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Department of English & Writing Studies

Major British Authors English 2307E (001) Fall/Winter 2013-14

Instructor: Prof. M.H. McMurrin

Date/Time: Monday 9:30am-11:30am

Location: University College 286

Prerequisites

At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course will trace some of the major developments in British literature from its oldest texts to contemporary fiction. Unlike 1020E and 1022E, Major British Authors introduces students to the British tradition in a chronological survey with attention to historical and literary-historical contexts. We will read selected pieces which are representative of their age and genre, but also simply because they are examples of the English language at its finest. All readers should find many texts which will pique their curiosity and excite their critical talents.

At the same time, we will explore the multitude of ways scholars have approached British literature by reading, discussing and writing about criticism. We will therefore engage with critical scholarship throughout the year and discuss strategies for entering into critical discussions and planning, organizing and writing research papers. Assignments will ask students to engage deeply with the texts themselves and with the critical debates surrounding those texts

Objectives:

Successful students who complete the course will be better able to:

- Discuss the development of English literature and textual traditions across time;
- Recognize texts' relationship to that tradition;
- Recognize and discuss the rhetoric and structure of texts using appropriate critical tools;
- Compose essays with complex arguments;
- Find relevant secondary sources;
- Write cogent summaries and reviews of secondary criticism;
- Successfully incorporate criticism into your essays.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

The Norton Anthology of English Literature. Packages 1 & 2. 9th ed. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt. New York: Norton, 2012.
Shakespeare, William. *Othello: Norton Critical Edition*. Ed. Edward Pechter. New York: Norton, 2004. (shrinkwrapped with the anthology)
Austen, Jane. *Sense and Sensibility: Norton Critical Edition*. Ed. Claudia Johnson. New York: Norton, (shrinkwrapped with the anthology)

Methods of Evaluation

Essay	Due October 5	5%
Revised Essay	Due October 16	5%
Comparative Essay	Due November 17	10%
Review of Critical Articles	Due January 31	5%
S&S Essay	Due February 8	5%
Revised S&S Essay	Due February 15	15%
Final Essay	Due March 30	15%
Final Exam	TBA	35%
Tutorial Participation	On-going	5%

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

Timetable:

Read all assigned texts before class and always bring the book or other material with you because every time we meet we will be reading and discussing passages from the texts. Secondary sources are available from online databases or the Norton Critical Editions you purchased). You will be responsible for finding the secondary sources because part of the point of these readings is to learn how to locate resources using the library website.

Sep 9 Welcome and introductions

Middle Ages: Old English

Sept 10/ 11 Read Norton Anthology introduction "Anglo-Saxon Literature" (6-10) and "The Dream of the Rood"

Sep 16 *Beowulf* (36-88)

Sep 17/ 18 *Beowulf* and in class writing

Sep 23 *Beowulf* (88-110) and Read pp. 245-67 of J.R.R. Tolkien, "Beowulf: The Monsters and the Critics." *Proceedings of the British Academy* 22 (1936):245-95. <http://www.english.uga.edu/~jdmevans/Personal/JRRTI936.pdf>

Sep 24/25 J.R.R. Tolkien, "Beowulf: The Monsters and the Critics." Read pp. 267-78

Middle Ages: Anglo-Norman

Sep 30 Read: "Anglo-Norman Literature" (IO-I3) and Marie de France, *Lanval*

Oct 1/2 Marie de France, *Lanval* [preparing first essay]

Oct 5 Essay due 3-4 pages (approx 1200 words). Submit to OWL by 11:59 pm

Middle Ages: Middle English

Oct 7 Bring your laptop to class. Read: "Middle English Literature"; Chaucer, "Lyrics and Occasional Verse," 343-6. Class exercise: Finding articles in academic journals.

Oct 8/9 Ludlum, Chas D. "Heavenly Word-Play in Chaucer's 'Complaint to His Purse'." *Notes and Queries* 23 (1976): 391-2. Essay revisions

Oct 14 No class: Thanksgiving

Oct 15/16 No class: Prof. McMurrin at CSECS workshop and conference

Oct 16 Revised essay due. Submit to OWL by 11:59pm

Renaissance or Early Modern Period

Oct 21 Read: "The Sixteenth Century: 1485-1603" and Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene* (766-778, 775-843) OED exercise: Look up all the words in a single line

Oct 22/23 Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene* (843-934) Bring your OED exercise to class.

Oct 28 Shakespeare, Sonnets (20, 29, 146); Kolin, Philip C. "Shakespeare's "Sonnet 20'." *Explicator* 45.1 (1986: 10-11

Oct 29/30 Bring your laptop to class. Stackhouse, Amy D. "Shakespeare's Half-Foot: Gendered Prosody in 'Sonnet 20'." *Explicator* 65 (2007): 202-4. Exercise: color code sonnet for sound.

Nov 4 Shakespeare, *Othello* Acts I-III: Comparative essay on Renaissance works

Nov 5/6 Comparative essay on Renaissance works

Nov 11 Shakespeare, *Othello* Acts IV-V; Comparative essay on Renaissance works

Nov 12/13 Hunter, G.K. "*Othello* and Colour and Prejudice" (in Norton volume, 248-62)

Nov 17th **Comparative Essay on Renaissance due 5-6 pgs (approx. 1500 words).
Submit to OWL by 11:59pm**

Nov 18 Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" (1 126); Raleigh, "The
Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" (1023-5)

Nov 19/20 Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" (1 126); Raleigh, "The
Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" (1023-5)

Restoration and Eighteenth Century

Nov 25 Read: "The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century" and Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*

Nov 26/27 *Oroonoko*

Dec 2 Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*

Dec 3/4 *Oroonoko*

Restoration and Eighteenth Century (cont'd)

Jan 6 Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative* and Cathy N. Davidson, "Olaudah
Equiano, Written by Himself" *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* (Fall 2006)

Jan 7/8 Cathy N. Davidson, "Olaudah Equiano, Written by Himself" *Novel: A Forum on
Fiction* (Fall 2006) In class writing: summary and review of the article

Jan 13 Aphra Behn, "The Disappointment"; Swift, "The Lady's Dressing Room"

Jan 14/ 15 Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, "The Reasons That Induced Dr. Swift to Write a
Poem Called the Lady's Dressing Room"

Romanticism

Jan 20 Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* Read at least up to Volume 11, Chapter VIII

Jan 21/22 Raymond Williams, "Sensibility" (in NCE)

Jan 27 Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* Finish the novel

Jan 28/29 Begin essay on S&S using Williams and one other critical essay from the *Norton
Critical Edition*

Jan 31 **Summary/Review of 2 critical articles due. Submit to OWL, by 11:59pm**

Feb 3 Read "The Romantic Period"; Robert Burns, "To a Mouse," "To a Louse," "Auld
Lang Syne," and "Tam O'Shanter" Essay preparation

Feb 4/5 Essay preparation

Feb 8 **S&S Essay due 7-8 pages. Submit to OWL 11:59 pm**

Feb 10 Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale" and "La Belle Dame sans Merci: A Ballad"; Coleridge "Kubla Khan"

Feb 12 S&S revisions; Peer review of S&S essay

Feb 15 Revised S&S Essay due. Submit to OWL 11:59 pm

Feb 17 & 19 Reading Week

Victorian

Feb 24 Read "The Victorian Age"; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Sonnets from the Portuguese*, 21, 22, 32, 43; Tennyson, "The Lady of Shalott" and "Ulysses"

Feb 25/26 Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Sonnets from the Portuguese*, 21, 22, 32, 43

Mar 3 Yeats, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" and "The Wild Swans at Coole"

Mar 4/5 Yeats, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" and "The Wild Swans at Coole"

Mar 10 Kipling, "The Man Who Would Be King" (1851-77); Kipling, "White Man's Burden" and "If-" (1880-3); Postcolonialism

Mar 11/12 Chinua Achebe "Colonialist Criticism" from Ashcroft, Griffiths, Tiffin, eds. *The Postcolonial Studies Reader* (NY: Routledge, 1995) and Salman Rushdie, "Imaginary Homelands" in *Imaginary Homelands* (London: Granta, 1991) [available on OWL]

Twentieth Century

Mar 17 Read "Twentieth Century and After" and Zadie Smith, "The Waiter's Wife" (1999); Bring your laptop to class. Research for Zadie Smith and post colonialism essay

Mar 18/19 Bring your laptop to class. Essay preparation

Mar 24 Tom Stoppard, *Arcadia* (1993); Bring your laptop to class. Essay preparation

Mar 25/26 Tom Stoppard, *Arcadia* (1993); Bring your laptop to class. Essay preparation

Mar 30 Final Essay Due, 7-8 pages. Submit to OWL 11:59 pm

Mar 31 Tom Stoppard, *Arcadia* (1993)

Apr 1/2 Tom Stoppard, *Arcadia* (1993)

Apr 7 Seamus Heaney, "Digging," "Grauballe Man," "Punishment," "Casualty"

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.