

## ENGLISH 256: Survey of English Literature since 1660

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Office Hours: MW 1:30-3:00, T 1-2 and by appointment

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, a learnlink conference and quizzes.

### Required Texts:

Abrams, ed. The Norton Anthology of English Literature 6th edition, vol 1C and vol 2.  
Dickens, Charles. Hard Times

### 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 August 28 Introduction and Objectives; A Look Backwards

Aug 30 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)

Labor Day—no class

Sept 4 Restoration and the 18<sup>th</sup> 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), "*Paradise Lost*: General Critical Remarks" (2499)

Sept 6 Swift "A Modest Proposal" (2473)

Sept 9 "Restoration and the 18<sup>th</sup> century" (2053-58); Pope, "The Rape of the Lock"(2527-2544)

Sept 11 Johnson *Rasselas* (2679-2686) **Discussion:** What is the 18<sup>th</sup> century's vision of poetic greatness?

Sept 13 Turn in narratives. Gray "Elegy written in a Country Churchyard" (2830)

Sept 16 The Romantic Period, 1--21 (skim); William Blake "The Lamb" (45) "The Chimney Sweeper" (46) "The Sick Rose" (52)"London" (56)

Sept 18 Wordsworth "Preface" (238), "Strange fits of passion have I known" (251) "She dwelt among the untrodden ways" (252); "A slumber did my spirit seal" (254) Composed Upon Westminster Bridge"

Sept 20 D. Wordsworth, Grasmere Journals,(387).

- W. Wordsworth "Tintern Abbey" (235)
- Sept 23 Coleridge "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" (422)
- Sept 25 Coleridge "Kubla Khan" (439) **Discussion:** The Older Romantics
- Sept 27 Turn in narratives. first exam
- Sept 30 Byron "She walks in beauty" (556) "January 22<sup>nd</sup>" (562) Don Juan Canto 1, selected stanzas
- Oct 2 Shelley "Ode to the West Wind" (730), "To a Sky-Lark" (765) "Adonais" (772)
- Oct 4 Keats "On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer" (826) "La Belle Dame Sans Merci" (845) "Ode to a Nightingale" (849); Letters (889-891, 901).
- Oct 7 **Discussion:** The Romantic Period
- Oct 9 The Victorian Age 1043-1052 (skim)  
Tennyson "The Lady of Shalott" (1204 ) Tennyson, In Memoriam Sections 5, 6, 56, 123, 130.
- Oct 11 Victorian Issues: Mill, "The Subjection of Women" 1155; Ruskin, "Imperial Duty" 2019, ); Tennyson, "The Charge of the Light Brigade" (1280)  
Darwin "Evolution" 1684-1686 "Descent of Man" 1689-1690.
- Oct 14—no class
- Oct 16 Hard Times
- Oct 18 Hard Times
- Oct 21 E. Browning "To George Sand: A Desire" and "To George Sand: A Recognition" (1178) "How Do I Love Thee?" (1180), R. Browning "Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister" (1350) "My Last Duchess" (1352)
- Oct 23 Arnold "Dover Beach" (1492); Culture and Anarchy Chs 1-2 (1528-1532)  
Christina Rossetti "Goblin Market" (1589)
- Oct 25 **Discussion:** The Victorians and the Romantics
- Oct 28 Hard Times
- Oct 30 **Discussion:** Dickens and the Victorian Social World
- Nov 1 (no class) Turn narratives in
- Nov 4 Hopkins "The Windhover" (1652) "Pied Beauty" (1653) "Spring and Fall" (1655) and Journal entries (1659-1661).

- Nov 6 Wilde “Preface to Dorian Gray” (1760) Hardy “Drummer Hodge” (1937), “The Darkling Thrush” (1937)  
**Discussion:** The Late Victorians/ Writing Literary History
- Nov 8 Second exam
- Nov 11 World War 1 Poetry, (2048); Sassoon “They” (2055); W. Owen “Anthem for Doomed Youth” (2066) “Dulce Et Decorum Est” (2069)
- Nov 13 Yeats “The Lake Isle of Innisfree” (2092) “No Second Troy” (2098) “The Wild Swans at Coole” (2101)  
 “The Second Coming” (2106) “Sailing to Byzantium” (2109)
- Nov 15 Eliot “The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock” (2364), The Wasteland, (2368-2383)
- Nov 18 Eliot “Tradition and the Individual Talent” **Discussion:** Eliot and Yeats: What is poetry?
- Nov 20 V. Woolf “Kew Gardens” (Handout), A Room of One’s Own Chapter One (2153)
- Nov 22 D.H. Lawrence “Odor of Chrysanthemums” (2316) R.R.R. Dhlomo “Juwawa” (handout) **Discussion:** The Modernists
- Nov 25 Turn in narratives. Auden/Larkin
- Nov 27--Thanksgiving
- Dec 2 Heaney/Walcott
- Dec 4 Kincaid/Grace (handout) **Discussion:** Postcolonial, Postmodern and British literature/Creating literary anthologies
- Dec 6 Turn in narratives—Final Version.
- Dec 9 Review