GEG S2 01

Poetry

SEMESTER- II

ELECTIVE ENGLISH

BLOCK 1

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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BACHELOR OF ARTS

POETRY

BLOCK 1

DETAILED SYLLABUS

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Unit 1: Introducing English Poetry **7-19**

Reading English Poetry, Introduction, A Brief History of English Poetry, English Poetry in the Twentieth Century

Unit 2: William Wordsworth: Life and Works **20-27**

William Wordsworth: The Poet, His Life, His Works

Unit 3: William Wordsworth: "Composed Upon Westminster Bridge September 3, 1802" **28-37**

Introduction, Text of the Poem, Context of the Poem, Explanation of the Poem, Poetic Techniques

Unit 4: W.B. Yeats: Life and Works **38-43**

W.B. Yeats: The Poet, His Life, His Works

Unit 5: W.B Yeats: "Easter 1916" **44-60**

Introduction, Text of the Poem, Context of the Poem, Explanation of the Poem, Poetic Techniques

Unit 6: Introducing American Poetry **61-72**

Introduction, A Brief Overview of American Poetry, Major American Poets and their Works

Unit 7: Emily Dickinson: Life and Works **73-80**

Emily Dickinson : The Poet, Literary Contributions

Unit 8: Emily Dickinson: "Because I Could Not Stop for Death" **81-99**

Introduction, Text of the Poem, Explanation of the Poem, Style and Language, Poetic Techniques

COURSE INTRODUCTION

This course has been designed to acquaint the learners about the various ways poetry has been represented in English, American and Indian English literature. It contains three introductory units on English poetry, American poetry and Indian English poetry providing a brief overview to the learners about the history of poetry and varied styles adopted by the poets. Further, units on two British poets, two American poets and two Indian poets along with their well known poems are included in this course. The Course tends to give a fair idea to the learners about poetry represented beautifully, with diverse themes as has been represented in English, American and Indian English literature.

BLOCK INTRODUCTION

Block 1 presents the learners a concise history of English poetry and American poetry.The famous Nature poet William Wordsworth and the modern poet Yeats representing English poetry are included in this block. One of the leading American poets, Emily Dickinson, will also be dealt here. This block comprises a total number of eight units that are as follows:

Unit 1 This unit aims to introduce the learners to the history of English poetry and the various poetic styles since its beginning to the twentieth century.

Unit 2 This unit introduces the learners to English Romanticism and one of its pioneers, William Wordsworth and discusses the contribution of this popular 'nature' poet in the gamut of English poetry. Like the other romantic poets, Wordsworth's poetry reflects his appreciation of nature and use of simple language in poetry.

Unit 3 This unit contains William Wordsworth's poem "Composed Upon Westminster Bridge September 3, 1802" along with the idea about the sonnet form and the salient features of English Romanticism. The poem captures the poet's attraction of a quiet, sleepy city in the Westminster city, in the calm of the early morning.

Unit 4 This unit throws light on the remarkable poet William Butler Yeats in the light of modernism. The learners will receive a brief overview of the life and works of the poet in this unit.

Unit 5 This unit contains W. B. Yeats's memorable poem "Easter 1916". It is about the Easter Uprising of 1916, when the Irish Republican Brotherhood rebelled against the English on an

Easter day. The poem expresses Yeats' disgust with the life that the Irish people had been leading and his joy at their valour and spirit of independence in participating in this national movement.

Unit 6 The unit traces the history of American poetry and discusses the major trends in their poetry. It introduces the major poetic voices of America and gives a brief idea of the history of American poetry.

Unit 7 This unit introduces you to one of the most popular American poets, Emily Dickinson and her works.

Unit 8 This unit deals with Emily Dickinson's poem "Because I Could Not Stop For Death", a poem about the individual effort in coming to terms with the certainty of death which mere mortals cannot escape. Death is personified in the poem as a suitor who romantically insists the lady to accompany Him along with Immortality, the Chaperone. The romantic overtones with regard to death as a kind of beau and the images employed to evoke the same, make the poem interesting.

While going through a unit, you may also notice some text boxes, which have been included to help you know some of the difficult terms and concepts. You will also read about some relevant ideas and concepts in "LET US KNOW" along with the text. We have kept "CHECK YOUR PROGRESS" questions in each unit. These have been designed to self-check your progress of study. The answers to these questions are given at the end of the unit. We strongly advise that you answer the questions immediately after you finish reading the section in which these questions occur. We have also included a few books in the "FURTHER READING" which will be helpful for your further consultation. The books referred during the preparation of the units have been added at the end of each Block. However, this SLM is not an end in itself and the learners are strongly advised to consult the books and other resources recommended for reading.