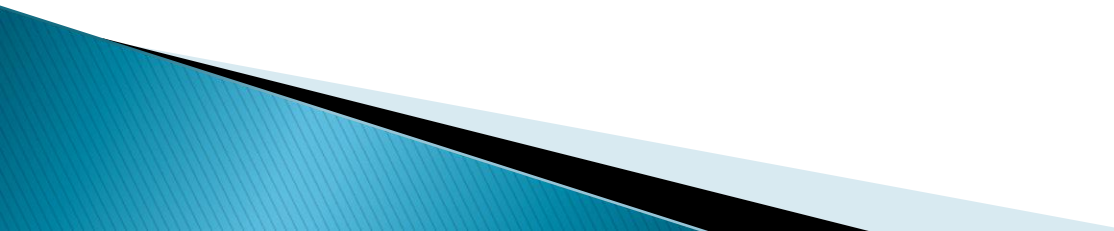# TYBA Special English – III Appreciating Novel

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# T.Y.B.A. Special Paper III (S-3) Title : Appreciating Novel : Syllabus

- **Term- I**
- **A) Theory of Novel**
- (a) What is Novel?
- A brief history of novel as a literary form
- (b) **Elements of Novel:**
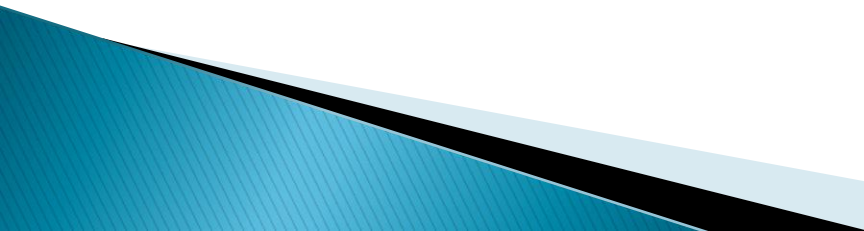- Theme, Characters, Plot, Structure Narrative Techniques, Point of view, Conflict, Setting and atmosphere, Dialogue

# T.Y.B.A. Special Paper III (S-3) Title : Appreciating Novel : Syllabus

- (c) **Types of Novel:**
- epistolary, picaresque, bildungsroman, historical, regional, Psychological, satire, realistic, experimental novel, science fiction
- (d) In addition to this **other literary terms** related to novel/fiction be considered for background study
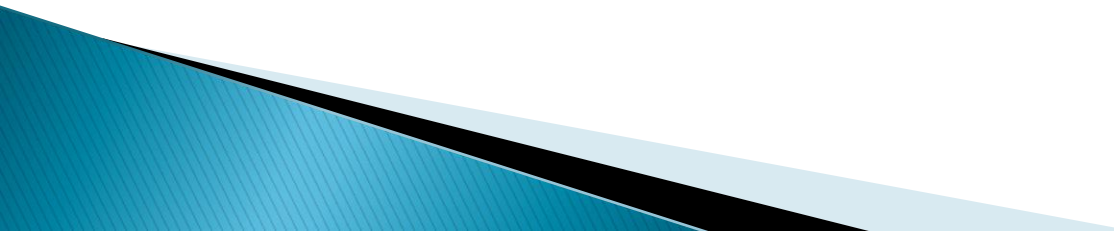- **B) Animal Farm– George Orwell**

# A) Theory of Novel

- Major forms Literature:
- **Novel,** Poetry, Drama, Short story, Novella.
- (a) What is a Novel?
- A **novel** is a relatively long work of narrative fiction, normally written in prose form, and which is typically published as a book.
- The present English word for a long work of prose fiction derives from the Italian *novella* for "new", "news", or "short story of something new".

# Definitions:

- The novel is a genre of fiction.
- Fiction may be defined as the art or craft of contriving, through the written word, representations of human life that instruct or divert or both.
- A novel is a long, fictional narrative which describes intimate human experiences.
- The novel in the modern era usually makes use of a literary prose style.

# Other Definitions:

- The development of the prose novel was encouraged by innovations in printing, and the introduction of cheap paper in the 15th century.
- **Novel** - an invented prose narrative of considerable length
- certain complexity -imaginative -human experience
- a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting.

# How is the term novel derived?

- The term novel is a truncation (short form) of the Italian word *novella*
-  The *novella* was a kind of enlarged anecdote like those to be found in the 14th-century Italian classic Boccaccio's *Decameron*
- The stories are little new things, novelties,
- They are not reworking of known fables or myths, and they are lacking in weight and moral earnestness.

# A brief history of novel as a literary form

▸ Although early forms of the novel are to be found in a number of places, including classical Rome, 10th- and 11th-century Japan, and Elizabethan England, the European novel is often said to have begun with *Don Quixote* in 1605.

▸ Epic poetry exhibits some similarities with the novel

▸ Indian epics such as the *Ramayana* (400 BCE and 200 CE), and *Mahabharata* (4th century BC) were as unknown in early modern Europe as was the Anglo-Saxon epic of *Beowulf* (c. 750–1000 AD), which was rediscovered in the late 18th century and early 19th century.

# Influence on Novel:

- Other non-European works, such as the Torah, the Quran, and the Bible, are full of stories, and thus have also had a significant influence on the development of prose narratives, and therefore the novel.
- Then at the beginning of the 18th century, French prose translations brought Homer's works to a wider public, who accepted them as forerunners of the novel.
- Classical Greek and Roman prose narratives included a didactic strand, with the philosopher Plato's (c. 425 – c. 348 BC) dialogues.

# Medieval period 1100-1500

- **Chivalric romances**
- It is a type of narrative in prose or verse popular in the aristocratic circles of High Medieval and Early Modern Europe.
- They were marvel-filled adventures, often of a knight with heroic qualities, who undertakes a quest,
- It has the emphasis on love and courtly manners
- In later romances, particularly those of French origin, there is a marked tendency to emphasize themes of courtly love.
- Originally, romance literature was written in Old French, later, in English, Italian and German.
- During the early 13th century, romances were increasingly written as prose.

# Developments in novel from 13ᵗʰ to 18ᵗʰ centuries

- The shift from verse to prose –the early 13th century.
- First Novel: Thomas Malory's *Le Morte 'Arthur* 1470s.
- Prose became increasingly attractive because it enabled writers to associate popular stories with serious histories traditionally composed in prose, and could also be more easily translated.
- Popular literature also drew on themes of romance, but with ironic, satiric intentions.
- Romances reworked legends, fairy tales, and history
- The word "medieval" evokes knights, distressed damsels, dragons, and such tropes.
- Around 1800, the connotations of "romance" were modified with the development Gothic fiction.

# Renaissance period: 1500–1700

▸ The modern distinction between history and fiction did not exist in the early sixteenth century

▸ William Caxton's 1485 edition of Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* (1471) was sold as a true history, though the story unfolded in a series of magical incidents and historical improbabilities.

▸ Sir John Mandeville's *Voyages*, written in the 14th century, but circulated in printed editions throughout the 18th century, was filled with natural wonders, which were accepted as fact.

▸ In the 16th and 17th centuries, two factors led to the separation of history and fiction.

▸ The invention of printing immediately created a new market of comparatively cheap entertainment and knowledge in the form of chapbooks.