

ENGLISH 256: Survey of English Literature since 1660

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Course objectives: This course is a literary history of English literature since 1660. We will be studying Restoration, Romantic, Victorian and Modern literature. "British literature" encompasses literature from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, and also literature from former British colonies such as South Africa and New Zealand. We will be reading texts to identify individual authors' techniques and characteristics, but also to identify cultural, poetic, ethical, historical ties that connect these writers together into a literary history.

Course Requirements:

A narrative project, two exams and a final exam. There will also be some in-class assignments and quizzes.

Required Texts:

Abrams, ed. The Norton Anthology of English Literature 8th edition, vol 1C and vol 2.
Woolf, Virginia To The Lighthouse

Policies:

Attendance: You should be present for every class and prepared to participate. If you are absent, you are responsible for informing yourself about any missed assignments or announcements, and for material covered during that class. All absences should be for good reason; however, you may miss two classes without explanation. I will lower your grade for every unexcused absence after these two. Excessive absences (more than five) may be cause for dropping you from the class.

Class Participation: This will count for 10% of your grade. For full credit, you will need to attend every class ready to participate, especially on discussion days. This means not just responding when called on, but coming to class with questions from the reading and topics for discussion, responding to other students' comments on the text, and taking active responsibility for the liveliness and pertinence of discussion.

Plagiarism: In this course, as in all other courses, you are bound by the Honor Code. Therefore, the work you submit for this class must be your own. If you use any outside sources in your writing for this course, you must acknowledge them by using the MLA system of documentation, which is presented in detail in *The Bedford Handbook*. **All Websites or other Internet sources must be acknowledged and documented.** If you have any questions regarding the Honor Code as it applies to this course, please consult me.

Grade breakdown:

Narrative project	30%
First exam	15%
Second exam	20%
Class Participation	10%
Final Exam	25%

All grades for this course will be recorded using the plus/minus scale.

Weekly Outline of Topics to be covered:

Wed January 17 Introduction and Objectives; A Look Backwards

Fri Jan 19	Restoration Literature Assignment "The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century" (2045-2053) Dryden, "from Annus Mirabilis" (2073) and prose selections (2114-2122) Samuel Pepys, "The Diary" (2123-2131)
Jan 22	Restoration and the 18 th century (2058-2060); Congreve, "The Way of the World" Act 1 (2217-2229) Addison and Steele; Steele "The Gentleman; The Pretty Fellow" (2481) and "Dueling" (2482) "The Spectator's Club" (2484) Addison "The Aims of the Spectator" (2492), "Wit: True, False, Mixed" (2494), " <i>Paradise Lost</i> : General Critical Remarks" (2499)
Jan 24	Swift "A Modest Proposal" (2473)
Jan 26	"Restoration and the 18 th century" (2053-58); Pope, "The Rape of the Lock"(2527-2544)
Jan 29	Johnson <u>Rasselas</u> (2679-2686) Discussion: What is the 18 th century's vision of poetic greatness?
Jan 31	Turn in narratives. Gray "Elegy written in a Country Churchyard" (2830)
Feb 2	The Romantic Period, 1--16; William Blake "The Lamb" (83) "The Chimney Sweeper" (90) "The Sick Rose" (91) London" (94) Burns "Robert Bruce's March to Bannockburn" (145), "Song" (146)
Feb 5	Wordsworth "Preface" (262)
Feb 7	"Strange fits of passion have I known" (274) "She dwelt among the untrodden ways" (275); "A slumber did my spirit seal" (276) "Composed Upon Westminster Bridge"

- Feb 9 D. Wordsworth, Grasmere Journals,(392).
W. Wordsworth “Tintern Abbey” (258)
- Feb 12 Coleridge “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (430) “Kubla Khan” (446)
Feb 14 Wordsworth, “Intimations of Immortality” (306) Coleridge “Dejection: An Ode” (466)
- Feb 16 Coleridge, Biographia Literaria selections **Discussion:** The Older Romantics
- Feb 19 Turn in narratives. first exam
- Feb 21 Byron “She walks in beauty” (612) “January 22nd” (735) Don Juan Canto 1, selected stanzas
- Feb 23 Shelley “Ode to the West Wind” (772), “To a Sky-Lark” (817)
- Feb 26 Shelley “Adonais” (822) and Keats “On First Looking Into Chapman’s Homer” (880) “La Belle Dame Sans Merci” (899)
- Feb 28 Keats “Ode to a Nightingale” (903); Letters, selections.
- Mar 2 **Discussion:** The Romantic Period
- Mar 5 The Victorian Age 979-988
Tennyson “The Lady of Shalott” (1114) Tennyson, In Memoriam Sections 5, 6, 56, 123, 130.
- Mar 7 Victorian Issues: Mill, “The Subjection of Women” (1060); Ruskin, “A Definition of Greatness in Art” (1320), “the Stones of Venice (1324); Tennyson, “The Charge of the Light Brigade” (1188) Darwin “Evolution” (1539) Descent of Man” (1545).
- Mar 9 E. Browning “To George Sand: A Desire” and “To George Sand: A Recognition” (1083) “How Do I Love Thee?” (1085), R. Browning “Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister” (1253) “My Last Duchess” (1255)
- Spring Break March 12-16
- Mar 19 Arnold “Dover Beach” (1368); Culture and Anarchy Chs 1-2 (1398)
Christina Rossetti “Goblin Market” (1466)
- Mar 21 D.G. Rossetti “The Blessed Damozel” (1443) **Discussion:** The Victorians and the Romantics
- Mar 23 Hopkins “The Windhover” (1518) “Pied Beauty” (1518) “Spring and Fall” (1521) and Journal entries (1524).

Mar 26	Wilde “Preface to <u>Dorian Gray</u> ” (1897) Hardy “Drummer Hodge” (1870), “The Darkling Thrush” (1870) Discussion: The Late Victorians/ Writing Literary History
Mar 28	Second exam
Mar 30	World War I Poetry, (1954); Sassoon “They” (1960); W. Owen “Anthem for Doomed Youth” (1971) “Dulce Et Decorum Est” (1974)
Apr 2-6	Woolf, <u>To The Lighthouse</u>
Apr 9	Yeats “The Lake Isle of Innisfree” (2025) “No Second Troy” (2029) “The Wild Swans at Coole” (2033) “The Second Coming” (2036) “Sailing to Byzantium” (2046) Woolf, <u>To The Lighthouse</u>
Apr 11	Eliot “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (2289), <u>The Wasteland</u> , (2295) <u>To The Lighthouse</u>
Apr 13	Eliot “Tradition and the Individual Talent”(2319) Discussion: Eliot and Yeats: What is poetry?
Apr 16	V. Woolf, <u>A Room of One’s Own</u> Chapter One (2092) Finish <u>To The Lighthouse</u>
Apr 18	D.H. Lawrence “Odor of Chrysanthemums” (2245) R.R.R. Dhlomo “Juwawa” (handout) Discussion: The Modernists
Apr 20	Turn in narratives. Auden
Apr 23	Larkin
Apr 25	Heaney
Apr 27	Rushdie “English is an Indian Literary Language” (2540) Turn in narratives—Final Version
Apr 30	Discussion: Postcolonial, Postmodern and British literature/Creating literary anthologies