

The course deals with 16<sup>th</sup> century cultural background. The purpose of the course is to present various aspects of life in the 16<sup>th</sup> century whose knowledge will be useful for them in their courses of British literature. Without reasonable grasp of the historical, political, social and cultural contexts it would really be difficult to understand and appreciate English Literature. Perhaps it is enough to say that this century witnessed two paramount figures; the greatest British monarch, Queen Elizabeth I and the greatest English literary figure, William Shakespeare.

This course is also meant to encourage students to gain an insight into, and broaden their awareness of the development of England from the medieval ages to early modern times known as the age of English Renaissance. Attention will be paid not only to influential figures and movements, but to the religious, political, economic and social developments in England.

The course takes the form of a series of lectures, providing you with a starting point to your own research and study. You are encouraged to share the results of your studies, helping not only your fellow students, but the lecturer as well.