature, also called Anglo-Saxon literature, literature written in Old English c.

650–c. 1100. It refers to written and oral literature in England during the rule of Anglo–Saxons. Beowulf is the oldest surviving Germanic epic and the longest Old English poem; it was likely composed between 700 and 750. Other great works of Old English poetry include The Wanderer, The Seafarer, The Battle of Maldon and The Dream of the Rood.

3– Themes and Characteristics of Old English Literature: War theme Elegy theme Heroic theme Religious theme Including: a– Strong belief in fate b– Juxtaposition of the church and pagan world c– Admiration of heroic warriors who prevail in battle d– Expressing religious faith and giving moral instructions through literature

Additionally, Old English literature is characterised by: ☞ Unique forms of alliteration, caesura and repetition

4– The Importance of Studying Old English Literature: a– It highlights the cultural and historical origins of English language b– It facilitates correlating English to other languages c– It encompasses political, cultural, geographical and social aspects of England society