

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH & WRITING STUDIES
English 2307E (650): Major British Authors Online
Summer 2015

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Please read the following information completely and carefully. You are responsible for it.

Welcome to Major British Authors Online! What makes a literary classic? Why does the canon matter? How do issues of gender, sexuality, race, class, or nation shape assumptions about literature and authorship? This course will survey the British canon from the Old English “Dream of the Rood,” through Medieval, Early Modern, Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature, to the Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries, in order to explore questions about diverse and significant works by British poets, playwrights, and novelists.

Required Texts

The Norton Anthology of British Literature (9th ed. 6 vols. 2012)
Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (1811) (Penguin)
Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (1847) (Penguin)

Important information about this online course

This course demands as much time and effort from you as a conventional lecture-based university course in literature. You are expected to read the assigned work and to engage with the material, the instructor, and the other students in the course. You are required to participate in the course regularly, as you would in a regular classroom. This participation will take the form of active reading of course materials, asking questions of the instructor, and contributing to online discussions. All of this means that you must devote a minimum of ten hours per week to the course in order to keep up with the reading and complete the assignments. Assignments will be submitted online, so be sure to work out any technical problems quickly by contacting ITS at 519-661-3800.

This course is designed for OWL, which operates as an online classroom. Ten percent of your grade depends on regular participation (more on participation below). You must have regular online access to do this; this access can be from home, from a computer lab on campus, or from a public library, but you must ensure that you have access to the internet on a regular and consistent basis. (This means that, in the event of a service interruption to your internet connection at home, you are expected to find another way to access the course materials.)

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to

- Discuss the development of English literature and textual traditions across time

- Recognize texts' relationship to that tradition
- Recognize and discuss the rhetoric and structure of texts through the application of appropriate critical tools
- Find, critique, and use relevant secondary sources (i.e. identify thesis, argument, sources and methods of other scholars)
- Frame a research question which explores literary texts within the context of ongoing critical debates and discussions
- Answer a research question by developing an argument which is situated within critical discourse on the topic and present that answer in a clear, well argued and structured paper

READING SCHEDULE

You must complete one unit for each full week of the Summer term.

Unit 1: Introduction and Old English Poetry

1.1: The Canon and Prosody

1.2: Old English (OE): "The Dream of the Rood"

Unit 2: Old English Poetry

2: Old English continued: *Beowulf*

Unit 3: Middle English Poetry

3.1: Chaucer, "The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale"

3.2: "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"

Unit 4: Early Modern Poetry

4: Spenser, *Amoretti* and *Epithalamion*

Unit 5: Early Modern Drama

5.1: Marlowe, *Dr Faustus*

5.2: Shakespeare, *King Lear*

Unit 6: Seventeenth-Century Poetry

6: Milton, *Paradise Lost* 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 12

Unit 7: Eighteenth-Century Poetry

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

Unit 8: Early Nineteenth-Century Fiction

8: Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*

Unit 9: Romantic Poetry

9.1: Wordsworth, "We Are Seven," "The Solitary Reaper," "Resolution and Independence"

9.2: Keats, "Bright Star," "To Autumn," "La Belle Dame Sans Merci"

Unit 10: Victorian Fiction and Poetry

10.1: Victorian Fiction: Brontë, *Jane Eyre*

10.2: Victorian Poetry: Tennyson, “Mariana,” “The Lady of Shallot,” “Tithonus”

Unit 11: Modern Poetry and Fiction

11.1: Modern Poetry: Hardy, “The Ruined Maid,” “Channel Firing,” “The Convergence of the Twain”; Yeats, “The Second Coming” and “Sailing to Byzantium”

11.2: Woolf, from *A Room of One’s Own* [Shakespeare’s Sister]

Unit 12: Modern Drama

12: Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

Assignments and Grade Distribution

Critical Analysis 1	Due May 15	1000 words	10%
Essay 1	Due June 19	1500 words	15%
Critical Analysis 2	Due July 3	1000 words	10%
Essay 2	Due July 17	2500 words	20%
Participation			10%
Final exam	TBA (July examination period)		35%

NOTE: As in all courses in the Department of English, students must pass both the term work and the final examination in order to pass the course. Students whose term and final exam grades combine to result in a grade of 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. Your final grades are released by the Registrar’s Office.

How to Proceed

For each unit in this course, you should begin by reading the assigned text(s) (listed above). When you have finished the text(s), you should click on the Course Content folder (on the left-hand menubar on the OWL course site). Within the Course Content folder, click on the relevant unit, which contains notes on the assigned readings. These notes are designed to play the role that a lecture would play in an on-campus course. After reading these notes, go to the Forums folder and answer the discussion question(s).

Contacting your instructor

Email

I am happy to communicate with students by e-mail, but there are two provisos. (1) I can’t always answer emails instantly; please allow 24 hours for a response on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. (2) I will respond to short emails only.

Students must check their UWO email regularly for messages pertinent to the course. Messages sent from email providers such as yahoo, gmail or hotmail will not be answered, so please use your UWO email account for messages to your instructor. In addition, please ensure that your emails conform to the rudimentary standards of university discourse: emails should be written using correct grammar, complete sentences, and a professional tone.

Rude or harassing emails, or emails from students requesting information readily available on the course outline, will not be answered.

Telephone

Students wanting to engage in an extended conversation about the course work—discussions or questions about lecture material, essay or exam expectations or results, course readings, etc.—may e-mail me to set up a time that is convenient for both of us to have a telephone conversation. Either I will call you (if the call is not long-distance) or you can call me at a phone number I will give you, depending on where I am the day of the appointment. Please note that I cannot return long-distance calls.

In person

Students who are in the London area and who would prefer to talk with me in person rather than by telephone or e-mail may e-mail me to set up a time that is convenient for both of us to meet at my office on campus.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to talk or ask questions about any topic or issue, including assignments, difficulties you are having with the course, suggestions for further reading, or clarification and expansion of issues raised in the readings or lecture notes. Unfortunately, most students wait until the last minute or until all hell is breaking loose before consulting their instructors. Please see me well ahead of deadlines and the onset of nervous breakdowns.

Assignments

Assignments must be submitted online through OWL. Go to the Assignments tab and click on the appropriate assignment to see the instructions/essay topics and to attach your assignments. Your papers will automatically be uploaded to Turnitin simultaneously. Check to ensure your paper has uploaded properly. It is your responsibility to ensure its delivery. I do not accept assignments by e-mail.

Late Penalty and Extensions

Late essays will be penalized 2% per day, including weekends, unless the student has received an extension. Students must ask for extensions at least a week in advance of the due date and offer a good reason for the extension (academic workload, job schedule conflicts, and vacations are not good reasons). No extension will be given to any student on the day the assignment is due. Papers received more than 7 days late will receive a grade of 0.

If you miss an exam or an essay due date, or if you require an extension at the last minute on medical or compassionate grounds, you must notify your academic counsellor immediately and follow the procedure below.

University Policy on 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 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:

[Accommodation for Medical Illness](#)

This policy remains in place for all assignments, including those worth less than 10% of a student's final grade.

Please note: instructors are not permitted to review medical documentation; all requests for academic accommodation that include doctor's notes, etc., regardless of the total worth of the assignment to a student's final grade, must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

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.

The Participation Grade and Discussions

Your participation in the discussion forums on OWL is worth 10% of your grade. Discussion questions are posted in the Forums. You may use these questions to get a discussion of a text started, although you may certainly raise other questions or issues not included in the questions. Once a discussion is posted, you may respond to it or raise another issue. Avoid using the Forums just to state whether you liked or disliked a text or to simply agree or disagree with a previous post. I will be checking the Forums at least three times a week, and I expect you to do likewise. Posting responses to questions without first reading your fellow students' responses is not discussion: it's a monologue, and it does not meet the criteria of this on-going assignment (the complete grading criteria for discussion postings can be found in the Learner Resources folder). You'll get the most out of this assignment by treating it as an academic conversation.

For the most part, the Forums are for students; however, I will interject if a student has posted a problematic reading or an error, if I want to emphasize a particular point or issue that has been raised, or if students seem to need some help to push their ideas further. I try to keep my interventions brief, so often they will take the form of a question stemming from the previous discussions.

I will be locking the discussion threads for each week so that the discussion stays on track. For example, the discussion thread for Unit 1, which corresponds to the first full week of classes, will be locked on **Sunday, May 10 at 10:00 pm EDT**. I will lock the next week's discussion on the following Sunday, and so forth.

Final Exam

The final exam will be written in person at the approved exam centre that you selected when you registered for the course (see the Distance Studies section of the Academic Calendar for more information). It will not be an online exam. The final exam is scheduled by the Registrar. You must be prepared to write the exam on the dates assigned: do not make travel plans until the final exam schedule is posted.

Citing Sources and 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 such as footnotes or citations. This includes Internet sources. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. Further details of the University policy on academic offences can be found on pages 19-21 of the 2014 Academic Calendar.

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 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 Western University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Steps to follow to avoid plagiarism:

- 1) Do as much work as possible *before* beginning your secondary research – read the novel(s), think of a thesis statement, sketch out your argument. Write down your own ideas before reading any criticism.
- 2) Develop a note-taking style that clearly indicates what ideas are your own and what ideas are taken from another source. You can use different coloured pens, cue cards, or any other method that helps you distinguish your own ideas from those of other critics.
- 3) Feel free to disagree with any critic you are reading – don't simply regurgitate somebody else's argument.
- 4) When you are incorporating someone else's ideas into your essay, acknowledge them within the essay itself using
 - (a) quotation marks (whenever you use exact language, even a short phrase, from the original text)
 - (b) signal phrases – i.e. According to John Smith...
As Smith points out...
Smith observes that...
 - (c) a reference in parentheses that indicates the source of the idea (just the page number, if you've already used the author's name)
- 5) Cite the source in full in your Works Cited list (see guidelines below).

MLA Guidelines

Your essays should follow MLA format:

- 1) In the top left-hand corner of the first page, put your name, the name of your professor, the name of the course, and the date.

- 2) Number your pages in the top right-hand corner.
- 3) Double space.
- 4) If you use a snappy, attention-grabbing title, follow it up with an informative sub-title that indicates your topic and the works you will be discussing (i.e. Touching Pitch: Moral Ambiguity in R. L. Stevenson's Treasure Island).
- 5) Titles of books should be underlined or *italicized*. Titles of short poems, articles, and short stories should be in quotation marks.
- 6) Introduce quotations in your own words, identifying the speaker and context: i.e. Bettelheim argues that "The fairy tale ... confronts the child squarely with the basic human predicaments" (311). Use ellipses to indicate where you have omitted material.
- 7) If the quotation is longer than four lines, do not use quotation marks; instead, indent the passage ten spaces from the left and continue to double space.
- 8) For short quotations, indicate the page number(s) in parentheses after the quotation marks and before the end punctuation. For long, indented quotations, place the parentheses after the end punctuation. Do not use abbreviations such as p. or pp. or include the author's name if the identity of the author is clear from the context.
- 9) List all the works you have referred to in a Works Cited list at the end of your paper. Use the following format for the entries in your Works Cited list:
 Author's last name, Author's first name. "Title of article or short story." Title of Book.
 City of publication: Publisher, date of publication.

There is a useful online guide to MLA format at the following address:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Further Information for Students

For English Department regulations governing Term Work, Exams, Faculty Office Hours, Academic Relief (appeals, petitions, complaints), and other matters, please consult "Information for Students" on our Department website at http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info_for_students.html

University Policy on Prerequisites

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees.