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Department of English & Writing Studies

Major British Authors English 2307E (002) Fall/Winter 2013-14

Instructor: Dr. Peter Thoms

Date/Time: Tuesday 1:30pm-3:30pm
Thursday 1:30pm-2:30pm

Location: University College 30 & 224

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 English 1020B and English 1022E, Major British Authors introduces students to the British tradition in a chronological survey. In works such as the Anglo-Saxon epic Beowulf, the medieval romance Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, the Renaissance tragedy Macbeth, the eighteenth-century comedy She Stoops to Conquer, the nineteenth-century lyric "I wandered lonely as a cloud," and the twentieth-century novel To the Lighthouse we will sample the British canon and explore a variety of genres. We will examine how individual works are of their own time, speaking to the particular concerns of their day, but also of all time, addressing in their own unique ways issues that are central to the human experience.

Objectives:

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

- Increase their knowledge of the development of English literature and textual traditions across time;
- Heighten their awareness of texts' relationships to literary traditions;
- Strengthen their skills in close reading and literary analysis through regular class discussion of particular passages and the preparation of formal essays;
- Enhance their skills in essay writing by attending to matters of form (such as the integrating of quotations and the preparing of a list of "Works Cited"), to the establishment of theses and the development of arguments, and to the handling of secondary sources;
- Continue to foster their love and appreciation of literature.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

We will be using the 9th edition of The Norton Anthology of English Literature. The edition that the bookstore has ordered consists of six separate volumes. Volumes A, B, and C are shrinkwrapped with the following two books:

1. The Norton Critical Edition of Macbeth (ed. Robert S. Miola, 2003).
2. The Norton Critical Edition of Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe (2nd edition, ed. Michael Shinagel).

Volumes D, E, and F of The Norton Anthology will be shrinkwrapped with the following novel:

1. The Norton Critical Edition of Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre (3rd edition, ed. Richard J. Dunn).

We will also be reading the following texts:

1. Oliver Goldsmith's She Stoops to Conquer (the Dover Thrift Edition).
2. John Fowles's The French Lieutenant's Woman (Little, Brown).
3. Virginia Woolf's To the Lighthouse. Ed. David Bradshaw. Oxford World's Classics.

Methods of Evaluation

First Term Essay	2500 words	due on November 21, 2013	25%
Second Term Essay	2500 words	due on February 11, 2014	25%
Test		January 14, 2014	10%
Five Reader Responses			5%

Each student will submit reader responses (each worth 1% of the final mark) on five of the following works: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Macbeth, Robinson Crusoe, She Stoops to Conquer, Jane Eyre, To the Lighthouse, The French Lieutenant's Woman, and Arcadia. Each response should be 250-300 words in length, and will be due **before** we begin class discussion of the work on which you are writing. In each response, you should offer your initial reaction to the work (what did you like or not like?), some initial critical observations about the work (for example, mention significant themes that the text explores), and evidence that you have completed the work (how effective is the conclusion?).

Final Examination 35%

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:

The Middle Ages: Anglo-Saxon Literature

- Sept. 10, 12 Introduction to the Course. Beowulf.
Sept. 17, 19 Beowulf.
Sept. 24, 26 Beowulf. "The Dream of the Rood."
Oct. 1, 3 "The Dream of the Rood."

The Middle Ages: Middle English Literature

- Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.
Oct. 8, 10 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.

The Renaissance (or Early Modern)

- Oct. 15, 17 Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love." Raleigh, "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd." Shakespeare, "Sonnet 146" and "Sonnet 29."
Oct. 22, 24 Shakespeare, Macbeth.
Oct. 29 Shakespeare, Macbeth.
Nov. 5, 7 Donne, "The Sun Rising" and "The Canonization."
Nov. 12, 14 Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress."

Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature (1660-1785)

- Behn, "The Disappointment."
Nov. 19, 21 Defoe, Robinson Crusoe.
Nov. 26, 28 Defoe, Robinson Crusoe.
Dec. 3, 5 Swift, "The Lady's Dressing Room." Montagu, "The Reasons That Induced Dr. Swift to Write a Poem Called the Lady's Dressing Room."
Jan. 7, 9 Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer.

The Romantic Period (1785-1830)

- Jan. 14, 16 ***TEST ON JANUARY 14***
Blake, "The Sick Rose." Wordsworth, "I wandered lonely as a cloud," and "The Solitary Reaper."
Jan. 21, 23 Coleridge, "This Lime-Tree Bower My Prison." Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale" and La Belle Dame sans Merci."

The Victorian Age (1830-1901)

- Jan. 28, 30 Charlotte Bronte, Jane Eyre.
Feb. 4, 6 Charlotte Bronte, Jane Eyre.
Feb. 11, 13 Tennyson, "The Lady of Shalott" and "Ulysses."
Feb. 18, 20 READING WEEK
Feb. 25, 27 Elizabeth Barrett Browning, selections from Sonnets from the Portuguese. Christina Rossetti, "An Apple-Gathering" and "In an Artist's Studio."

The Twentieth Century

- Yeats, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" and "The Wild Swans at Coole."
March 4, 6 Woolf, To the Lighthouse.

March 11, 13	Woolf, <u>To the Lighthouse</u> . Auden, "Musée des Beaux Arts."
March 18, 20	Thomas, "Fern Hill." Fowles, <u>The French Lieutenant's Woman</u> .
March 25, 27	Fowles, <u>The French Lieutenant's Woman</u> .
April 1, 3	Stoppard, <u>Arcadia</u> .
April 8	Stoppard, <u>Arcadia</u> .

Assignments:

Late Policy: Late essays will be penalized at the rate of 1% per day (including Saturdays and Sundays). If you foresee that you will be unable to submit an essay on time, please contact your marker before the essay is due. Essays that are not submitted in class should be placed in the essay drop box located outside of University College 173. Please note: "The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which assignments will be accepted for credit in a course."

You are expected to retain a copy of the final draft of each essay. If a submitted essay is lost, you will be asked to submit the duplicate for grading.

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.