

Faculty of Letters and Humanities, Manouba
English Department, Master/literature
British literature 1, Survey of British literature
Instructor: H. Miladi

The Seventeenth Century

Course description: This course aims to introduce students to canonical seventeenth century writers and works and to situate them in their historical contexts. This approach will enable students to understand how major seventeenth century texts were shaped by their general and personal biographical backgrounds and also how they engaged and in their turn shaped the political, religious and intellectual debate of their tumultuous times.

Course outline

1. The Jacobean Age (1603-1625)

Historical background

Extract from William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

Extract from Ben Jonson's *Volpone*

Ben Jonson, "To Celia"

Metaphysical poetry. John Donne: "A Valediction Forbidding Mourning"

Andrew Marvell, "To his Coy Mistress"

2. The Caroline Age (1625-1649)

Historical background

Cavalier poetry. Robert Herrick: "Corinna's Going A Maying"

3. The interregnum (1649-1660)

Historical background

Extract from Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan*

4. The Restoration Period (1660-1700)

Historical background

Extract from Samuel Pepys' *Diary*

Extract from John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*

Extract from John Milton's *Paradise Lost*

John Milton, "When I consider how my light is spent"

Extract from William Congreve's *The Way of the World*

References

Anthony Burgess. *English Literature*. Longman: London, 1976.

Bruce King, *Seventeenth Century English Literature*. Shocken Books: New York, 1982.

Marshall Grossman. *The Seventeenth Century Literature Handbook*.

Blackwell: London, 2011.

(Further articles on specific writers and works will be provided along the semester)

Online resources

Luminarium.org