

My dear students I advise you to consult *The Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry and Contemporary Poetry* by Jahan Ramaazani and others. **The lecture is presented by Dr. Asmaa Khalaf Madlool**

The **1st course** will trace modern poetry in detail and will include the following:

1- Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)

" An August Midnight"

2,-W.B. Yeats (1865-1939)

-"Sailing to Byzantium"

-"Easter"

3-Walter de la Mare (1873-1956)

"The Listeners"

4- D.H. Lawrence (1885-1930)

-"Sorrow"

-"Shadow"

5-T.S.Eliot (1888-1965)

-"The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

6-Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)

-" O Lord"

MODERN POETRY (1890-1950)

The main characteristics of modern poetry:

1- **Form**

Modern poem represents a revolt against the previous smoothness of Victorian poetry. Few modern poets love using the formal style of writing poetry while others discard the regular meter to adopt irregular one and use irregular rhyming scheme. The modern poets refuse the old view of regarding poetry as a reflection of beautiful and elegant scenes. The modern poem becomes much simpler, shorter, more concise and less ornate than the previous one. As a way to get rid of the old form and search for new way of representing idea, they adopt free verse to fit the unsettled time. Disrupted syntax and irregular sentence structure can be found. Using stream of consciousness, which is presenting the thoughts that come to the mind, makes illogical arrangement of thoughts as modern print of poetry.

2- **Language**

Modern civilization comprehends great variety and complexity. This throws its shadow on every fields. The poets become more compressive, more allusive. more indirect to maniples language to its meaning. If the student is suspenseful to trace the difficult language of the modern poetry, one can find the symbolism of multiple references is the first cause, and some poets invent new vocabularies and quote from other fields like painting and music and they do not use direct statements.

3- **Humanitarianism**

Modern poetry shows great pity for the common people. The poor are the leading characters in modern poetry. Characters like criminal, prostitutes, drunkards find sympathetic treatment in 20th century poetry.

4- Realism and pessimism

Modern poetry is the reflection of real life without any embellishment. Modern era witnesses the eruption of two world wars. Being realistic, modern poetry turns to be pessimist because of mirroring this morbid era.

5-Romanticism

In spite of shattering the romantic allusions, modern poetry shows romantic features like: the wish of escape from the present to perfect land, isolation, alienation , caring for the common people and interest in nature. In the lectures you will be asked to trace the romantic characteristics in the poems that we shall study.