



高等职业教育“十二五”规划教材

英美文学鉴赏

YINGMEI
WENXUE
JIANSHANG

◎主编 余美君



重庆大学出版社

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内 容 提 要

考虑到高职高专英语人才文化素质培养的重要性,本书是以学生文学素养的提高,英美文学基本理论知识的掌握和英美文学原著理解、鉴赏能力的培养为目的而编写的。

本书将英国文学和美国文学分为10个学习情境,每个学习情境有若干个工作任务,重点介绍特定历史时期的主要作家及其代表作,每个工作任务包括知识目标、能力目标、知识准备、学习任务、知识链接和能力拓展6个部分。通过学习本书,可以提高英语语言水平,增强对英美文学原著的理解,特别是对作品中表现的社会生活、人物感情、文化习俗的理解,丰富文学知识,拓展对不同历史文化的了解,提高英语文学作品的阅读能力和鉴赏水平。

本书可以作为高职高专商务英语专业、应用英语专业、对外贸易专业的专业课教材,也可作为对外交流从业人员的参考用书及相关专业的培训用书。

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序

胡锦涛总书记在清华大学百年校庆讲话中提出,人才培养、科学研究、服务社会、文化传承创新是现代大学的四大功能。高校是人才汇集的高地、智力交汇的场所,在这里,古今中外的思想、理论、学说相互撞击、相互交融,理论实践相互充实、相互升华,百花齐放、百家争鸣,并以其强大的导向功能辐射影响全社会,堪称社会新思想、新理论、新观念的发源地和集散中心。教师扮演着人类知识传承者和社会责任担当者的角色,更应践行“立德、立功、立言”人生三不朽。

当下许多教师,特别是青年教师尚未脱离从家门到校门、从校门再到校门的“三门学者”的路径依赖,致使教学内容单调、研究成果片面。要在教学上有所成绩、学术上有所建树、事业上有所成就,不仅要“出信息、出对策、出思想”的“三出学者”,更要从“历史自觉”的高度有效克服自身存在的“历史不足”,勇于探索出一条做一名“出门一笑大江横”“出类拔萃显气度”“出人头地见风骨”的“三出学者”路径。作为高职高专院校的教师,要培养学生成为“应用型”“高端技能型”人才,更要亲密接触社会、基层获取实践经验,做到既博览群书又博采众长,既“书中学”更“做中学”,成为既有理论又有实践经验的综合型人才。

百年商专形成了“铸造做人之行,培育做事之品”的“品行教育”特色。学校在做强硬实力的同时,不遗余力致力于软实力建设。要求教师一要敢于接触社会,不能“两耳不闻窗外事,一心只读圣贤书”,要广泛接触社会,了解社情民意,与企事业单位“亲密接触”;二要勇于深入基层,唯有对基层、对实际有深入的了解,才能做到“春江水暖鸭先知”,才能适时将这些知识与信息传播给学生;三要勤于实践锻炼。教师只有自觉增强实践能力,接受新信息、新知识、新概念,了解新理念,跟踪新技术,不断更新自身的知识体系和能力结构,才能更加适应外界环境变化和学生发展的需求。俗话说:“要给学生一杯水,自己就要有一桶水”,现在看来,教师拥有“一桶水”远远不够了,教师应该是“一条奔腾不息的河流”!教师要有“绝知此事要躬行”的手、要有“留心处处皆学问”的眼、要有“跳出庐山看庐山”的胆,在“悬思—苦索—顿悟”之后,以角色自信和历史自觉,厚积薄发,沉淀思想、观点、经验、体悟。

百年商专,在数代前贤和师生的共同努力下,取得了无数的荣誉,形成了自己的特色和性格,拥有了自己的尊严和声誉,奠定了自己的地位和影响,也创出

了自己的品牌和名气。不同时代的商专人都应为丰富商专的内涵作出自己的贡献。当下的“商专人”更应以“商专人”为荣,靠精神、靠文化、靠人才、靠团结、靠拼搏,敬业精业、齐心协力、同舟共济,强基固础、争先创优,攻艰克难、奋发有为。在共同感受学生成长、丰富自己人生、铸就学校未来的同时,服务社会、奉献社会,为我国的高职教育作出自己一份贡献。

源于此,学校在长乐企业鼎力支持下建立“校本教材出版基金”,鼓励和支持有丰富教学与企业经验、较高学术水平与教材编写能力的教师和相关行业企业专家共同编写校本教材。本系列校本教材在编写过程中,力求实现体现“校企合作、工学结合”的基本内涵;符合高职教育专业建设和课程体系改革的基本要求,以“基于工作过程或以培养学生实际动手能力”为主线设计教材总体架构;符合实施素质教育和加强实践教学的要求;反映科学技术、社会经济发展和教育改革的要求;体现当前教学改革和学科发展的新知识、新理念、新模式。

斯言不尽,代以为序。

福建商业高等专科学校党委书记 林 彬

2011年12月

前言

本书是面向高等职业教育,针对高职高专英语人才文化素质培养而编写的,其目的是使学生掌握英美文学的基本理论知识,并增强其理解、鉴赏英美文学原著的能力。

本教材旨在使学生对英美两国文学形成与发展的全貌有一个大概的了解,培养学生阅读、欣赏、理解文学原著的能力。通过阅读和分析英美文学作品,促进学生语言基本功和人文素质的提高,增强学生对西方文学及文化的了解。

本教材在设计之初就尝试改变以知识传授为主要特征的传统学科教材模式,将其转变为以培养学生的自主学习能力为指导思想的教材模式。在编写上,以工作任务为课程内容的中心,并构建相关理论知识,从而体现出该教材在设计上的独特性和创新性。为了便于学生自主学习,本书在编排上独树一帜,在每个学习情境的引言部分介绍了这一时期的文化历史背景,并重点介绍这一时期重要的作家及其作品,采用了“学生学习—教师讲授—学生讨论”的模式,突出了以学生自主学习为主、教师讲授为辅的教学特点。

本教材在编排上分为10个学习情境,分别由余美君(学习情境1—7及每个学习情境中的引言)、周文蕴(学习情境8)、林文艺(学习情境9)和柯佳音(学习情境10)编写。William Albright教授对于作家作品的选择给出了宝贵的指导意见。

编者

2011年12月

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BRITISH LITERATURE

BRITISH LITERATURE

学习情境 1 The Old and Medieval Period

引言 A Brief Introduction to the Old and Medieval Period

Since historical times, England, where the early inhabitants were Celts, has been conquered three times. It was conquered by the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons, and the Normans.

England was not much affected by the Roman Conquest, but she felt the full weight of the other two conquests. The Anglo-Saxons brought to England the Germanic language and culture, while the Normans brought a fresh wave of Mediterranean civilization, which includes Greek culture, Roman law, and the Christian religion. It is the cultural influence of these two conquests that provided the source for the rise and growth of English literature.

The period of Old English literature extends from about 450 to 1,066, the year of the Norman conquest of England. The Germanic tribes from the Northern Europe brought with them not only the Anglo-Saxon language, the basis of Modern English, but also a specific poetic tradition, which is both bold and strong, mournful and elegiac in spirit. Generally speaking, the Old English poetry that has survived can be divided into two groups; the religious group and the secular one. The poetry of the religious group is mainly on biblical themes. *Genesis A*, *Genesis B* and *Exodus* are poems based on the Old Testament; whereas *The Dream of the Rood* comes from the New Testament. In this poem, Christ is portrayed as the young warrior striding to embrace death and victory, while the rood (cross) itself takes on the burden of his suffering. In addition to these religious compositions, Old English

poets produced the national epic poem, *Beowulf*, and a number of more or less lyrical poems of shorter length, which do not contain specific Christian doctrines but evoke the Anglo-Saxon sense of the harshness of circumstance and the sadness of the human lot. *The Wanderer*, *Deor*, *The Seafarer*, and *The Wife's Complaint* are among the most beautiful in this secular group. The harsh climate of North Sea strongly affected the tone or mood of the poets. The life is sorrowful, and the speakers are fatalistic, though at the same time courageous and determined.

The Norman Conquest brought England more than a change of rulers. Politically, a feudal system was established in England; religiously, the Rome-backed Catholic Church had a much stronger control over the country; great changes also took place in languages. After the conquest, three languages co-existed in England. French became the official language used by the king and the Norman lords; Latin became the principal tongue of church affairs and in universities; and Old English was spoken only by the common English people. Thus Britain was opened up to the whole European continent.

With the Norman Conquest starts the medieval period in English literature, which covers about four centuries. In the early part of the period, i. e. from 1,066 up to the mid-14th century, there was not much to say about literature in English. It was almost a barren period in literary creation. But in the second half of the 14th century, English started to flourish with the appearance of writers like **Geoffrey Chaucer**, **William Langland**, **John Cower**, and others. In comparison with Old English literature, Middle English literature deals with a wider range of subjects, is uttered by more voices and in a greater diversity of styles, tones and genres. Popular folk literature also occupies an important place in this period. Its presentation of life is not only accurate but also lively and colorful, though the originality of thought is often absent in the literary works of this period. Besides, Middle English literature strongly reflects the principles of the medieval Christian doctrine, which were primarily concerned with the issue of personal salvation.

Romance which uses narrative verse or prose to sing knightly adventures or other heroic deeds is a popular literary form in the medieval period. It has developed the characteristic medieval motifs of the quest, the test, the meeting with the evil giant and the encounter with the beautiful beloved. The hero is usually the knight, who sets out on a journey to accomplish some missions—to protect the church, to attack

infidelity, to rescue a maiden, to meet a challenge, or to obey a knightly command. There is often a liberal use of the improbable, sometimes even supernatural, things in romance such as mysteries and fantasies. Romantic love is an important part of the plot in romance. Characterization is standardized, so that heroes, heroines and wicked stewards can be easily moved from one romance to another. While the structure is loose and episodic, the language is simple and straightforward. The importance of the romance itself can be seen as a means of showing medieval aristocratic men and women in relation to their idealized view of the world. If the epic reflects a heroic age, the romance reflects a chivalric one.

Among the three great Middle English poets, the author of *Sir Gawain and The Green Knight* is the one who produced the best romance of the period; while **William Langland** is a more realistic writer who dealt with the religious and social issues of his day in *Piers Plowman*. However, it is **Geoffrey Chaucer** alone who, for the first time in English literature, presented to us a comprehensive realistic picture of the English society of his time and created a whole gallery of vivid characters from all walks of life in his masterpiece *The Canterbury Tales*.

Important writers to be introduced and discussed in this section are the unknown author of **Beowulf**, **William Langland**, and **Geoffrey Chaucer**.

工作任务 1 Beowulf

知识目标:了解英国文学的起源——盎格鲁·撒克逊文学。

能力目标:学会欣赏史诗《贝奥武夫》及其诗歌特色。

知识准备

1. 作者简介

英国文学的发展源远流长。这一漫长的历史首先起源于盎格鲁·撒克逊文学。英国历史上的盎格鲁·撒克逊时期是约从5世纪开始,到11世纪中期诺曼人入侵为止。由于这一时期在英语的发展上属于古英语时期(约从公元

600 年到 1100 年),因此盎格鲁·撒克逊文学通常也称作古英语时期文学。英国古英语时期文学最重要的作品就是史诗《贝奥武夫》(*Beowulf*),这是英国文学史上第一部重要的民族史诗,被视为英格兰文学的起点,其作者已无从查证。该作品于公元 5 世纪时已开始被口头传诵,约 8 世纪时成书。现存的《贝奥武夫》的唯一手稿,出于一个不知名的书记员之手,成稿时间为 10 世纪早期。被发现是在 1705 年,讲述发生在北欧的故事。

2. 作品导读

《贝奥武夫》(*Beowulf*)全诗共 3 182 行,以斯堪地那维亚的英雄贝奥武夫的英勇事迹构成主要内容。虽然历史上并未证实确有贝奥武夫其人,但诗中所提及的许多其他人物与事迹却得到印证。本诗原以西撒克逊方言写成,押头韵而不押尾韵,用双字隐喻而不用明喻。全诗内容分为两部分:第一部分描叙丹麦霍格国王(King Hrothgurs)宏伟的宫殿,在前后 12 年中,半人半魔的妖怪格兰戴(Grendel)每晚出没捉食霍格国王的武士。此时恰巧瑞典南部济兹(Geats)王子贝奥武夫率家臣来访,协助除害。国王当晚设宴款待,孰料妖怪格兰戴又复出现,捉食一名济兹武士,贝奥武夫与之格斗,扭断其臂,使格兰戴落荒而逃,因受重伤致死。第二天晚上,妖怪格兰戴的母亲前来为其子复仇,贝奥武夫把她杀死在一湖泊的洞穴中。第二部分描叙贝奥武夫返国,被拥为王,前后 50 年,举国大治。最后贝奥武夫在垂老之年,与喷火巨龙搏斗,但他亦因此身受重创,不幸死亡。诗末叙其葬礼,并有挽歌。

学习任务: 作品阅读与欣赏

BEOWULF (Excerpts)

Now Beowulf bode in the burg of the Scyldings,
 leader beloved, and long he ruled
 in fame with all folk, since his father had gone
 away from the world, till awoke an heir,
 haughty Healfdene, who held through life,
 sage and sturdy, the Scyldings glad.
 Then, one after one, there woke to him,
 to the chieftain of clansmen, children four:

Heorogar, then Hrothgar, then Halga brave;
 and I heard that—was—'s queen,
 the Heathoscyfing's helpmate dear.
 To Hrothgar was given such glory of war,
 such honor of combat, that all his kin
 obeyed him gladly till great grew his band
 of youthful comrades. It came in his mind
 to bid his henchmen a hall uprear,
 a master mead-house, mightier far
 than ever was seen by the sons of earth,
 and within it, then, to old and young
 he would all allot that the Lord had sent him,
 save only the land and the lives of his men.
 Wide, I heard, was the work commanded,
 for many a tribe this mid-earth round,
 to fashion the folkstead. It fell, as he ordered,
 in rapid achievement that ready it stood there,
 of halls the noblest: Heorot he named it
 whose message had might in many a land.
 Not reckless of promise, the rings he dealt,
 treasure at banquet: there towered the hall,
 high, gabled wide, the hot surge waiting
 of furious flame. Nor far was that day
 when father and son-in-law stood in feud
 for warfare and hatred that woke again.
 With envy and anger an evil spirit
 endured the dole in his dark abode,
 that he heard each day the din of revel
 high in the hall: there harps rang out,
 clear song of the singer. He sang who knew
 tales of the early time of man,
 how the Almighty made the earth,
 fairest fields enfolded by water,

set, triumphant, sun and moon
 for a light to lighten the land-dwellers,
 and braided bright the breast of earth
 with limbs and leaves, made life for all
 of mortal beings that breathe and move.
 So lived the clansmen in cheer and revel
 a winsome life, till one began
 to fashion evils, that field of hell.
 Grendel this monster grim was called,
 march-riever mighty, in moorland living,
 in fen and fastness; fief of the giants
 the hapless wight a while had kept
 since the Creator his exile doomed.
 On kin of Cain was the killing avenged
 by sovran God for slaughtered Abel.
 Ill fared his feud, and far was he driven,
 for the slaughter's sake, from sight of men.
 Of Cain awoke all that woful breed,
 Etins and elves and evil-spirits,
 as well as the giants that warred with God
 weary while: but their wage was paid them!

(In modern translation)

知识链接

1. 《贝奥武夫》(*Beowulf*) 根据发音,译为:贝奥武夫。其实,它有两种意思:第一,Beo,是北欧单词的简写,因此,可翻译为:北欧之狼。第二,Beo,是“熊”的发音简写,寓意:像熊一样强壮以及像狼一样勇猛的男人。
2. 这首史诗以简短的古丹麦家谱作为开始。齐尔德·谢冯是古丹麦第一位伟大的国王,他以他征服敌人的能力而闻名。后来,齐尔德成为了荷罗斯加的曾祖父,而荷罗斯加就是贝奥武夫时代古丹麦的国王。荷罗斯加和他的祖先一样,是一位好君王,他希望借着建造名叫希奥罗特的大殿来庆祝他的统治。
3. 头韵: Alliteration, 汉语一般译为“头韵”,是英语中语音修辞手段之一。它是