GEG S5 02 (M)
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English Novels

SEMESTER- V

ENGLISH

BLOCK 2

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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BLOCK INTRODUCTION

The second block of the Course on English Novels consists of eight units.Here the learners will get an opportunity to study four significant novelists namely George Eliot, Charles Dickens, Joseph Conrad and Virginia Woolf. The eighth unit deals with George Eliot's *Middlemarch* and throws light on the context of the novel and provides a summary highlighting the main issues raised. The ninth unit further deals with Eliot's *Middlemarch* in a detailed way highlighting the style and the important characters of the novel and also the critical reception of the novel. The tenth introduces the learner to Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* which narrates the obstacles faced by the young protagonist Oliver and his struggle for survival in the face of odds and challenges that he encounters. The eleventh unit is based on the reading of the novel *Oliver Twist* in terms of its various important themes, characters and narrative technique reflecting upon Dickens' projection of the grim reality of England through his fiction. The twelfth unit deals with Joseph Conrad's novel *Lord Jim* providing a brief overview of the background and context of the novel. The thirteenth unit provides critical commentary on the novel *Lord Jim* and includes a discussion of the major themes, characters, style and reception. The fourteenth unit comprises Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* and attempts to place the novel in a specific literary and socio-historical scenario of the twentieth century of which Woolf was a part. The fifteenth unit elaborates on the novel *Mrs Dalloway* in terms of important aspects such as major themes, important characters, etc. and reflects on the various innovations and experiments applied by Woolf into narrative fiction in general.

Afetr going through these units, the learners will be able to appreciate the different aspects encompassed by the novels and analyse the development of English novels in terms of subject matter and style. 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.