



كلية : الآداب

القسم او الفرع : اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة: الثالثة

أستاذ المادة : م.م. استبرق رافع غركان

اسم المادة باللغة العربية : الشعر الانكليزي في العصر الكلاسيكي الجديد

اسم المادة باللغة الإنكليزية : **English Poetry in the Neoclassical Age**

اسم المحاضرة الرابعة باللغة العربية: نبذة عن الشعر الانكليزي في العصر الكلاسيكي الجديد

اسم المحاضرة الرابعة باللغة الإنكليزية : **A Brief Biography of John Dryden and An Overview of His Poetry.**

- John Dryden is an English poet, dramatist, [literary](#) critic and translator who dominated the literary scene of his day that it came to be known as **the Age of Dryden**.

The Spirit of the Age

- The Restoration age/ the age of Dryden was characterized by the following:
 - **Enlightenment, scientific and philosophical** revolution
 - **Political Divisions** (the **Tories**-supporters of the king versus the **Whigs**-supporters of the parliament)
 - **Religious Divisions** (Protestantism versus Catholicism)

Dryden's Education

- In 1644 Dryden was admitted to [Westminster School](#) where he received **classical education** and became familiar with **classical literature**.

Dryden as A Poet

- Dryden was involved in politics.
- In 1659- Dryden wrote "Heroic Stanzas" to mourn the death of the Puritan leader Oliver Cromwell.
- "Heroic Stanzas" showed Dryden's classical learning and interest in science.
- In 1660- Dryden wrote to praise the restoration of King Charles II.
- Dryden, the Monarchy & Political Poetry

- "To His Sacred Majesty" (1662) introduces Dryden as a loyalist
- He wrote to glorify and show his support & loyalty to the king.
- The focus of some of Dryden's poetry is on the king's ideal image.
- The king is presented as strong, brave, loyal, loving & divine.
- *Annus Mirabilis* (1667), was a celebration of two victories by the English fleet over the Dutch and the Londoners' survival of the Great Fire of 1666.

Dryden as a Political Satirist

- He saw satire as the best way to discuss reason and logic, human glories, and human failures.
- He employed the heroic couplet.

Political conflicts and conspiracies

- The Whig Party leaders had used **the [Popish Plot](#)** to try to exclude James in favour of [Charles](#)'s [illegitimate](#) Protestant son, the duke of [Monmouth](#).
- Dryden's response to the Popish Plot

[Absalom and Achitophel](#) (1681) (Religion & Politics)

- In *Absalom and Achitophel* (1681), Dryden employs the biblical story of Absalom's rebellion against David to remark on attempts by the Earl of Shaftesbury to thwart the accession to the throne of the king's brother James, a Roman Catholic, by lobbying for Charles's illegitimate son, the Duke of Monmouth, to succeed instead.

- 1685- Dryden's Conversion to Catholicism
- Writing to defend his Catholic faith in "The Hind and the Panther." (1687)

Dryden as a Dramatist

- Besides being the greatest English poet of the later 17th century, Dryden wrote almost 30 tragedies, comedies, and dramatic operas.

Dryden as a Critic

- In 1668 Dryden published [*Of Dramatick Poesie, an Essay*](#).

This work is a defense of English [drama](#) against the ancient Classical drama and the Neoclassical French theatre.

Dryden as a Translator

- Dryden spent several years translating great works by people such as Horace, Ovid, Theocritus, Juvenal, Lucretius, Homer, Boccaccio, Geoffrey Chaucer, and Virgil.