# Literatura de Língua Inglesa II

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# Literatura de Língua Inglesa II

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# Sumário

AULA 1 The Seventeenth Century: historical introduction 0.7
The Seventeenth Century: historical introduction07
AULA 2
The Metaphysical Poetry
AULA 3
The Age of Milton
AULA 4
The Restoration literature
AUL A F
AULA 5 The Eighteenth Century
AULA 6 The Needlessias Income
The Neoclassical poetry67
AULA 7
As histórias literárias e as literaturas comparadas
no Século XIX79
AULA 8
Ópio e imaginário em Coleridge e de Quincey91
AULA 9
The Victorian Period105
AULA 10
The Victorian Literature 121

# Aula 1

# THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY: HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

### **META**

Apresentar a periodização corrente do século XVII na história da literatura inglesa, de acordo com seu contexto histórico, suas tendências e principais manifestações culturais.

### **OBJETIVOS**

Ao final desta aula, o aluno deverá:

Compreender o grau complexidade da divisão de um determinado espaço de tempo em períodos literários, de acordo com o contexto histórico e suas principais tendências; Reconhecer e identificar os diferentes estilos de época que compõem a literatura inglesa do século XVII.

### PRÉ-REQUISITOS

Familiaridade com os períodos formativos da literatura inglesa; Conceitos-chave da Teoria da Literatura e da história literária.

Luiz Eduardo Oliveira

# **INTRODUÇÃO**

Neste segundo volume de nosso curso de Literatura de Língua Inglesa, vamos nos aprofundar ainda mais na história da literatura produzida na Inglaterra, do século XVII ao século XIX, conhecendo seus períodos, principais autores e obras de referência. Espero que você goste deste curso e faça um bom uso deste material didático. Como afirmei no primeira aula do compêndio anterior, tenho lecionado esta disciplina há vinte e dois anos na Universidade Federal de Sergipe e experimentado uma significativa variedade de métodos, livros e estratégias de ensino e avaliação. Com relação à educação a distância, não é a primeira vez que escrevo material didático para a UAB / CESAD / UFS, pois elaborei o material didático de Teoria da Literatura II, Produção de Textos I e mais recentemente Literatura de Língua Inglesa I.

Como o primeiro volume, este não é um trabalho autoral, mas eminentemente técnico, uma vez que busca sintetizar o que há de disponível, clássico e atualizado sobre a matéria, embora, em algumas aulas, eu me utilize de textos de minha autoria. Para tanto, nos valemos não somente de material impresso – livros e artigos de periódicos –, mas também de vídeo, áudio, discos, CDs, DVDs, filmes, séries televisivas, blogs, sites etc. As referências das fontes utilizadas, na medida do possível, são sempre feitas, seja no corpo do texto, seja no final de cada aula.

Boa parte do material está redigida em inglês. Nesse sentido, a linguagem utilizada foi a mais objetiva, coloquial e informal possível, respeitando sempre a gravidade ou complexidade dos temas abordados, muitos dos quais não podem ser reduzidos a certa coloquialidade sem perderem parte de seu conteúdo. Nas notas e no glossário, utilizamo-nos de muitas definições existentes na Internet, mas somente em sites institucionais. Contudo, usamos fartamente de informações oriundas de enciclopédias coletivas virtuais como a Wikipédia (https://www.wikipedia.org/) para tal fim, não sem antes checarmos a veracidade das informações e das referências utilizadas.

Desse modo, acreditamos que pudemos unir, neste material, a atualidade das informações existentes sobre o assunto na Internet e a base fundamental dos livros e autores mais autorizados sobre a matéria.

Algumas vídeo-aulas sobre literatura de língua inglesa podem ser também vistas no meu canal do Youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/user/musicaeletras

### DESENVOLVIMENTO

### The Jacobean Period

The Jacobean period refers to the reign of James VI of Scotland (1567-1625), son of Mary Stuart (1542-1587), who also inherited the crown of England in 1603, when Queen Elizabeth died, as James I (1566-1625). James was a great-great-grandson of Henry VII, King of England and Lord of Ireland, what gave him the opportunity of acceding to all three thrones. He continued to reign in all three kingdoms for 22 years. After the Union of the Crowns, he based himself in England, returning to Scotland once in 1617, and used to entitle himself "King of Great Britain and Ireland". During his reign, two important historical events happened: **The Plantation of Ulster (1)** and British colonization of the Americas. He faced great difficulties in England, including **The Gunpowder Plot (2)**, in 1605, and repeated conflicts with the English Parliament.

Ver glossário no final da Aula



James VI and I (19 June 1566 – 27 March 1625) was King of Scotland as James VI from 24 July 1567 and King of England and Ireland as James I from the union of the Scottish and English crowns on 24 March 1603 until his death. The kingdoms of Scotland and England were individual sovereign states, with their own parliaments, judiciary, and laws, though both were ruled by James in personal union. Fonte: https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaime\_VI\_da\_Esc%C3%B3cia\_e\_I\_de\_Inglaterra

Under James, the "Golden Age" of Elizabethan drama continued and literature flourished. The king himself was a poet and a scholar, being the author of works like *Daemonologie* (1597), *The True Law of Free Monarchies* (1598), and *Basilikon Doron* (1599). He also sponsored the translation of

the Bible (the Authorised King James Version). Since the latter half of the 20th century, historians have tended to revise James's reputation, treating him as a serious and thoughtful monarch.

The literary genres of the Jacobean period begin to appear as early as 1606, the year of Volpone, a cynical portrait of the human nature inscribed by the pen of the dominant literary figure of the time, Ben Jonson (1572-1637), although during this period Shakespeare (1564-1616) produced his greatest and darkest plays. In these first decades of the seventeenth century many other plays were performed, like the tragedies of dramatists such as John Ford (1586-1639), Thomas Middleton (1580-1627) and John Webster (1580-1634). There were also comedies written and produced by Thomas Dekker (1572-1632) and the duo Francis Beaumont (1584-1616) and John Fletcher (1579 - 1625), just to mention a few. This rich production off drama continued until 1642, when the theaters were closed, as we are going to see.

The most important writers of the Jacobean period, Ben Jonson and John Donne are regarded as the originators of two English poetic traditions: the Cavalier and the metaphysical. Nevertheless, both of them shared many common characteristics, such as the dryness of wit and the precision of expression. Donne's poetry is related to his passionate intellection, Jonson's to his classicism and guidance of passion.

Although George Herbert (1593-1633) and Donne were the main metaphysical poets, there were many other poets of the period who carried the elements which make them part of the group of the metaphysical poets or who were influenced by them, like Abraham Cowley (1618-1667) and Richard Crashaw (1613-1649). Robert Herrick (1591-1674) is considered the greatest of the Cavalier poets. Some other Cavalier poets are Thomas Carew [pronounced as "Carey"] (1595-1640) and Richard Lovelace (1617-1657). They produced their elegant poetry even during the Civil War. As for Andrew Marvell (1621-1678), he took of the traditions of both Cavaliers and Metaphysical poets.

### The Puritan Period

With the death of James I, Charles I (1600- 1649) ascended to the throne. He was the second son of King James. When his father inherited the English throne, in 1603, he moved to England, where he spent the rest of his life. As soon as the Prince of Wales, his brother Henry Frederick, died, in 1612, he became heir to the English, Irish, and Scottish thrones. In 1625, he married the Bourbon princess Henrietta Maria of France.

During his reign, Charles had many problems with the Parliament. He believed in the divine right of kings and thought he could govern according to his own conscience. Because of the levying of taxes, he was seen by the people as a tyrannical monarch. His marriage to a Roman Catholic

Aula 1

provoked the antipathy of the Puritans and Calvinists, who thought he was too Catholic. He supported high church ecclesiastics and failed to help Protestant forces during the Thirty Years' War. His attempts to force the Church of Scotland to adopt the Anglican practices led to the Bishops' Wars and helped precipitate his own downfall.

From 1642 on, Charles fought against the armies of the English and Scottish parliaments in what came to be known as the English Civil War. With his defeat in 1645, he surrendered to a Scottish force, who, in turn, took him to the English Parliament. Although he had refused Charles refused to accept the demands for a constitutional monarchy and escaped prison in 1647, he was caught again by the end of 1648, when Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658) and his New Model Army had already consolidated his control over England. The king was tried, convicted and executed for high treason in January 1649, for the horror of incredulous Europea aristocracy. Monarchy was then abolished in England and a republic called the Commonwealth of England was declared. It lasted until the Restoration of Stuart dynasty, in 1660.

### The Puritans

According to some authors, Puritanism was an activist movement within the Church of England led by some of the returning clergy exiled under Mary I, after the accession of Elizabeth I of England in 1558. Independently of the veracity of the record, the fact is that Puritanism played a very important role in English history during the first half of the 17th century, once they were the protagonists of the so called English Civil War, which is sometimes defined as the first "Puritan Revolution". This flow of Anti-Catholicism was stoked by, among others, John Pym (1584-1643), a politician at the time of the Grand Remonstrance of 1641.

After having been unsuccessful in their attempt to change the rituals of the English church, the Puritans suffered many restrictions in England by laws controlling the practice of religion. Their beliefs, however, were spread all over to the Netherlands and later in New England, in North America and in Ireland (and later in Wales), not to mention its insertion in the educational system, particularly in the University of Cambridge. The Puritans were in alliance with the commercial and capitalist world, once they were formed by great landowners, and were against the royal prerogative. Thus, during the first half of the seventeenth century, they were the most powerful political force in England, something which became clear to everybody after the English Civil War.

Puritans, by definition, were against the Church of England's tolerance of practices associated with the Catholic Church. They advocated purity of worship and doctrine, as well as personal and group piety. Puritans adopted the Reformed theology and were Calvinists. The separatist and independent strands of Puritanism became prominent in the 1640s. The term "Puritan" was rarely used to describe people after the turn of the 18th century. Some of their ideals became incorporated into the Church of England, such as the formal rejection of Roman Catholicism.

### **Puritan Literature**

In terms of literature, the Puritan period is also called The Age of Milton. John Milton (1608- 1674) was an English poet, polemicist, man of letters, and a civil servant for the Commonwealth of England under Oliver Cromwell. He wrote most of his work during the time of the Puritan revolution, but became one of the greatest English poets of all time after the publication of his epic poem *Paradise Lost* (1667), written after the Restoration. His literary work reflect his deep personal and philosophical and political convictions. He wrote in English, Latin, Greek and Italian, but achieved international fame during his lifetime with *Areopagitica* (1644), a pamphlet condemning literary censorship—it is considered one of history's most influential defences of free speech and freedom of the press.

Another very important man of letters of the period is John Bunyan (1628-1688), an English writer and Baptist preacher who became known because of his evangelical allegory *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678). According to his biographers, he had some schooling and at the age of sixteen joined the Parliamentary army during the English Civil War. When he returned home, he married and became interested in religion, attending first the parish church and then joining the Bedford Meeting, a nonconformist group in Bedford. After the Restoration, he was arrested and spent the next twelve years in jail as he refused to give up preaching. In prison he wrote, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*, a spiritual autobiography, and began to work on his masterpiece, which was published only after his release. *The Pilgrim's Progress* is one of the most published books in the English language, being translated in many languages.

Another Puritan writer of the period was Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672), considered by many scholars to be the first American poet, once she emigrated to Massachusetts in 1630. Her book of collected poems, *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up In America* (1650), was the first book published by a woman in America and England.

Edward Taylor (1642-1729) also emigrated to America in 1662, running away from the Restoration. His poems were not discovered until the 20th century (1937). His most famous work, *Preparatory Meditations Before My Approach to the Lord's Supper*, was a collection of personal thoughts and insights he had during his sermons.

### The Restoration

Although the Parliament of Scotland proclaimed Charles II (1630 1685) King of England in 1649, the country had passed through a period of Interregnum, once the monarchy was transformed into a temporary republic, the English Commonwealth, after the execution of king Charles I. Cromwell defeated Charles II at the Battle of Worcester on 3 September 1651, and Charles fled to Paris. Cromwell became virtual dictator of England, Scotland and Ireland while Charles spent the next nine years in exile in France, the Dutch Republic and the Spanish Netherlands. When Cromwell died, in 1658, Charles was invited to return to Britain. On 29 May 1660, the day of his 30th birthday, he was received in London to public acclaim. It is interesting to know that, after 1660, all legal documents were dated as if he had succeeded his father as king in 1649.

Charles supported the Clarendon Code, even though he favoured a policy of religious tolerance. The major foreign policy issue of his early reign was the Second Anglo-Dutch War. In 1670, after a secret treaty with his first cousin King Louis XIV of France, he had military help from the French in the Third Anglo-Dutch War, under the promise of converting himself to Catholicism at a future date. He married a Portuguese catholic princess, Catarina de Bragança, and attempted to introduce religious freedom for Catholics and Protestant dissenters in 1672, but the English Parliament forced him to withdraw it. After Titus Oates's revelations of a supposed "Popish Plot", which revealed that Charles's brother and heir (James, Duke of York) was a Catholic, In 1679, Charles sided with the Tories, and, following the discovery of the Rye House Plot to murder Charles and James in 1683, some Whig leaders were executed or forced into exile. He dissolved the English Parliament in 1681 and ruled alone until his death, in 1685. The wife of the Merry Monarch, Catherine of Braganza, bore no live children, although Charles acknowledged at least twelve illegitimate children by various mistresses. He was succeeded by his brother James.

### **Restoration Literature**

The literature produced during this period encompasses different pieces such as *Paradise Lost* and the Earl of Rochester's *Sodom*, the sexual comedy of *The Country Wife* and *The Pilgrim's Progress*. It was also ion this period that John Locke (1632-1704) wrote his *Treatises of Government*, that Charles II founded the Royal Society, and the literary criticism of John Dryden (1631-1700).

The dates for Restoration literature differ a lot, depending on the perspective of the literary historian and on the literary genre. Thus, the Restoration drama lasts until 1700, while the Restoration poetry goes until 1666. The Restoration prose, in turn, ends as son as 1688, because of the

tensions over succession and the rise in journalism and periodicals. In general, thus, term "Restoration" is used to denote the literature produced under Charles II, no matter its genre, style or perspective.

### **CONCLUSÃO**

The history of England begins with the fall of the Roman empire, when the northern invaders (the Jutes, the Angles and the Saxons) settled in the regions which were left unprotected with the withdrawal of the Roman troops. The Angles stayed in the coastal region, the Saxons in the central and finally the Jutes in the region known as Kent. These people were not unified ethnically or linguistically. They came from many mixtures and miscegenation, because they had invaded many other places and they had lived with many different peoples. It is importante to point out a very important thing about the word Saxon. Saxons are supposed to be one of these ethnic groups which invaded England and other parts of Europe. But Saxon, according to some historians, is a name which is given to people who work in the fields, like for example, peasants. So, a peasant would be a saxon. Only after many years, some centuries, the historians had to invent an ancestry to the English people and decided to consider the Saxons an ethnic group, instead of a group of professionals, a group of people who worked in the field, peasants. Finally, we have the importance of archeology and philology for the construction of the Anglo-Saxon and historical narrative.. So, the only thing we know about the Anglo-Saxon period, which chronologically speaking lasts from the 5th century, the century of the fall of the Roman Empire, and goes on until 1066, which is the year of the invasion of the Normans.



The seventeenth century, in terms of literature, can be divided into, at least, three different literary periods. The first one, which goes until the The English Civil War (1642–1651), is a kind of continuity of the Elizabethan period, once many dramatists and poets of the previous period are still producing and publishing their work. On the other, it was during this period, also called Jacobean period, that the metaphysical poetry emerged. The most representative poet of the period is John Donne (1573-1631). The second period is the Puritan Period. It is not exactly a literary period, but the social, cultural and political changes which took place during the time provoked another kind of literary production, more attached to po-

litical and religious doctrine. Neverthe less, a great poet appeared during this period, John Milton (1608-1674). The third period, in turn, occurs with the Restoration of the Stuart dynasty, and it is related with the coming of a strong French cultural influence, du to the fact that Charles II (1630-1685) had come from his exile in France. The most important writer of this period is, undoubtedly, John Dryden (1631-1700).



Answer the questions below in English:

- 1) What's the importance of the fall of the Roman empire to the history of Engalnd?
- 2) Who were the Anglo-Saxons?
- 3) What's the importance of Alfred the Great to English history and literature?
- 4) Write something about the situation of women during the Anglo-Saxon period.

### COMENTÁRIO SOBRE AS ATIVIDADES

Esta atividade tem por finalidade principal fazer você construa uma síntese dos principais conteúdos dessa primeira Aula, de modo a compreender criticamente o processo de constituição da Inglaterra como país nessa sua primeira fase. Desse modo, será importante compreender a importância da queda do Império romano para a história da Inglaterra, bem como as principais características dos povos anglo-saxônicos. Será importante também compreender o que significou a política cultural do rei Alfredo para o desenvolvimento da literatura e mesmo da historiografia inglesa. Por fim, é preciso que o estudante saiba resumir, com suas próprias palavras, determinados temas do período. No caso presente, a situação das mulheres.



The Anglo-Saxon Literature

# **GLOSSÁRIO**

- (1) The most successful dating system the world has ever known is that based on the 'Year of the Lord' (Anno Domini) **the Christian era**. It was created in AD 525 by a Scythian monk, Dionysius Exiguus, primarily as a means of numbering Easters. Today, this system for reckoning time is used globally and is by no means restricted to adherents of Christianity. The present essay aims to describe not only the origins and the early development of the Dionysian system, from its invention until its adoption throughout Western Europe in the course of the eleventh century, but also its antecedents in Late Antiquity and the general context in which this era was conceived.
- (2) **Historiography** refers to both the study of the methodology of historians and the development of history as a discipline, and also to a body of historical work on a particular subject. The historiography of a specific topic covers how historians have studied that topic using particular sources, techniques, and theoretical approaches.
- (3) **The Celts** were people in Iron Age and Medieval Europe who spoke Celtic languages and had cultural similarites, although the relationship between ethnic, linguistic and cultural factors in the Celtic world remains uncertain and controversial. The exact geographic spread of the ancient Celts is also disputed; in particular, the ways in which the Iron Age inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland should be regarded as Celts has become a subject of controversy.
- (4) **The Angles** (Latin Anglii) were one of the main Germanic peoples who settled in Britain in the post-Roman period. They founded several of the kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon England, and their name is the root of the name England. The name comes from the district of Angeln, an area located on the Baltic shore of what is now Schleswig-Holstein, the most northern state of Germany. The Saxons (Latin: Saxones, Old English: Seaxe, Old Saxon: Sahson, Low German: Sassen, German: Sachsen, Dutch: Saksen) were a confederation of Germanic tribes on the North German Plain. They settled in large parts of Great Britain in the early Middle Ages and formed part of the merged group of Anglo-Saxons who eventually organized the first united Kingdom of England.[1] Some Saxons remained in Germany, where they resisted the expanding Frankish Empire through the leadership of the semi--legendary Saxon hero, Widukind. **The Jutes**, Iuti, or Iutæ (/d□ u□ ts/) were a Germanic people. According to historiography, the Jutes were one of the three most powerful Germanic peoples of their time, the other two being the Saxons and the Angles. They are believed to have originated from the Jutland Peninsula (called Jutum in Latin) and part

- of the North Frisian coast. In present times the Jutlandic Peninsula consists of the mainland of Denmark and Southern Schleswig in Germany. North Frisia is part of Germany as well.
- (5) Vikings (Danish: Vikingerne; Faroese: Víkingur; Icelandic: Víkingar; Norwegian: Vikingene; Nynorsk: Vikingar; Swedish: Vikingar), from Old Norse víkingr, were Germanic Norse seafarers, speaking the Old Norse language, who raided and traded from their Scandinavian homelands across wide areas of northern and central Europe, as well as European Russia, during the late 8th to late 11th centuries. The term is also commonly extended in modern English and other vernaculars to the inhabitants of Viking home communities during what has become known as the Viking Age.
- (6) **The Doom Book**, Code of Alfred or Legal Code of Ælfred the Great was the code of laws ("dooms", laws or judgments) compiled by Alfred the Great (c. 893 AD) from three prior Saxon codes, to which he prefixed the Ten Commandments of Moses and incorporated rules of life from the Mosaic Code and the Christian code of ethics.
- (7) **Edward the Confessor** (1003/1005-1066), son of Æthelred the Unready and Emma of Normandy, was one of the last Anglo-Saxon kings of England and is usually regarded as the last king of the House of Wessex, ruling from 1042 to 1066.

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