

DSC - 1 - 19TH CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE

19th Century British Literature

The paper seeks to expose students to the literature produced in Britain in the 19th century. The focus is mainly on prose (fictional and non-fictional) and criticism. The 19th century embraces three distinct periods of the Regency, Victorian and late Victorian.

Unit 1: A Historical Overview

The 19th century British literature though mainly famous for the Romantic Movement, was also a witness to major socio-political developments like industrialization, technological advancements and large scale mobilization of people from the rural to the urban centers. Much of these prosaic activities/developments needed the medium of prose for its articulation. Politically known as the Victorian period 19th century also witnessed what is known as the culture and society debate.

Unit 2 : Essays

Charles Lamb: "Old China"

William Hazlitt: "On Going Journey"

Leigh Hunt: "A Few Thoughts on sleep"

R L Stevenson: "Walking Tours"

Unit 3: Novel

Mary Shelly: *Frankenstein* OR R.L .Stevenson: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

Unit 4: Novel

Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice* OR Elizabeth Gaskell: *Mary Barton*

Unit 5: Criticism

Mathew Arnold: *Culture and Anarchy* (Chapter 1) OR William Hazlitt: "Lectures Chiefly on the Dramatic Literature of the Age of Elizabeth" from *Lectures on English Poets*

Suggested Reading:

- Chapter 4, 5 from *A Short Introduction to English Literature* by Jonathan Bate
- *The English Novel* by Terry Eagleton
- *The Cultural Critics* by Leslie Johnson