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:

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**

http://www.english.uga.edu/~jdmevans/Personal/JRRT1936.pdf

Week 3  
Sept 29  **Middle Ages: Anglo-Norman**

Sept 30/Oct 1  *Lanval, Chevrefoil*

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**

Oct 21/22  *Everyman*

Week 7  
**Renaissance**  
Oct 27  Edmund Spenser, *Amoretti* Sonnets 1, 54, 65, 75

Oct 28/29  Study Break: No Tutorial

Week 8  

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 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
Victorian
Feb 23 Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Sonnets from the Portuguese*, 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
Twentieth Century
Mar 8 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
Late Twentieth Century
Mar 22 Tom Stoppard, *Arcadia*

Mar 23/24 *Arcadia*

Week 26
Mar 29 Seamus Heaney, “Digging,” “Grauballe Man,” “Punishment,” “Casualty”
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.