

Oakland University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English

English 2300 British Literature (4 credits)
Fall 2018

Prof. N. Cole
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& by appointment
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Course Description: Introduction to literary analysis and appreciation through readings in the British literary tradition, including the Beowulf poet, Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Keats, Dickens, Tennyson, WWI Poets, Lawrence, Conrad, Woolf and Carter.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites – none.

This class satisfies the **General Education requirements in Literature**

General Education Learning Outcomes:

The student will demonstrate:

- **knowledge of how literature is an expression of culture** – we will do this by placing literary texts in the context of historical periods and cultural attitudes to class, gender and race, and by considering how individual texts reflect developments and conflicts in British and/or European history and social history.
- **knowledge of literary form** – we will do this by considering differences of genre (prose and poetry; fiction and non-fiction) and by developing attentiveness to other aspects of literary artistry such as point-of-view, tone, and style.

Cross-cutting Capacity: critical thinking

Other Course Objectives:

- **Breadth and a sense of literary history:** English 241 gives students a breadth of reading in British literature from the Old English Period (c.750) to the early twentieth century (1920's), and helps students "place" literature in relation to its literary predecessors and successors
- **Introduction to literary genres:** introduces students to a variety of genres, such as poetry, the novel, short fiction, drama, and film, and helps students learn about the distinguishing characteristics of literary genres and forms.
- **Development of critical thinking, reading and writing skills**

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. **Moodle:** students **MUST print a hard copy and bring to class**
2. Jane Austen *PERSUASION* 978-0-6-143860-8 Penguin
3. Charles Dickens *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* Signet edition
4. A.C. Doyle *SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES* 978-0-451-46765-2

- 5.E.M. Forster A PASSAGE TO INDIA Harcourt Press 978-0156711425
 6. NORTON ANTHOLOGY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE: MAJOR AUTHORS
 Volume 1 978-0-393-91964-6 Norton
 Volume 2 978-0-393-91965- Norton
 7.Shakespeare MEASURE FOR MEASURE 978-0-451-52715-8 Signet

GRADING:

Quizzes and Homework:	35%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Class participation	15%

Grading Scale:**Grade Percentages****A 93 - 100****A- 90 - 92****B+ 87 - 89****B 83 - 86****B- 80 - 82****C+ 77 - 79****C 73 - 76****C- 70 - 72****D+ 67 - 69****D 60 - 66****F 59 & below****COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Textbooks: Students are required to buy the textbooks in the editions listed above so that they may easily locate passages discussed in class. Students also must bring assigned hard copy texts to class. **Check for your texts before you leave home for class and after you park your car!**

Class participation: Class discussion, group work, forum posts: (15% of course grade): Students learn more when they share ideas and discuss specific parts of a text. Participation grade is based on oral comments and questions, group work, and required forum posts. Quality is valued over quantity.

Homework & Quizzes: (35% of course grade): Quizzes always cover the material assigned FOR THAT DAY. Quizzes may be short answer, short essay or passage identification, and normally take 10-15 minutes to complete. No makeup quizzes will be given, but the lowest quiz/homework grade will be automatically dropped. Quizzes are usually based on that day's assigned reading and study guide questions. Quizzes measure how well and carefully students are reading their assignments, as well as critical thinking skills.

Examinations: (Midterm (25%) and Final (25%)= total of 50%): There will be 2 exams. Exams will employ a format of term I.D. (literary terms, period concepts, characters or significant settings); quoted passage I.D.'s; and essay. No makeup exams will be given, except in cases of demonstrated emergency such as hospitalization, etc. You must contact professor prior to the exam if such an emergency arises.

Attendance: More than 5 absences will lower your final course grade, .3 for every absence beyond 5 absences. Being present for class means being on time and staying until the end.

COURTESY IN CLASS: Most students exercise basic courtesy in listening attentively to the comments of other students and to the professor. Rarely, there are students who disrupt class by talking to each other

while a classmate or while the professor or teaching assistant is addressing the class. Disruptive students may be asked to leave and counted absent for that class. More than two warnings will negatively affect the student's class participation grade.

Electronic Devices: Please put your cell phones on vibrate in class so your phone does not ring during class. If you have an emergency please exit the classroom to receive or make a call. Texting or using your phone during class, including film showings, will negatively affect your participation grade. The use of laptops is not allowed. Studies show that writing down notes by hand helps students learn better and retain more than when notes are typed into a computer.

Academic Conduct Policy: Cheating on exams is considered a serious breach of academic conduct and will result in disciplinary action by the University Senate's Academic Conduct Committee. The Oakland University policy on academic conduct will be strictly followed with no exceptions. See catalog under Academic policies and procedures. NOTE: cheating on homework by copying internet sites is a violation of academic conduct standards. Do your own work.

Adds/Drops: The University add/drop policy will be explicitly followed. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the University's deadline dates for dropping the course, and to check with the professor if the student would like further information about his/her progress in the course.

Special Considerations: Students with disabilities who may require special considerations should make an appointment with the campus Disability Support Services. Students should also bring their needs to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible.

Schedule: The class schedule, below, indicates class dates, exam dates, and specific reading assignments. The instructor reserves the right to make minor adjustments to this schedule if needed, but if class is cancelled for any reason students should keep up with the reading as assigned.

READING SCHEDULE
(check Moodle frequently for updates)
(NA=Norton Anthology)
Note: please check your OU email
And Moodle for any updates

<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Old English Epic Poetry: "Beowulf" (8-11 Century CE)</u>
Sept. 5	Introduction to Course and Syllabus
7	Medieval Power Point and introduction to "Beowulf" NA: "Beowulf" translated by Seamus Heaney 36-62 Topics: Epic genre; the Old English heroic ideal; Old English poetic literary devices;
<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Heroes, Medieval and Contemporary</u>
Sept. 10	"Beowulf" (NA): 58-79 Battle with Grendel's Mother & 2 nd celebration 63-87 Quiz 1 (note: quizzes and homework are part of same grade category, so they are numbered sequentially and together)
12	"Beowulf" (NA): 79-106 Beowulf's final battle 87-106
14	Moodle: "The Tiger's Bride" End orientation, pov, diction, setting, plot conflicts (social, physical, internal) Homework 2:
<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Shakespeare: Drama and Poetry (ca.1564-1616)</u>
17	NA: "Elizabethan Theatre" 373-379 Shakespeare: Act I of <i>Measure for Measure</i> & Renaissance PP

- Sept. 19 Shakespeare: Act 2 of *Measure for Measure*
Quiz 3
- Sept. 21 *Measure for Measure*, Act 3
- Week 4**
24 **Renaissance poetry and Sonnet form**
Measure for Measure, Act 3 continued
Topics: genre: "problem comedy"
NA: "Tudor Style" 367-372
- 26 NA: Shakespeare: Sonnet 29 ("When in disgrace with Fortune and men's eyes" 543 & Sonnet 116 ("Let not the marriage of true minds admit impediments") 549
John Donne: "Holy Sonnet 14 ("Batter my heart, three-personed God" NA: 692
Moodle: Billy Collins: "Sonnet"
Quiz 4
- 28 NA: Andrew Marvell: "To His Coy Mistress" 751
- Week 5**
Oct. 1 and 3 *Measure for Measure*, Acts 4 and 5
NA: "A Female Monarch in a Man's World" 359-360
Quiz 5
- 5 Introduction to Austen
Begin *Persuasion*, chs.1-2
- Week 6**
Oct.8 **Romantic Period: 1785-1830**
NA: Wordsworth: "It is a beautiful evening" 184 & "The world is too much with us" 185
Romantic Period Power Point
NA: Start Keats: "Eve of St. Agnes" 477
- 10 NA: Finish Keats: "Eve of St. Agnes" 477
- 12 Introduction to Austen
Persuasion, chapters tba
Homework 6
- Week 7**
Oct.15 **Austen and the Novel of Manners**
Persuasion, (1816) chs. tba
- 17 *Persuasion*, chs. tba
- 19 *Persuasion*, chs. tba
Quiz 7
- Week 8**
Oct. 22 **MIDTERM and Begin Victorian Period (1837-1901)**
Midterm Examination
- Oct.24 NA: Tennyson, "Lady of Shalott" 618
NA: Browning: "My Last Duchess" 716

Oct. 26 NA: C. Rossetti: "Goblin Market" 803

Week 9

Dickens

Oct. 29 *A Christmas Carol* (1843) first half
Dickens Power Point

Oct. 31 Creepy short stories for Halloween
NA: Gaskell: "The Old Nurse's Story" 695 &
Moodle: "The Dead Hand"

Nov.2 Class does not meet. Check Moodle for writing assignment, complete, and submit it electronically on Moodle.

Week 10

Nov.5 *A Christmas Carol* second half and its afterlives
Quiz 8

Nov.7 NA: Matthew Arnold: "Dover Beach" 764
NA: Tennyson: "Crossing the Bar" 693
Moodle: Clough, "The Latest Decalogue"

9 "In Memoriam A.H.H." (1850). NA: 634-643

Week 11

12 **Fin de Siecle: Decadence**

NA: Stevenson: *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886). 831

Homework 9

14 NA: Swinburne: "The Leper"
Arthur Conan Doyle, *Sherlock Holmes Mysteries*: "A Scandal in Bohemia" (1886) &
Moodle: "The Case of Lady Sannox" (1894)

16 Margaret Oliphant, "Story of a Wedding Tour" (1894)
Quiz 10 on all assignments this week

Week 12

Literary Modernism

Nov. 19 Moodle: World War I (WWI) Poets selected poems

21 NA: Lawrence: "The Horse-Dealer's Daughter" 1280
NA: Woolf: "The Mark on the Wall" (p.1097)
Homework 11

23 Thanksgiving Break: Class does not meet

Week 13

Modernism

Nov. 26 Forster: "A Passage to India" (1924) firsts half

28 Forster: *A Passage to India*, tba
Quiz 12

30 Forster: *A Passage to India*, tba

Week 14Post Modernism

Dec. 3

Moodle: "The Bloody Chamber" (1979)

Dec. 5

Moodle: "The Lady in the House of Love" (1979)

Final Exam:**You must take your exam with the class in which you are enrolled****10:40 class: Monday, Dec. 12, 12:00-3:00 p.m.****1:20 class: Monday, Dec 10, 3:30-6:30 p.m.**