

**PROGRAMA DE LITERATURA INGLESA**

1999-2000

**ENGLISH LITERATURE**

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**AIMS**

Given the limited time we have for this course, the programme has been structured round what has been regarded as the canon of English literature. The norms that establish the canon, the 'sacred' texts, change for each society and each generation. Within the system of English literature, certain authors and works will become more or less central or peripheral, depending on the society of the day. One of the disadvantages of staying close to the canon is that it tends to be made up of 'dead white men', but as it is the canon, most other authors need to be seen in relation, or in opposition to it. I hope you will be able to explore further afield by yourselves in the future. The canon itself is vast and the selection we will be studying is a personal one. There are two main aims:

1. To provide some context and understanding of historical periods and literary genres so that you will be able to go on reading and enjoying English literature for the rest of your lives.
2. To provide you with some inter-textual references (concepts, images, metaphors, quotes) that may help you when translating.

**CONTENTS**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

What is literature? What is English literature?

## 2. THE BEGINNINGS OF ENGLISH: OLD AND MIDDLE ENGLISH 600 - 1485

- 1.1. Context
- 1.2. Beowulf
- 1.3. Chaucer

## 2. THE RENNAISSANCE: 1485 - 1660

- 2.1. Context
- 2.2. Translations of the Bible
- 2.3. Theatre: Shakespeare
- 2.4. The Metaphysical Poets: Donne and Marvell

## 3. RESTORATION AND THE AGE OF REASON: 1660-1789

- 3.1. Context
- 3.2. Poetry: Milton and Dryden
- 3.3. Prose: Defoe and Swift

4. THE ROMANTIC PERIOD: 1789-1832
  - 4.1. Context
  - 4.2. Poetry: Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats, Shelley, Byron
  - 4.3. The Novel: Jane Austen, Mary Shelley

5. THE NINETEENTH CENTURY
  - 5.1. Context
  - 5.2. The novel: The Brontë sisters.
  - 5.3. Poetry: Tennyson and Browning

6. THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
  - 6.1. Context
  - 6.2. James Joyce
  - 6.3. D.H.Lawrence
  - 6.4. T.S.Elliot
  - 6.5. Wilfred Owen
  - 6.6. Dylan Thomas
  - 6.7. Tom Gunn
  - 6.8. Ted Hughes
  - 6.9. Seamus Heaney

### EVALUATION

There will be a final exam in which you will be given a choice of short texts and asked to comment on ONE of them, relating it to its historical, literary and personal context. You will be allowed to use your class notes in the exam.