

## Course Outcomes of English Literature

Outcomes of a formal course taught in a college or university can be conceptualized from two vantage points of view namely what lessons the students familiarize themselves with while studying a particular subject and what those learnings ultimately contribute to, that is to say how those lessons mould the conscience and consciousness of the students. The English literature course taught at Krishnath College enables the students to come to terms with and familiarize themselves with a new language and new culture. The course is meticulously designed to trace the history and developments of English culture, specific moments when the literature is born and the formation of English national consciousness. The students get the opportunity to know the history of migration of various Germanic tribes who moved there and how Anglo-Saxons gave birth to the idea of England. They learn about the history and developments of various old kingdoms merging into one and England becoming a unified political entity. Subsequently, the students also learn about the initial invasion and subsequent conquest of Anglo-Saxon England by the Norman French people and how this conquest gives birth to the modern English language. In the course of three years degree, the students also are introduced to the general history of English literature and learn to critically analyze poems, novels and other literary genres. The students learn about old English literature, Middle English literature, Renaissance England the literature born of it, Enlightenment in the Eighteenth century and scientific discoveries precipitated by Newtonian physics, Victorian literature and its superpower position in the heyday of European imperialism and literature in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with specific emphasis on two Wars and their impact on nation, nationalism and science. The course is also designed to familiarize students with American, Australian and South Asian literature, culture and history. The course put immense emphasis on Indian literature, both in English as well as vernaculars, since it is a commonly accepted fact that learning must be rooted in the experience of the students and must enable them to critically engage with their local surroundings. In so doing, the course also intends to prepare students for future research projects which they can undertake to address the problems of their own society. Since native literature articulates the problems, challenges and aspirations of the Indian people, the students will find an opportunity to comprehend those and address them accordingly.

Moreover, it is important to note that the course also enables the development of cognitive faculties of the students and shapes their thoughts fit for modern society. Some of these learning outcomes of English literature are:

**Critical Thinking:** Studying literature encourages critical thinking by analyzing and interpreting complex texts, themes, characters, and narratives. This helps learners develop their analytical skills and the ability to assess different perspectives.

**Communication Skills:** Engaging with literature improves written and verbal communication skills. Through reading, discussing, and writing about literature, students learn how to express their thoughts effectively, articulate ideas, and construct compelling arguments.

**Cultural Awareness:** English literature often spans different time periods and cultures, exposing learners to diverse perspectives and experiences. This fosters cultural awareness, empathy, and a broader understanding of the human experience across different societies and historical contexts.

**Language Proficiency:** Engaging with a variety of literary works exposes learners to rich and diverse vocabulary, as well as different writing styles. This can enhance their language proficiency, vocabulary, and language comprehension.

**Creativity and Imagination:** Exposure to imaginative and creative literary works can inspire students to think creatively, expand their imagination, and explore new ideas and possibilities.

**Empathy and Emotional Intelligence:** Through the exploration of characters' emotions and experiences, students can develop empathy and emotional intelligence, gaining a deeper understanding of human feelings, motivations, and relationships.

**Cognitive Skills:** Reading literature challenges readers to understand complex narratives, follow intricate plotlines, and remember various details. This helps develop cognitive skills such as memory, attention to detail, and comprehension.

**Research Skills:** In-depth study of literature often requires research into historical contexts, author biographies, and literary theories. This cultivates research skills and the ability to gather information from various sources.

**Appreciation of Aesthetics:** Studying literature introduces students to different literary forms, styles, and genres. This can lead to a greater appreciation of the aesthetic aspects of writing, including metaphor, symbolism, and wordplay.

**Personal Growth and Reflection:** Engaging with literature can prompt self-reflection and personal growth as students connect with characters, themes, and ideas that resonate with their own lives and experiences.

**Understanding Narrative Structure:** Exploring the structures of various narratives helps learners understand how stories are constructed, including elements like plot development, character arcs, and foreshadowing.

**Literary Analysis and Interpretation:** Studying literature hones skills in analyzing and interpreting texts, identifying literary devices, and understanding deeper meanings and subtext.