

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2301E (001)
British Literature Survey
Fall/Winter 2024-25

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This is an in-person course.

Important Note: while this is an in-person course, students must be able to access Owl online for some readings and some assignments.

Antirequisite: The former English 2307E.

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 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 survey course charts the history of British and Irish literature through study of some of its major authors, from the anonymous poet who wrote *Beowulf* to the very recent Irish novelist Claire Keegan. Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, John Donne's love poetry and devotional verse, Milton, Wordsworth, Jane Austen (*Sense and Sensibility*), Emily Brontë, (*Wuthering Heights*) and T.S. Eliot are read along the way.

Objectives:

The major overarching goal of the course is for students to develop as rich, broad, and deep an understanding of the history of British and Irish literature as is possible within the limits of an 8-month course.

The second goal would be to inspire students to do much further reading and study of literature, both in and out of the classroom.

Under those broad aspirations, some specific objectives can be identified:

- Describe the typical features of English literature from the different historical periods.
- Describe how particular literary works reflect the historical context in which they were written.
- Understand a wide variety of challenging literary texts from different historical periods.
- Recognize and explain the effectiveness of a variety of poetic elements and techniques.
- Describe the general history of the English language.
- Use language in a conscious and deliberate way, based upon an awareness of the history and usage of individual words and phrases and the broader changes within the English language.

- Write a coherent and clear essay that accurately discusses the features of a literary work.
- Identify some of the major writers and works of the English literary tradition.
- Identify a wide variety of poetic forms and genres, and explain how poets use, manipulate, extend and combine these forms and genres.
- Develop well-organized, effective, and rich arguments on literary topics of the period.
- Write clearly and concisely on complex topics.
- Present, in an oral format, a scholarly discussion of a literary work of the period.

Course Materials

Texts:

The Norton Anthology of English Literature: Major Authors. 10th Edition. ISBN 978-0-393-60311-8 Norton. 2 volumes.

Goldsmith, Oliver. *She Stoops to Conquer*. (Dover) ISBN 0-486-26867-5

Austen, Jane. *Sense and Sensibility*. Penguin. ISBN 9780141439662

Brontë, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*. Oxford World Classics. ISBN 0198834780

Keegan, Claire. *Small Things Like These*. Faber ISBN 978-0571368709

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Reading Quizzes (on period introductions and major works)	10%
First-Term Essay I (Due: Mon. Oct. 21):	10%
First-term Essay II (Due: Mon. Nov. 25)	15%
December Examination	15%
Second-Term Essay (Due: Mon. March 23):	25%
Final Examination:	<u>30%</u>
	100%

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/Student%20Information.html>.

Quiz Evaluation

As you will see in the schedule of classes below, the course features many (nearly weekly) brief reading quizzes. These can only be written in-class on the scheduled day. However, in recognition that illness and emergencies are a reality, students may miss **four of these without penalty or explanation**.

OWL Brightspace

Students are responsible for checking the course site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. Students may access the OWL Brightspace Learner Support site for assistance: <https://brightspacehelp.uwo.ca/> For IT related issues, they may contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk directly: <https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/>.

Electronic Devices

No aids are permitted for the tests and exam of this course. Electronic devices of any kind (including calculators, cell phones and smart watches) are not permitted.

Statements

Academic Consideration

Students may request academic consideration in cases of extenuating circumstances – that is, personal circumstances beyond the student’s control that have a **substantial but temporary** impact on the student’s ability to meet essential academic requirements.

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of the student’s Faculty of Registration.
2. Requests for academic consideration include the following components:
 - a. Self-attestation signed by the student;
 - b. Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) relevant to the request;
 - c. Supporting documentation as relevant.

Requests without supporting documentation are **limited to one per term per course**.

Please see the university policy for Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs at https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Documentation for medical illness, when required, includes the completion of a [Western Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation, by a health care practitioner.

Requests linked to examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods as well as practice laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled in the last week of term **always** require formal supporting documentation.

Absences at Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Advising office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/definitions.pdf

Policy on Late Assignments

Late essays that have not been approved for academic **consideration** will be penalized at a rate of three percent per day. Late essays will not be accepted after the end of term.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

Western's Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf.

In the case of mid-term tests, notification is to be "given in writing to the instructor as early as possible, but not later than one week prior to the writing of the test".

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/>

Academic Support & Engagement <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.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the unacknowledged use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT and Google Translate, to create content that is submitted as one's own. In this course, the use of AI (automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT...) is prohibited. If AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them.

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

Plagiarism of any kind is a serious academic offence. Be advised that electronic plagiarism-detection programmes will be used and essay banks checked, if the professor has any suspicion of plagiarism. 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 both in the body and at the end of the assignment. Any borrowings from secondary sources, whether wordings or ideas, must be acknowledged BOTH in the main body of your essay AND at the end in a bibliography or works cited! If you have any doubts about how to document your work correctly, check with your professor prior to handing in your essay. For further information, see the Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar and appended to this outline.

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Plagiarism is a major academic offence. All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

(Page numbers are of the 10th edition of *The Norton Anthology*. Through the first semester, all selections are from volume 1 of the *Anthology*.)

As a matter of course, you should be reading the short biographical introductions in the anthology to all of the authors we are covering in the course; some works have a separate introduction as well: these too should be read. Material from these may come up in the Reading Quizzes.

Week of Sept. 8 (Week 1)

Introduction to course: the practise of literary history. Overview of the Middle Ages.

Beowulf (vol. 1, pp. 37ff.)

Students should also begin reading "Introduction to the Middle Ages" in *The Norton Anthology*, vol. 1, pp. 3-26; and *Beowulf*

Week of Sept. 15 (Week 2)

Beowulf

Quiz on *Beowulf* (Wed. Sept. 18)

Week of Sept. 22 (Week 3)

Beowulf

Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*:

Selections from "The General Prologue", vol. 1, pp. 200-204, [read lines 1-164]

"The Nun's Priest's Tale", vol. 1, pp. 282-96.

Wed. Sept. 25: Quiz on "Introduction to the Middle Ages" in *The Norton Anthology*, vol. 1, pp. 3-26.

Week of Sept. 29 (Week 4)

"The Nun's Priest's Tale",

Wed. Oct. 2: Quiz on Chaucer readings

Julian of Norwich, "A Book of Showings", vol. 1, pp. 301-302

Week of Oct. 6 (Week 5)

Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, vol. 1, pp. 513-49

Oct. 12-20 Fall Reading Week

Week of Oct. 20 (Week 6)

Doctor Faustus

Wed, Oct. 23: Quiz on *Doctor Faustus*

Week of Oct. 27 (Week 7)

Wed. Oct. 30: Quiz on "Introduction to the Sixteenth Century" in *The Norton Anthology*, vol. 1, pp. 359-89

Donne, "The Sun rising" (p. 690), "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" (p. 697), "The Funeral" (p. 701)

Donne, *Holy Sonnets*, #7, 10, 14 (pp. 708-10)

Week of Nov. 3 (Week 8)

Milton, *Paradise Lost* (Books 1, 2)

Wed. Nov. 6 Quiz on "Introduction to the Early Seventeenth Century" in *The Norton Anthology*, vol. 1, pp. 655-81.

Week of Nov. 10 (Week 9)

Paradise Lost, Book 4, lines 410-775; Book 9; Book 10, 415-584; Book 12, 552-649

Wed. Nov. 13: Quiz on *Paradise Lost* readings.

Week of Nov. 17 (Week 10)

Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*,

Wed. Nov. 20: Quiz on "Introduction to The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century" in *The Norton Anthology*, vol. 1, pp. 955-83.

Week of Nov. 24 (Week 11)

Wed. Nov. 27: Quiz on *Gulliver's Travels*,

Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*,

Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*

Week of Dec. 1 (Week 12)

Wed. Dec. 4: Quiz on *The Rape of the Lock*

Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*

Schedule of Classes and Assignments for Term 2

Week of Jan. 5 (Week 1)

Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer*

Wed. Jan. 7 Quiz on *She Stoops to Conquer*

Week of Jan. 12 (Week 2)

Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer*
[from this point all readings are from vol. 2]
Coleridge, "Kubla Khan" (vol. 2, p. 274)

Week of Jan. 19 (Week 3)

Wed. Jan. 22: Quiz on "Introduction to the Romantic Period" in *The Norton Anthology*, vol. 2, pp. 3-27.
Coleridge, "Frost at Midnight", p. 292, Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn", p. 475.
Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*

Week of Jan. 26 (Week 4)

Wed. Jan 29 Quiz on *Sense and Sensibility*
Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*

Week of Feb. 2 (Week 5)

Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*
Byron, "Darkness"

Week of Feb. 9 (Week 6)

Robert Browning, "Andrea del Sarto"
Elizabeth Barrett Browning, selected sonnets, vol. 2, pp. 581-2, and selection from *Aurora Leigh* (pp. 589-95)

Feb. 15-23 Reading Week

Week of Feb. 23 (Week 7)

Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*
Wed. Feb. 26 Quiz on "Introduction to the Victorian Age" in *The Norton Anthology*, vol. 2, pp. 527-51.

Week of March 2 (Week 8)

Wed. March 5: Quiz on *Wuthering Heights*
Wuthering Heights

Week of March 9 (Week 9)

Gerard Manley Hopkins, "Pied Beauty", "God's Grandeur",
Thomas Hardy, "Neutral Tones" (vol. 2, p. 1048), "The Darkling Thrush" (p. 1049), "The Convergence of the Twain" (p. 1052)

Week of March 16 (Week 10)

Eliot, *Little Gidding* (vol. 2, pp. 1343-49)

Week of March 23 (Week 11)

Eliot, *Little Gidding*
Claire Keegan, *Small Things Like These*
Wed. March 26 Quiz on "Introduction to the Twentieth Century and After" in *The Norton Anthology*, vol. 2, pp. 1015-42.

Week of March 30 (Week 12)

Claire Keegan, *Small Things Like These*

[While the above is a general reflection of the texts to be studied, some minor changes may be made, both to which texts are studied and the weeks assigned to them.]