

Department of English 2017-18

Teacher in Charge: Ms. Sonya Ghosh

Name of Seminar/workshop/conference	No. of Participants	Date
Seminar on Greek Literature and Theatre	35	24.10.2017
Performativity: Society as Doing	34	27.02.2018
The Age of Chaucer	32	20.03.2018
Renaissance in Europe	30	27.03.2018

Seminar on Greek Literature and Theatre



An invited talk on **Greek Literature and Theatre** was delivered by His Excellency **Mr. Panos Kalogeropoulos**, Ambassador of Greece to India on October 24, 2017 in the Conference Hall of the college. It was the first talk in the series of lectures, organised by the Department of English in the 2017-18 session. He spoke of the contribution of the Greeks to culture, philosophy, mathematics, astronomy and medicine. Tracing the origin and rise of Greek theatre, he went on to elucidate how important is the study of Greek Literature for a foundational understanding of English Literature. Questions were invited from the audience that comprised both students and faculty members and an hour long interactive session followed. He was accompanied by **Ms. Aliko Koutsomitopoulou**, First Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Greece.

Dr. Bharat Gupta, former Professor at the Department of English of the college and Mr. Anil Kumar Singh, head of the Greek Chair at JNU's School of Language were also present. The talk was accompanied by an exhibition on Greek mythology curated by the English Literary Society. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Inderjeet Dagar, the principal of the college.



Social Media links:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Ba6hJkflznq/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/greekliteraturetalk>

Performativity: Society as Doing



The Department of English organized a talk on **Performativity: Society as Doing, and Why that Matters**, on **February 27, 2018** which was delivered by **Bridget Conlon Liddell**, M.A. in Performance Studies, Texas A&M University. The lecture focused upon Plato, Structuralism, Phenomenology and Butler and examined how the ideas of these philosophers could be applied in studying the texts in course, specifically *Dr. Faustus* and *Twelfth Night*. The session was divided into two parts, the first, a lecture on a series of theoretical ideas that shift how the students might engage with any study they may undertake of society or human behaviour,

including productions of art, be they written, spoken, acted out, or otherwise shared. She described and summarized core ideas produced by a few key scholars with the final emphasis landing on the key gift the Performance Studies field has to offer: performativity, by Judith Butler. The second part of the session was focused on discussion. The students were divided into groups of three, and asked to discuss a series of questions, primarily focused on choosing an example from one of their readings in class and applying one of these theories to it. In total 34 students had participated in the workshop.

The Age of Chaucer

Talk by **Ms Harriet Raghunathan**



On 20th of March, 2018, the Department of English, continuing with its lecture series, organised a talk delivered by **Ms. Harriet Raghunathan**, retired Associate Professor, Delhi University and well-known editor of literary texts by Chaucer, Shakespeare, Johnson and Milton. She began her lecture by highlighting the life and times of Chaucer. She touched upon the political and social norms of that period, Feminism being one of them. A brief about the Mavericks of that period, who broke the stereotypes created by the religious and political factors of that century was given by her. She helped the students understand the ‘female created world, outside the church’ and the economics of love in the times of Chaucer, the 14th century. Speaking on The Prologue to the

Wife of Bath's Tale, Middle English, social groups, critiques of antifeminism and female dominance, she intrigued the students with her knowledge and excellent elocution.

Renaissance in Europe



Dottoressa Paola Martini, Italian language and culture teacher at the Italian Embassy Cultural Centre and a researcher on the Renaissance held an illustrated lecture on the Renaissance in Europe and its manifestations in architecture and themes of love and beauty on 27th March 2018, as a part of the lecture series organized by the department of English. She began her lecture by highlighting the characteristics of the pre-Renaissance period and the beginning of Renaissance in Florence Italy, before it travelled to other parts of Europe. The shift from God centric to human centric society which is a marker of the Renaissance spirit was traced beginning with the architecture of the classical period. She explained the Creation of Adam, a fresco painting by Michelangelo which illustrates the Biblical Creation narrative from the book of Genesis, and the Statue of David and other Renaissance architectures that embody the spirit of that age. The students were quite excited and engaged throughout the lecture.

This is to certify that the activity report (Teacher/Department/Society/Association) has been submitted for documentation to Internal Quality Assurance Cell, College of Vocational Studies, University of Delhi.

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