1. Aim and Contents:
The aim of the course is to study the relationship between literature and culture in Britain with particular focus on certain periods; beginning with Old English period to the 20th C. Authors, movements, ideologies, cultural, historical and political developments will be studied in the selected literary texts to develop an awareness of the connection between culture and literature.

2. Course Outline:

Week I (15 September) : Some preliminary remarks on the aim, contents and requirements of the course.
Week II (22 September):
- Old English Period
- Life and Culture
- Social Structure
- Heroic ideal
- Literature
- Beowulf as a cultural text

Week III (29 September) :
Week IV (6 October):
- Medieval Period
- Life and society
- Feudal system
- Church
- Literary genres
- Women’s place in the society, and her representation in the predominant literary tradition: Lays of Marie de France, Yonec and Le Fresne
- The representation of social classes in The Canterbury Tales with particular emphasis on Chaucer’s Knight and “The Knigh’s Tale”

Week V (13 October):
Week VI (20 October):
- Renaissance
- Life and society
- Art and literature
- Court life
- Queen Elizabeth I and the idea of the Golden Age: E. Spenser’s “Aprill” Eclogue from The Shepheardes Calender
- Sidney’s “A Letter Written by Sir Philip Sidney to Queen Elizabeth, Touching Her Marriage With Monsieur”
- Overseas expansion: The Discovery of Guiana by Sir Walter Raleigh
- The condition of Ireland: Spenser’s “A Veye of the present state of Irelande”
- Racism and stereotyping in Shakespeare’s The Merchant of Venice

Week VII (27 October):
- 17th C.
- Life and society
- The Civil War and its consequences
- The literary tradition: Metaphysical poetry and John Donne
- Women and Science, The Atomic Poems of Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle

Week VIII (3 November):
Week IX (10 November):
- 18th C
- Life and society
- The rise of the middle class, the changing reading public
- J.Swift “A Modest Proposal”
- Colonialism and imperialism: D. Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe*
- Class and individual: *Moll Flanders*

Week X (17 November):
Week XI (24 November):
  - 19th
  - Industrial revolution, society and individual: Matthew Arnold’s “Dover Beach” and “Culture and Anarchy”
  - Colonial issues: Rudyard Kipling’s “The White Man’s Burden”, “Recessional”
  - Sir H. Rider Haggard’s *King Solomon’s Mines*
  - Women’s social roles and Elizabeth Barrett Browning *Aurora Leigh* (Books I and V)

Week XII (1 December):
Week XIII (8 December):
Week XIV (15 December):
Week XV (22 December):
  - 20th C
  - Life and society
  - Issues such as gender, class, race, ethnicity, identity, multiculturalism, otherness, hybridity, popular culture, post-colonialism will be discussed.
  - A.Sillitoe, *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*
  - J.Arden, *Live Like Pigs.*
  - Selected poems of J.Kay
  - Selected poems of L. Kwesi Johnson
  - Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
  - V.S. Naipaul, *The Mimic Men*
  - H.Kureishi *The Buddha of Suburbia*
  - Maggie Gee, *My Driver*
  - I. Welsh *Trainspotting*
  - Rupert Thomson *Divided Kingdom*