

Major British Authors English 2307E

Fall 2015
Tues. 1:30-3:20 pm AHB 2B02
Tutorial: Wed. 11:30-12:20 UCC 67

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Office AHB 3B22
Off hrs: Tuesdays 4-6 pm and by appt.

TA Tutorials:
Thurs. 1:30-2:20 pm and 2:30-3:20 pm, WL 257

Course Description:

This course will trace some of the major developments in British literature from its oldest texts to contemporary fiction in a chronological survey with attention to historical and literary-historical contexts. The readings do not overlap with English 1020 or 1022. We will read selected pieces which are representative of their age and genre, and because they are examples of the English language at its finest.

We will explore our ideas about the literature and will learn about how scholars have approached British literature. This course will devote class time to discussing, 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 in their writing.

Course objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to:

- 1) discuss the development of English literary themes, genres, and modes
- 2) recognize texts' relationship to that tradition
- 3) recognize and discuss the rhetoric and structure of texts using appropriate critical tools
- 4) compose essays with complex arguments
- 5) find relevant secondary sources
- 6) write cogent summaries and reviews of secondary criticism
- 7) successfully incorporate criticism into your essays

Required Texts:

The Norton Anthology of English Literature. Packages 1 & 2. 9th ed. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt. New York: Norton, 2012.

Austen, Jane. *Sense and Sensibility: Norton Critical Edition*. Ed. Claudia Johnson. New York: Norton, (shrink-wrapped with the anthology)

Assignments (see schedule of readings below). Instructions will be available for each written assignment on OWL.

Class schedule

Read all assigned texts before class and always bring the book or other material with you. We *will* be reading and discussing passages from the texts. Secondary sources are available from online databases (or the *Norton Critical Edition* you purchased). You will be responsible for finding the secondary sources to using the Western libraries' website.

- Week 1
Sept 15 Introduction; **Anglo-Saxon Literature**: “The Dream of the Rood”
- Sept 16/17 “The Dream of the Rood”; diagnostic writing
- Week 2
Sept 22 **Middle Ages: Old English**
Beowulf (36-88)
- Sept 23/24 *Beowulf* (88-110) Optional: J.R.R. Tolkien, “Beowulf: The Monsters and the Critics.”
Proceedings of the British Academy 22 (1936).
<http://www.english.uga.edu/~jdmevans/Personal/JRRT1936.pdf>
- Week 3
Sept 29 **Middle Ages: Anglo-Norman**
Marie de France, *Lanval*, *Chevrefoil*
- Sept 30/Oct 1 *Lanval*
- Week 4
Oct 6 Marie de France paper topics/preparing first essay
- Oct 7/8 Preparing first essay
Essay on Marie de France due October 8. Submit to OWL by 11:55 p.m.
2-3 pages (650-750 words); 8% of final grade
- Week 5
Oct 13 **Middle Ages: Middle English**
Chaucer, Lyrics and Occasional Verse (Read all four poems). Ludlum, Chas D.
“Heavenly Word-Play in Chaucer’s ‘Complaint to His Purse’.” *Notes and Queries* 23
(1976): 391-2.
Bring your laptop to class. Finding articles in academic journals
- Oct 14/15 Chaucer poem and Ludlum article
- Week 6
Oct 20 **Middle Ages**
Everyman
- Oct 21/22 *Everyman*
- Week 7
Oct 27 **Renaissance**
Edmund Spenser, *Amoretti* Sonnets 1, 54, 65, 75
- Oct 28/29 Study Break: No Tutorial
- Week 8
Nov 3 William Shakespeare, Sonnets 20, 29, 126; Kolin, Philip C. “Shakespeare’s ‘Sonnet 20’.”
Explicator 45.1 (1986): 10-11. Stackhouse, Amy D. “Shakespeare’s Half-Foot:
Gendered Prosody in ‘Sonnet 20’.” *Explicator* 65 (2007): 202-4.
- Nov 4/5 Shakespeare, Kolin and Stackhouse. **Bring your laptop to class.** Exercise: color code
sonnet for sound.
- Week 9

- Nov 10 Shakespeare sonnets 138, 146; Using the OED; Essay preparation
Bring your laptop to class: OED keyword; color code sonnet for sound.
- Nov 11/12 Essay preparation.
Essay on sonnets due Nov. 14. Submit to OWL by 11:55 p.m.
6-7 pgs (1500-1750 words); 7% of final grade
- Week 10 **Seventeenth Century**
Nov 17 Christopher Marlowe, “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love” (1126); Walter Raleigh, “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd” (1023-5); Essay revisions
- Nov 18/19 No Tutorial: individual meetings on revisions
- Revised Essay on sonnets due Nov. 23. Submit to OWL by 11:55 p.m.**
10% of final grade
- Week 11 **Restoration and Eighteenth Century**
Nov 24 John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, “The Imperfect Enjoyment,” “Upon Nothing”
- Nov 25/26 Aphra Behn, “The Disappointment”
- Week 12
Dec 1 Anne Finch, “Nocturnal Reverie”; Joseph Addison, *Spectator* 411 [The Pleasures of the Imagination] and *Spectator* 519 [The Scale of Being]
- Dec 2/3 Finch and Addison
- Week 13
Dec 8 Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*
No Tutorial
- NO MID-YEAR EXAMINATION
- Week 14
Late Eighteenth Century/Romanticism
- Jan 5 Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* Read Volume I
- Jan 6/7 Raymond Williams, “Sensibility” (in NCE)
- Week 15
Jan 12 Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* Read Volume II
- Jan 13/14 *Sense and Sensibility*
- Week 16
Jan 19 Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* Read Volume III; Deidre Lynch essay in NCE
- Jan 20/21 Deidre Lynch essay in NCE
Summary/Review of D. Lynch due Jan 23.
250 words. Submit to OWL by 11:55 p.m [not graded]

Week 17 Jan 26	Robert Burns, "To a Mouse," "To a Louse"; Essay on S&S preparation
Jan 27/28	No Tutorial: individual meetings on essay drafts S&S Essay due Feb 1. Submit to OWL 11:55 p.m. 8 pages (2000 words); 20% of final grade
Week 18 Feb 2	William Blake, "All Religions are One"; William Wordsworth, "Ode: Intimations of Immortality"
Feb 3/4	Blake and Wordsworth
Week 19 Feb 9	Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "The Eolian Harp"; John Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale"
Feb 10/11	Coleridge and Keats
Feb 16 & 18	Reading Week
Week 21 Feb 23	Victorian Elizabeth Barrett Browning, <i>Sonnets from the Portuguese</i> , 21, 22, 32; Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "The Lady of Shalott"
Feb 24/25	Browning, sonnet 43
Week 22 Mar 1	Thomas Hardy, "The Ruined Maid" and "Are you digging on my grave?"
Mar 2/3	Thomas Hardy "During Wind and Rain" Bring your laptop to class. Research
Week 23 Mar 8	Twentieth Century W.B. Yeats, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" and "The Wild Swans at Coole" Bring your laptop to class. Research.
Mar 9/10	Research.
Week 24 Mar 15-17	Essay preparation Final Essay Due March 19. Submit to OWL 11:55 p.m. 8 pages (2000 words); 20% of final grade
Week 25 Mar 22	Late Twentieth Century Tom Stoppard, <i>Arcadia</i>
Mar 23/24	<i>Arcadia</i>
Week 26 Mar 29	Seamus Heaney, "Digging," "Grauballe Man," "Punishment," "Casualty"

Mar 30/31 Heaney

Week 27

Apr 5 Paul Muldoon (read all poems in the NAEL)

No Tutorial

Final Exam 35% of final grade (part in-class exam and part take-home)

Policies

No laptops allowed in class except when noted on the syllabus. No tablet or cell phone use during class.

All written work will be submitted electronically only on OWL. You must also submit it turnitin, the plagiarism checking site.

Your final grade, as a whole, will be adversely affected by more than three absences per term.

In order to do well, you must do all the reading. Any student who, after due warning via email or in person has missed a significant number of classes, may be asked not to take the final examination. You must have a passing grade on the term work in order to take the final. You must pass the term work and the final exam to pass the course. The [Western Academic Calendar](#) states: "Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course". *This policy on the syllabus counts as your fair warning.*

Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic honesty and punishment will be as severe as possible. Papers will be submitted using WebCT OWL and will go through the plagiarism checking software turnitin.com. Students are required to pass both term work and the final examination in order to receive credit for any course in the Department of English.

See: <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergrad/info-for-students.html#plagiarism>

Late papers are unacceptable, except in extenuating circumstances. No work will be accepted after the end of classes.

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, 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 soon as possible. 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.