

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2307E (001): Major British Authors
Fall/Winter 2015-16

Instructor: Dr. Mark Stephenson

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or by appointment

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Lectures: Mondays, 2:30-4:30, AHB 1B08

Tutorials:

1. Tuesdays 1:30-2:30, STVH 1119 (Dr. Stephenson)
2. Wednesdays, 11:30-2:30 WL 257 (Jeremey Colangelo)
3. Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30, STVH 2166 (Jeremey Colangelo)

Course Description

By way of a selection of major works of literature in English by a number of major English/British authors, this course takes you on a journey through the historical periods, genres, and forms of English/British literature - from the Old English verse of Caedmon's *Hymn* and *Beowulf*, all the way up to a comedic vision of millennial multi-cultural England in the form of Zadie Smith's celebrated first novel *White Teeth* - as well as introducing you to a number of theoretical approaches to the study of literature in English. In lecture and small group tutorials, you will study lyric, epic and narrative poetry, and works of prose and drama, from the Middle Ages to the present, with attention paid to their use of literary form and structure, as well as to the works as products of the historical and cultural contexts in which they were written. The essay assignments for the course will provide you with training in literary analysis and in logical and rhetorical argumentation, and will help you to develop your grammatical and compositional skills; you will also learn how to effectively engage with and employ, in your essays, secondary works of literary criticism.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) discuss the development of English/British literature and textual traditions across time
- 2) recognize literary texts' relationship to that tradition
- 3) recognize and discuss formal and rhetorical features of literary texts
- 4) engage in close reading of literary texts
- 5) become acquainted with some of the major theoretical approaches to English/British literature
- 6) sharpen their essay writing skills
- 7) learn how to properly and effectively engage in the research of secondary literary criticism, and how to properly and effectively employ such criticism in their literary essays

Required Texts:

Beckett, Samuel. *Endgame*. (Edition TBA)

Bronte, Emily. *Wuthering Heights* (Edition TBA)

Greenblatt, Stephen, Gen. Editor. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: Ninth Edition* (Package 1, Volumes A-C; Package 2, Volumes D-F). New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 2012.

Smith, Zadie. *White Teeth*. Toronto: Penguin Books, 2001.

See also the OED Online, which is available via the UWO Library system – once you are logged on to the library system, you can access the dictionary. This is an excellent and invaluable resource.

Mark Distribution

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|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| Essays: Essay #1 (3 pages) | 5% | Due: Oct. 19 |
| Essay #2 (5 pages) | 10% | Due: Nov. 16 |
| Essay #3 (5 pages) | 10% | Due: Feb. 22 |
| Essay #4 (7-8 pages) | 20% | Due: Mar 28 |
| Quizzes: 2 x 2.5% each = | 10% | (Best 4 of 5; See “Quizzes”) |
| Attendance and Participation | 10% | |
| Final Exam: | <u>35%</u> | See “Final Exam” |
| | 100% | |

Course Website

The course website is available via OWL; you log on with your UWO Username and Password – the same which you use for your UWO email account. I will be posting assignments and additional course materials, and announcements and interesting and useful links, etc., to this site.

Essays (1)

The essay assignments will be posted to the course website well in advance of their due dates; I will also take up what is entailed by the assignments in class (and in tutorials).

Quizzes

The quizzes will be held during class on the days in question; they will be 10 minutes in length. Their purpose is to make sure that you’re keeping up with the course readings, and to make sure that you’re paying attention during lectures.

- Quiz #1: **October 5**
- Quiz #2: **November 2**
- Quiz #3: **November 30**
- Quiz #4: **February 1**
- Quiz #5: **March 14**

Only your top four quiz grades will counted towards your final quiz grade.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance at the lectures and tutorials is an essential and, in fact, mandatory part of the course; attendance and participation in class, but especially in tutorials, is a graded component of the course. This grade will be based for the most part on attendance – at the very least, you cannot participate if you do not attend class. However, participation, especially in tutorials, will also be taken into account. Note also that regular absenteeism from class can result in debarment from writing the final examination, which in the Department of English results in automatic failure of the course.

Tutorials

Tutorial attendance is mandatory and graded (see previous); for your particular tutorial time and place, see above. Tutorials will be employed for taking up new material, continuing discussions about material assigned and taken up in class, and also for helping you in the essay writing and research process.

Exam

The final exam will be held sometime during the final exam period of April 14-30; the exact date will be announced during the Winter Term. You will be given notice as to the general consistency of the exam well in advance of the end of the course.

*******Important Note*******

It is English Department policy that students must receive a passing grade on both the course work (that is, all assignments and other grades excluding the final exam) and the final exam in order to receive a passing grade for the course as a whole.

Essays (2): Late Policy, Extensions

All essays must be submitted via the course website on OWL – I will not accept hard copies of essays.

Note as well that **you should always keep a copy of your essay apart from the copy which you submit** (i.e. save all of your essays on computer and do not delete them until after the course is over).

Essays are due on later than 11:55 p.m. on the due date. Late essays will be docked 2% per day (including weekends); no essay will be accepted any later than two weeks after its due date. Exceptions to these rules will be made only in the event of serious illness or a family emergency; official documentation will be required (see “Academic Accommodation,” below). You may also be granted an extension on a due date; however, you must contact me (**not the T.A.**) and arrange for the extension no later than Monday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. before the due date. No extensions will be granted after that time.

Academic Accommodation

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 Counseling 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://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Rewrite Option

With my permission, you may rewrite one essay from the first term (either essay #1 or #2) to improve your mark. The revised essay must be handed in no later than two weeks after the original essay is returned, and it may receive a maximum grade of 65%.

Plagiarism

Be advised that the *unacknowledged* use of another person's writing or ideas is a serious academic offence and will result, *at the very least*, in a zero for the assignment. For further information, see the Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar.

In short, do not engage in plagiarism: you will be caught.

Use of Laptops and Phones in Class – Classroom Etiquette

Laptop use is permitted in class and tutorials; however, they must be used for the purpose of taking notes only (or other course related activity). ***Anyone who employs their laptop for other purposes will be asked to leave class.*** Use of phones in class and tutorials is prohibited; be sure, also, to turn off your ringers before coming to class.

Furthermore, ***any disruptions to the class, and in particular, to my concentration when lecturing, due to excessive talking/whispering, passing of notes, etc., and those persons involved will be asked to leave the class.***

Course Schedule

Page #s refer to the corresponding volume of *The Norton*; the #s indicate the first page of work, eg. “F 1951” = Volume F, *The Twentieth Century and After*, page 1951, and (in this instance) this is the first page of Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*; this “first page” may also include *The Norton*'s introduction to the work in question (as it does in the case of *H of D*).

“Website” means the text is available via the course website; it will be uploaded to the site no later than a week before the reading date.

The dates given are the dates by which the reading in question is to be done (i.e. you should have finished the reading in question before coming to class); ***you should be sure to bring the volume in question/ the text to class with you.***

There will also be some additional short readings of secondary, research materials; what these are, and when you will be expected to read them by, will be announced in class, and on the course website; the readings themselves will be posted to the course website.

Finally, ***this course schedule (including due dates for quizzes and assignments, etc., listed above) is subject to change with sufficient advance notice.***

Fall Term

Week 1

Sept. 14 - Introduction to the course; British? English? – and the Periods of British/English Language/Literature

Tutorials: Intro to Volume A, “The Middle Ages to ca. 1485” (A 3) – including “Medieval English,” 19-24 (but **skim** this), and “Old and Middle English Prosody,” 24-25 (pay more attention to this); “Bede and Caedmon's *Hymn*” (A 29-32), paying particular attention to the *Hymn* itself

Week 2

Sept. 21 - *Beowulf* (A 36)

Tutorials: Continue with *Beowulf*

Week 3

Sept. 28 – *Beowulf* (concl.); Intro to Geoffrey Chaucer and *The Canterbury Tales* (including intro to “The General Prologue”) (A 238); *The Canterbury Tales*, “The General Prologue” (A 243)

Note: We’ll be reading material from the *CT* in class in the original Middle English; the trick is to barrel through it, getting the gist of it as best you can – don’t worry about understanding it thoroughly, but you will be surprised, after a short while, how understandable it is. **However**, I will also make available, via the course website, transliterated (that is, translated) versions of the materials we’re reading.

Tutorials: Continue with “The General Prologue”

Week 4

Oct. 5 – Chaucer, “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale” (A 282) **QUIZ #1**

Tutorials: Continue with “The Wife of Bath”

Week 5

Oct. 12: **Thanksgiving Day – No Class (But Tutorials Will Be Held)**

Tutorials: Chaucer, “The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale” (A 310)

Week 6

Oct. 19 – Intro to Volume B, “The Sixteenth Century 1485-1603” (B 531); Introducing the Sonnet Tradition – Intro to Wyatt (B 646), Wyatt, “The Long Love” (B 648), “Whoso list to Hunt” (B 649); Intro to Sir Philip Sidney (B 1037), Sidney From *Astrophil and Stella* – 1 (B 1084), 7 and 9 (B 1086)

ESSAY 1 DUE

Tutorials: Intro to Spenser (B 766); Intro to *Amoretti* and *Epithalamion* (B 985); from *Amoretti*, “Sonnet 67” (B 988) and “Sonnet 75” (B 989)

Week 7

Oct. 26 – Intro to Shakespeare (B 1166 – including intro to “Sonnets”); *King Lear* (B 1251)

Tutorials: Shakespeare, Sonnet 20 (B 1173) and 130 (B 1184)

Week 8

Nov. 2 – Continue with *King Lear* **QUIZ #2**

Tutorials: Intro to Mary Wroth (B 1560); from *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*, 1 (B 1566) and 15 (B 1567)

Week 9

Nov. 9 – Intro to Donne (C 1370); “The Flea” (1373), “The Sun Rising” (C 1376), “A Valediction Forbidding Mourning” (C 1385)

Tutorials: Donne, from *Holy Sonnets* – 1 (C 1410), 14 (C 1413)

Week 10

Nov. 16 – Intro to John Milton (B 1897); Intro to *PL* (B 1943); Milton, Book 1 (all) and from Book 2 (exact lines TBA) of *Paradise Lost* (B1945 – including “Second Edition” and “*The Argument*”)

ESSAY 2 DUE – SONNET CLOSE READING

Tutorials: Milton, from Book 9 of *PL* (C 2091; exact lines TBA)

Week 11

Nov. 23 – Conclude Milton - from Book 12 of *PL* (beginning C 2160; exact line #s TBA); Intro to Volume C, “The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century” (C 2177); Intro to Alexander Pope (C 2665); Pope, *The Rape of the Lock* (C 2685)

Tutorials: Continue with *R of L*

Week 12

Nov. 30 – Intro to Aphra Behn (C 2307); Behn, *Oroonoko; or, The Royal Slave* (C 2313) **QUIZ #3**

Tutorial: Continue with *Oroonoko*

Week 13

Dec. 7 – Intro to Swift (C 2464); Intro to *Gulliver’s Travels* (2487) including Swift, “A Letter from Captain Gulliver...” and “The Publisher to the Reader; *Gulliver’s Travels*, Part 4 (C 2587)

Tutorials: Continue with *GT* Part 4

Winter Term

Week 1

Jan. 4 – Intro to Volume D, “The Romantic Period 1785-1832” (D 3); Intro to Wordsworth (D 271); Intro to “Preface to Lyrical Ballads” (D 292); from Wordsworth, “Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*” (D 293); Wordsworth “We Are Seven” (D 278), “Lines” (D289), “She dwelt among the untrodden ways” (D 305), “A slumber did my spirit steal” (D 307)

Tutorials: Wordsworth, “I wandered lonely as a cloud” (D 354), “My heart leaps up” (D 335)

Week 2

Jan. 11 – Intro to Coleridge (D 437); Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (E 443)

Week 3

Jan. 18 – Intro to Shelley (D 748); Shelley, “To Wordsworth” (D 752), “Mont Blanc” (D 770)

Tutorials: Intro to Keats (D 901); Keats, “Ode on a Grecian Urn” (D 930)

Week 4

Jan. 25 – Intro to Volume E, “The Victorian Age 1830-1901” (E 1017); Intro to Tennyson (E 1156) and Intro to Browning (E 1275); Tennyson, “The Lady of Shallot” (E 1161), “Ulysses” (E 1170); Browning, “My Last Duchess” (E 1282)

Tutorials: Browning, “Porphyria’s Lover” (E 1278)

Week 5

Feb. 1 – Intro to Emily Bronte (E 1328) Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights* **QUIZ #4**

Tutorials: Intro to Christina Rossetti (E 1489); Rossetti, “In an Artist’s Studio” (E 1493), “No Thank You, John” (E 1508)

Week 6

Feb. 8 – Continue with *Wuthering Heights*

Tutorials: Intro to Gerard Manley Hopkins (E 1546); Hopkins, “God’s Grandeur” (E 1548), “The Windhover” (E 1550), “Spring and Fall” (E 1553)

Week 7

Feb. 15-19: Reading Week - No Classes, No Tutorials

Week 8

Feb. 22 – Intro to Volume F, “The Twentieth Century and After” (F 1887); Intro to Yeats (F 2082); Yeats, “The Lake Isle of Innisfree” (F 2087), “The Second Coming” (F 2099), “Leda and the Swan” (F 2102), “Sailing to Byzantium” (F 2103)

ESSAY 3 DUE – RESEARCH COLLATION

Tutorials: Yeats, “Lapis Lazuli” (F 2109), “The Circus Animal’s Desertion” (F 2114)

Week 9

Mar. 29 – Intro to Joyce, F2276; Joyce, “The Dead” (F 2282)

Tutorials: From *Ulysses* (F 2474) and from *Finnegan’s Wake* (Website)

Week 10

Mar. 7 – Intro to Eliot (F 2521); Eliot, *The Wasteland* (F 2529)

Tutorials: Continue with *The Wasteland*

Week 11

Mar. 14 – Intro to Beckett, (F2619); Beckett, *Endgame* **QUIZ #5**

Tutorials: Continue with *Endgame*; *Play* (video)

Week 12

Mar. 21 – Larkin, “Churchgoing (F 2782), “Myxomatosis” (Website); Hughes, “Pike” (F 2810); Heaney, “Digging” (F 2953), “The Grauballe Man” (F 2954)

Read also the corresponding introductions to each of these poets in *The Norton* (Duffy and Hill, too, see below).

Tutorials: Plath, “Lady Lazarus” (Website); Duffy, “Medusa” (F 3043), “Mrs. Lazarus” (F 3044)

Week 13

Mar. 28 – Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*

Tutorials: Hill, “Annunciations” (Website) and “September Song” (F 2855)

ESSAY 4 DUE – RESEARCH ESSAY

Week 14

April 4 – Zadie Smith, *White Teeth* (concl.)

Tutorials: Exam Preparation

Final Exam: Exact Date TBA (During the Official Exam Period)