
WESTERN UNIVERSITY 2014-2015

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND WRITING STUDIES

Tuesday 1:30-3:30 and Thursday 1:30-2:30 in University College 289

English 2307E (Section 002): Major British Authors

Instructor: Dr. P. Thoms. Office: Arts and Humanities Building 3G23. Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30-4:30, Wednesday 6:15-6:45 p.m., and Thursday 2:30-4, or by appointment. Email: pgthoms@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant: Mr. A. Bowes. Office: Arts and Humanities Building 0N15. Office Hours: Wednesday 3:30-4:30 and Thursday 2:30-3:30, or by appointment. Email: abowes5@uwo.ca

Course Description

This course will trace some of the major developments in British literature from its oldest texts to contemporary fiction. Unlike English 1020E 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.

Course Objectives

Major British Authors has a number of goals:

- to increase students' knowledge of the development of English literature and textual traditions across time
- to heighten students' awareness of texts' relationships to literary traditions
- to strengthen students' skills in close reading and literary analysis through regular class discussion of particular passages and the preparation of formal essays

- to enhance students' 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
- to continue to foster students' love and appreciation of literature

Schedule of Classes

First Term

Sept. 4	Introduction to the Course.
	The Middle Ages: Anglo-Saxon Literature
Sept. 9, 11	<i>Beowulf</i> .
Sept. 16, 18	<i>Beowulf</i> .
Sept. 23, 25	<i>Beowulf</i> . "The Dream of the Rood."
	The Middle Ages: Middle English Literature
Sept. 30, Oct. 2	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> .
Oct. 7, 9	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> .
	The Renaissance (or Early Modern)
Oct. 14, 16	Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love." Raleigh, "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd." Shakespeare, "Sonnet 146" and "Sonnet 29."
Oct. 21, 23	Shakespeare, <i>Macbeth</i> .
Oct. 28	Shakespeare, <i>Macbeth</i> .
Nov. 4, 6	Donne, "The Sun Rising" and "The Canonization." Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress."
Nov. 11, 13	Marvell, "The Garden."
	Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature (1660-1785)
	Behn, "The Disappointment."
Nov. 18, 20	Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> .
Nov. 25, 27	Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> .

Dec. 2 Swift, "The Lady's Dressing Room." Montagu, "The Reasons That Induced Dr. Swift to Write a Poem Called the Lady's Dressing Room."

Second Term

Jan. 6, 8 Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer*.

The Romantic Period (1785-1830)

Jan. 13, 15 *****TEST ON JANUARY 13*****

Blake, "The Sick Rose." Wordsworth, "I wandered lonely as a cloud," and "The Solitary Reaper."

Jan. 20, 22 Coleridge, "This Lime-Tree Bower My Prison." Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale" and "La Belle Dame sans Merci."

The Victorian Age (1830-1901)

Jan. 27, 29 Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*.

Feb. 3, 5 Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*.

Feb. 10, 12 Tennyson, "The Lady of Shalott" and "Ulysses."

Feb. 17, 19 READING WEEK

Feb. 24, 26 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 3, 5 Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*.

March 10, 12 Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*. Thomas, "Fern Hill."

March 17, 19 Heaney, "Digging." Fowles, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.

March 24, 26 Fowles, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.

March 31, April 2 Stoppard, *Arcadia*.

April 7 Stoppard, *Arcadia*.

Marking Scheme

First Essay of 500-800 words due on October 21, 2014. Worth 7% of final grade.

Second Essay of 2500 words due on November 27, 2014. Worth 23% of final grade.

Test on January 13, 2015. Worth 10% of final grade.

Third Essay of 2500 words due on February 10, 2015. Worth 25% of final grade.

Final Examination. Worth 35% of final grade.

1. "STUDENTS MUST PASS **BOTH** TERM WORK AND THE FINAL EXAMINATION (IN COURSES WITH FINAL EXAMINATIONS) IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE. STUDENTS WHO FAIL THE FINAL EXAMINATION (REGARDLESS OF THEIR TERM MARK) AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE COURSE."
2. 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 and would like an extension, please contact your marker **before** the essay is due. Essays that are not submitted in class should be placed in the essay drop box; I will announce the new location of the drop box before the first essay is due. **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."** For our course, the last day of scheduled classes is April 7, 2015.
3. 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.
4. Plagiarism is a **serious offence**. Please read carefully the statements on plagiarism found in the "Information for Students" section of the Department of English website.

"Plagiarism (the unacknowledged use of another person's work) is one of the most serious academic offences, since it involves fraud and misrepresentation. In plagiarizing, one is in effect claiming another person's words or ideas or data as one's own work, and thus misrepresenting material subject to academic evaluation. It is necessary, therefore, that plagiarism carry appropriate penalties. These are within the discretion of the Chair of Undergraduate Studies, but may include failure of a course or a grade of zero on an assignment, without the privilege of resubmitting it."

“Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a 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.”

“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>).”

5. Office: Arts and Humanities Building 3G23. **Office Hours:** Tuesday 3:30-4:30, Wednesday 6:15-6:45 p.m., and Thursday 2:30-4, or by appointment. Email: pgthoms@uwo.ca Email Policy: [I would prefer that students use email only for urgent matters that cannot wait until office hours or the next class. For all other matters \(including discussion of essay topics\), I encourage students to talk to me in person \(immediately before and after class, and during office hours\).](#)

6. “Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and / or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 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 Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

The full policy is set out here: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

7. “Students who are in emotional / mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwo.com/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”
8. “Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not taken an antirequisite course.”

List of 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:

The Norton Critical Edition of *Macbeth* (ed. Robert S. Miola, 2003).

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:

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

We will also be reading the following texts:

Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer* (the Dover Thrift Edition).

John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (Little, Brown).

Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*. Ed. David Bradshaw. Oxford World's Classics.