

Department of English and Writing Studies
Western University

Major British Authors
English 2307E (001)
Intersession 2016

Instructor: Dr. P. Thoms
Office: Arts and Humanities Building 3G23
Office Hours: Immediately after each class
Email: pgthoms@uwo.ca

Time and Location: Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Physics and Astronomy Building 150

Email Policy: I would prefer that students use email only for urgent matters that cannot wait until the next class. For all other matters (including discussion of essay topics), I encourage students to talk to me in person.

Prerequisites

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not taken an antirequisite course.

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.

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).

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.

Marking Scheme

First Essay of 2500 words due on Monday, May 30, 2016. Worth 20% of final grade.

Second Essay of 2500 words due on Friday, June 17, 2016. Worth 25% of final grade.

Test on Thursday, June 9, 2016. Worth 10% of final grade.

Attendance and Class Participation. Worth 10% of final grade. This grade will reflect the student's attendance record and his or her contributions to class discussion. Please note that regular attendance is important for success in the course, and that "excessive absenteeism is grounds for debarring a student from taking the final examination."

Final Examination. Worth 35% of final grade.

"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."

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 me **before** the essay is due. Essays that are not submitted in class should be placed in the essay drop box, which is located on the wall across from the Main Office of the English Department (Arts and Humanities Building 2G02). **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."**

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.

Schedule of Classes

Mon., May 16	Introduction to the Course. The Middle Ages: Anglo-Saxon Literature
Tues., May 17	<i>Beowulf.</i>
Wed., May 18	<i>Beowulf.</i>
Thurs., May 19	<i>Beowulf.</i> "The Dream of the Rood." The Middle Ages: Middle English Literature
Fri., May 20	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.</i>
Tues., May 24	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.</i>
Wed., May 25	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.</i> The Renaissance (or Early Modern)
Thurs., May 26	Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love." Raleigh, "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd." Shakespeare, "Sonnet 146" and "Sonnet 29."
Fri., May 27	Shakespeare, <i>Macbeth.</i>
Mon., May 30	Shakespeare, <i>Macbeth.</i>
Tues., May 31	Shakespeare, <i>Macbeth.</i> Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress." Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature (1660-1785)
Wed., June 1	Behn, "The Disappointment." Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe.</i>
Thurs., June 2	Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe.</i>
Fri., June 3	Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe.</i>
Mon., June 6	Swift, "The Lady's Dressing Room." Montagu, "The Reasons That Induced Dr. Swift to Write a Poem Called the Lady's Dressing Room." Goldsmith, <i>She Stoops to Conquer.</i>
Tues., June 7	Goldsmith, <i>She Stoops to Conquer.</i> The Romantic Period (1785-1830)
Wed., June 8	Blake, "The Sick Rose." Wordsworth, "I wandered lonely as a cloud," and "The Solitary Reaper."
Thurs., June 9	***TEST*** Coleridge, "This Lime-Tree Bower My Prison." Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale" and "La Belle Dame sans Merci." The Victorian Age (1830-1901)
Fri., June 10	Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre.</i>

Mon., June 13	Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i> .
Tues., June 14	Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i> .
Wed., June 15	Tennyson, "The Lady of Shalott" and "Ulysses."
Thurs., June 16	Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess." Christina Rossetti, "An Apple-Gathering" and "In an Artist's Studio."
The Twentieth Century	
Fri., June 17	Yeats, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" and "The Wild Swans at Coole." Woolf, <i>To the Lighthouse</i> .
Mon., June 20	Woolf, <i>To the Lighthouse</i> .
Tues., June 21	Woolf, <i>To the Lighthouse</i> .
Wed., June 22	Thomas, "Fern Hill." Heaney, "Digging." Fowles, <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i> .
Thurs., June 23	Fowles, <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i> .
Fri., June 24	Fowles, <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i> .

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments 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 necessary form and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

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 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."

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 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>).”

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/>

Student Development Centre <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.