

Exploring the British Experience: British Literature since 1800
British Literature II Section 7D1, Online
Summer 2015

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Office Hours: W 3-4, or by appointment

Course Description

As a survey course, this class will introduce you to a variety of texts crucial to the development of British literature since around 1800. We will divide the last two centuries into three historical periods (corresponding with the *Norton* anthologies): the Romantic Era, the Victorian era, and the 20th century. These eras saw major aesthetic, political, ideological, social, scientific, and international changes, which our readings will introduce.

We will also take advantage of the online structure of this class to do something rather experimental—you will have some flexibility to pursue your own interests. We will spend two weeks on each of the three time periods, in the first week of each period I will assign some of the most important texts I think everyone should read, but then in week two I have set up three options—three important ideas, movements, or concerns for that era—and you will choose which option to follow. Of course I would encourage you to read as broadly across the texts as possible, but you will only be required to pursue one focus for each period (e.g., for week two of the Romantic era you can choose to learn more about a. the Gothic, b. melancholia, or c. voices from outside England). I will set up one quiz for each of the three options, but you will only need to complete one quiz per week.

Course Objectives

Following the guidelines the English department has established for survey courses in the BA program, this class will help you learn to:

- Interpret texts within diverse, literary, cultural, and historical contexts and
 - a. identify genre conventions and analyze their effects
 - b. identify and analyze effects of complexity or ambiguity
 - c. locate texts in social/economic/political/literary histories
 - d. compare texts to other literary or cultural texts

Required Texts

Please get the required Norton anthologies because the critical introductory material will provide important background and useful information about the texts.

- *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* 9th ed. Package 2: D, E, F. ISBN 978-0-393-91301-9
 - Volume D: The Romantic Period
 - Volume E: The Victorian Age
 - Volume F: The Twentieth Century and After
- Recommended: Lunsford, Andrea. *Easy Writer (EW)*, 5th Custom ed. for WVU. 2014.

Grading and Assignments

Six Weekly Discussion Posts	20 points each, for 120 total
Six Weekly Discussion Responses	5 points each, for 30 total
Six Weekly Quizzes	20 points each, for 120 total
Term Paper	30 points
	Total Point Value=300

On eCampus you will find more details about each week's quiz, discussion post instructions, and an assignment sheet and grading information for the term paper.

- ❖ Discussion Posts: by Wednesday at midnight every week you will post a short (200 word) argumentative response to one piece of literature we're reading for that week. These posts must be claim driven and incorporate evidence from the text to support your analysis and literary argument.
- ❖ Discussion Responses: by Friday at midnight every week you must write a short response (2-3 sentences) to one of your colleagues' discussion posts. You can propose a different interpretation of the text, add evidence, pose a question for further thinking, etc.
- ❖ Quizzes: by Friday at midnight every week you will complete a short quiz, consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions. These quizzes are intended to see whether you are reading and comprehending the required materials. For the second week of each historical period there will be three quizzes based on the three different reading options; *you only need to complete one quiz per week*, don't do the quizzes for all three options.
- ❖ Term Paper: literary scholarship is based on developing argumentative readings of texts supported by evidence. In this final paper you will develop your own interpretation of a literary text and use evidence to demonstrate your claim. You may choose to expand one of your discussion posts into the full paper.

With a 300 point grading scale, the breakdown for letter grades is as follows:

- A=300-270
- B=269-240
- C=239-210
- D=209-180
- F=179 or below

eCampus and Late Work Policy

Apart from readings in the Norton anthologies, all information and resources you will need for this class will be on eCampus—quizzes, assignment sheets, video lectures, lecture notes, discussion boards, etc. Please make sure to watch all relevant video lectures, read lecture notes, and follow all discussion threads for the readings you're doing.

Because this is an online class, we will lose the opportunity for class discussion. However, the discussion posts and responses are meant to simulate this discussion as well as possible in a digital environment. Please note that you are not limited to a single response, and there will be open discussion forums for further questions, issues, or concerns.

Because much of our class interaction will take place through eCampus discussion forums, the discussions should remain professional, scholarly, and thoughtful. As with any classroom discussion, I expect that conversations will be respectful of your peers, the works we are reading, myself, and the class as a whole. Also, because university is a professional setting, you will be expected to (and graded on) proofread all posts using correct grammar and mechanics.

Office Hours and Email

Because this is an online class, I realize many of you may not be in Morgantown, so office hours will be a dual system. I will be physically in my office if you're in town and want to discuss anything, but I will also be checking email and the discussion boards continually during my office hours. My office hours will be Wednesdays from 3-4, or we can make an appointment for a different time if you would prefer.

You can email me anytime at pzapkin@mix.wvu.edu. This is the best way to get a hold of me outside of office hours. I always respond to emails within 24 hours, so if you do not get a response from me by the next evening, please resend your email.

If the answer to your question is in the syllabus or an assignment sheet it is your responsibility to know where that info is located.

Academic Integrity

The English department and I assume that you will approach academic work honestly, and you will turn in your own original work. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade for the assignment, for the course, or more serious penalties.

It is your responsibility to become fully familiar with the Student Conduct Code, which is linked on eCampus and described in *Easy Writer* pages WVU5-WVU7 (near the beginning).

If you are at all confused about what counts as plagiarism, please ask.

Late Work

Late work is unprofessional and therefore I don't accept it. At the beginning of the semester I post a syllabus with a schedule indicating when assignments and quizzes are due, and eCampus lists due dates for assignments, so there should be no confusion about when assignments must be submitted or quizzes completed. Anything late will receive no credit.

Inclusivity Statement

West Virginia University and I are committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services (304-293-6700). For more information on West Virginia University's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, please see <http://diversity.sandbox.wvu.edu/ddei>.

University Counseling Services

The Carruth Center provides resources to help manage stress, improve relationships, make healthy lifestyle choices, and face new challenges and transitions. The Center is in the newly constructed Health and Education Building, 390 Birch Street, located on the Evansdale campus adjacent to the Student Recreation Center. Its website is <http://well.wvu.edu/ccpps>, and its phone number (answered 24 hours) is 304-293-4431.

Course Schedule

In addition to the texts listed, please read the critical introductory materials for each historical era and each writer. The Norton editors have put together a great resource that will increase your knowledge of these writers’ contexts, concerns, ideas, goals, and place in British literary history.

Weekly Focus or Assignment Due	Required Reading or Option A	Option B	Option C
<p><i>Romanticism</i> <i>Week 1: 29 June-3 July</i></p>	<p>Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Blake, “And did those feet” • Mary Wollstonecraft, <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i>, “Introduction” and “Chapter 4” • William Wordsworth, “Strange fits of passion have I known” and “I wandered lonely as a cloud” • George Gordon, Lord Byron, “She walks in beauty” and “So, we’ll go no more a roving” • Percy Bysshe Shelley, “Ozymandias” • John Keats, “Ode on a Grecian Urn” and “To George and Thomas Keats—Negative Capability” 		
<p>Week 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post due Wednesday, 1 July at Midnight EST • Quiz due Friday, 3 July at Midnight EST • Discussion Response due Friday, 3 July at Midnight EST 			
<p><i>Romanticism</i> <i>Week 2: 6-10 July</i></p>	<p><i>Option A: The Gothic</i> Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Burns, “Tam o’Shanter: A Tale” • Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 	<p><i>Option B: Melancholia</i> Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Blake, “The Garden of Love” • William 	<p><i>Option C: Voices from Outside England</i> Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Burns, “To a Mouse,” “Such a parcel of rogues in a

	<p>“Christabel”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Letetia Aikin and John Aikin, “On the Pleasure Derived from Objects of Terror; with Sir Bertrand, a Fragment” • Matthew Gregory Lewis, from <i>The Monk</i> • Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, “The Mortal Immortal” 	<p>Wordsworth, “She dwelt among the untrodden ways,” “Three years she grew,” and “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “Epitaph” • Percy Bysshe Shelley, “Stanzas Written in Dejection” and “O World, O Life, O Time” • John Keats, “When I have fears that I may cease to be,” “La Belle Dame sans Merci: A Ballad,” and “Ode on Melancholy” 	<p>nation,” and “Robert Burn’s March to Bannockburn”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edmund Burke, from <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> • Maria Edgeworth, “The Irish Incognito” • George Gordon, Lord Byron, “Written After Swimming from Sestos to Abydos”
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Week 2

- Discussion Post due Wednesday, 8 July at Midnight EST
- Quiz due Friday, 10 July at Midnight EST
- Discussion Response due Friday, 10 July at Midnight EST

<p><i>Victorians Week 3: 13-17 July</i></p>	<p>Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oscar Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> (longer work) • Elizabeth Barrett Browning, <i>Sonnets from the Portuguese</i> 43 • Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “Ulysses” and “The Charge of the Light Brigade” • Matthew Arnold, “Dover Beach” • Rudyard Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden” 		
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<p>Week 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post due Wednesday, 15 July at Midnight EST • Quiz due Friday, 17 July at Midnight EST • Discussion Response due Friday, 17 July at Midnight EST 			
<p><i>Victorians Week 4: 20-24 July</i></p>	<p><i>Option A: Gender and Sexuality</i> Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Bernard Shaw, <i>Mrs. Warren's Profession</i> (longer work) • Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess" • Christina Rossetti, "Song (When I am dead, my dearest)" • Sarah Stickney Ellis, "Disinterested Kindness" • Anonymous, "The Great Social Evil" • Walter Besant, "The Transformation of Women's Status between 1837 and 1897" 	<p><i>Option B: Empire</i> Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rudyard Kipling, <i>The Man Who Would Be King</i> (longer work) • Thomas Babington Macaulay, "Minute on Indian Education" • Anonymous, "Proclamation of an Irish Republic" • Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "Opening of the Indian and Colonial Exhibit by the Queen" • T.N. Mukharji, "The Indian and Colonial Exhibit" 	<p><i>Option C: Science and Technology</i> Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Louis Stevenson, <i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> (longer work) • William Morris, "How I Became a Socialist" • Charles Darwin, "Chapter 3: Struggle for Existence" and "Natural Selection and Sexual Selection" • The Children's Employment Commission, "Child Mine-Workers in Yorkshire" • Charles Dickens, "Coketown"
<p>Week 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post due Wednesday, 22 July at Midnight EST • Quiz due Friday, 24 July at Midnight EST • Discussion Response due Friday, 24 July at Midnight EST 			
<p><i>Twentieth Century Week 5: 27-31 July</i></p>	<p>Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Stoppard, <i>Arcadia</i> (longer work) • William Butler Yeats, "The Second Coming" • T.S. Eliot, <i>The Wasteland</i> • Dylan Thomas, "Fern Hill" 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace Nichols, “Epilogue” and “The Fat Black Woman Goes Shopping” 		
<p>Week 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post due Wednesday, 29 July at Midnight EST • Quiz due Friday, 31 July at Midnight EST • Discussion Response due Friday, 31 July at Midnight EST 			
<p><i>Twentieth Century Week 6: 3-7 August</i></p>	<p><i>Option A: WWI and its Aftermath</i> Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia Woolf, <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> (longer work) • Rupert Brooke, “The Soldier” • Siegfried Sassoon, “The Rear-Guard” and “The General” • Isaac Rosenberg, “Break of Day in the Trenches” • Wilfred Owen, “Anthem for Doomed Youth” and “Dulce Et Decorum Est” 	<p><i>Option B: Epistemological Crises</i> Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuel Beckett, <i>Waiting for Godot</i> (longer work) • F.S. Flint and Ezra Pound, “Imagisme” • Blast, “Long Live the Vortex!” • T.S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” • Stevie Smith, “Sunt Leones” and “Our Bog is Dood” • Seamus Heaney, “Anything Can Happen” 	<p><i>Option C: Postcolonialism and Multiethnic Britain</i> Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Butler Yeats, “Easter, 1916” • George Orwell, “Shooting an Elephant” • Claude McKay, “Old England” • Louise Bennett, “Colonization in Reverse” • Wole Soyinka, “Telephone Conversation” • Ngũgĩ Wa Thiong’o, <i>Decolonizing the Mind</i> • Derek Walcott, “A Far Cry from Africa” • Salman Rushdie, “The Prophet’s Hair”
<p>Week 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post due Wednesday, 5 August at Midnight EST • Quiz due Friday, 7 August at Midnight EST • Discussion Response due Friday, 7 August at Midnight EST 			
<p><i>Term Paper Due Saturday 8 August at Midnight EST</i></p>			