GEG S5 02 (M)
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English Novels

SEMESTER- V

ENGLISH

BLOCK 1

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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CONTENTS

		Pages
UNIT 1:	**Rise of the Novel** Introduction, Rise of English Novels in the 18th Century, Early English Novels: A Glimpse	**5-15**
UNIT 2:	**Daniel Defoe: *Robinson Crusoe* I** Daniel Defoe: The Novelist, Defoe's Life and Works, Context of the Novel, Summary of the Novel	**16-42**
UNIT 3:	**Daniel Defoe: *Robinson Crusoe* II** Reading the Novel, Major Themes, Major Characters, Narrative Style, Critical Reception	**43-56**
UNIT 4:	**Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice* I** Jane Austen: The Novelist, Austen's Life and Works, Context of the Novel, Summary of the Novel	**57-73**
UNIT 5:	**Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice* II** Reading the Novel, Major Themes, Major Characters, Narrative Style, Critical Reception	**74-86**
UNIT 6:	**Emily Bronte: *Wuthering Heights* I** Emily Bronte: The Novelist, Bronte's Life and Works, Context of the Novel, Summary of the Novel	**87-99**
UNIT 7:	**Emily Bronte: *Wuthering Heights* II** Reading the Novel, Major Themes, Major Characters, Narrative Style, Critical Reception	**100-113**

COURSE INTRODUCTION

This course is compulsory for BA English Major Programme. In this Course learners will get an opportunity to study seven novels roughly covering the period stretching from the 18th century to the 20th century. The learners are supposed to read and study these representative novels of English literature in order to comprehend the issues addressed and learn the proper modes of analysing the works of fiction in the contexts of the different social and historical background of the authors in question. Thus, this course intends not only to introduce the learners to the various theoretical aspects of narrative fiction but also to the contextual relations of the texts of the novels to the age out of which they actually emerged.

BLOCK INTRODUCTION

The first block of the course on English Novels consists of seven units. The first unit deals with the the various factors leading to the rise of the English novel and shall provide a basic idea regarding the influential figures associated with it. The second unit introduces the learner to Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* which continues to be one of the most interesting and wonderful adventure stories in the early development of the novel as a literary form. The third unit will deal with Robinson Crusoe's sense of adventure, excitement and engrossing experiences of struggle for survival on an island, lurking with unforeseen dangers and an uncertain future. The fourth unit deals with Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* locating the novel in its specific socio–political context of the eighteenth century. The fifth unit shall reflect upon the significant aspects of the novel *Pride and Prejudice*, best known as a 'novel of manners', which provides a detail description of the ordinary lives of the 18th century English people as well as their intricate expressions of love, morality, courtship, marriage, etc. The sixth unit contains Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* and provides the learners a fair idea regarding the novelist and the context of the novel. The seventh unit deals with a detailed study of the novel *Wuthering Heights*, thereby highlighting the major themes, characters, style and the reception of the novel.

After going through these units, you will be acquainted with the issues related to the rise of the English novel and appreciate a few important novelists. 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.