

Syllabus
ENGL 2323: English Literature from 1780 to the Present
Spring 2023

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School: UT Tyler University Academy - Tyler Campus
Course: ENGL 2323: English Literature from 1780 to the Present
Semester: Spring 2023
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Textbooks: The Norton Anthology of English Literature Vols. D., E., F. Edited by Stephen Greenblatt. Norton. ISBN: 9780393913019. 9th Edition

Note: Per the UT Tyler syllabus policy, “The information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grading criteria and absence and make-up policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice as long as the change is without prejudice to the students.”

Description: This sophomore-level survey course will explore the Romantic, Victorian, and Twentieth Century periods of English literature. To facilitate a complete understanding of the writings and poetry, we study the historical events that coincide and inform the texts such as the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, the rise and fall of the British Empire, world wars, and approaches to social concerns such as class, ethnicity, and gender within literary discourse.

Learning Outcomes:

- Become familiar with English literature written between 1780 and the present in terms of specific movements, genres, authors, and styles.
- Understand differences and draw connections between different historical periods and cultural communities that are represented in English literature.
- Heighten skills of critical thinking based on textual analysis.
- Improve ability to effectively communicate ideas orally and in writing.
- Gain awareness of personal responsibility and social responsibility as they apply to and are reflected in literature and in interactions with others in the classroom.

These outcomes will be demonstrated in a series of in-class group discussions, short writing assignments, quizzes, and examinations that will include questions requiring both objective responses and substantive essay responses.

Grading Categories and Point Values

1. Essay Exams (30%)

- **Midterm Exam (15%):** The midterm exam will be an in-class, timed essay covering the Romantic and Victorian Eras. Students will have a set amount of time during class to synthesize key themes, historical contexts, and literary techniques discussed during the

semester. This exam assesses critical thinking under pressure and independent writing skills.

- **Final Exam (15%):** The final exam will be a take-home essay focusing on the Modern Era with connections to earlier periods. Students will have 48 hours to complete the assignment, allowing them to provide a more in-depth analysis and incorporate textual evidence comprehensively. This exam will emphasize cumulative knowledge and polished, thoughtful writing. Submissions must be original and will be checked for plagiarism through Turnitin.

Assessment Notes:

- The midterm and final exams are weighted equally, comprising a total of 30% of the course grade.
- Specific prompts, expectations, and rubrics will be provided in advance to ensure clarity of objectives.
- Late submissions for the final take-home exam will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made under extenuating circumstances.

2. Literature Circle Assignments (15%)

- Students will work in groups to analyze assigned authors, themes, or texts from each era.
- Examples include group presentations or written analyses of texts such as *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, *Ulysses*, or *The Waste Land*.

3. Socratic Seminars (15%)

- Graded on preparation, active participation, and post-seminar reflections.
- Topics may include Eliot's *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* or Yeats' *The Second Coming*, focusing on their exploration of modernity and identity.

4. Quizzes (20%)

- Six quizzes, two for each era, include both objective questions and discussion-based prompts.
- These quizzes ensure reading completion and comprehension while also serving as study guides for exams.

5. Discussion Activities (10%)

- Includes in-class or online discussions and short assignments.
- Prompts may focus on thematic analysis, such as critiques of industrialism in Victorian literature or the disillusionment reflected in Modernist texts.

6. Literary Analyses (10%)

- Includes 2-3 short writing assignments, such as close readings or thematic analyses.
- Examples include analyzing symbolism in Wordsworth's *Tintern Abbey* or fragmentation in Eliot's *The Waste Land*.

Grading Scale

A = 90-100 points

B = 80-89 points

C = 70-79 points

D = 60-69 points

F = 59 points and below

Essay Exam and Essay Formatting: All essays and written assignments will be completed in MLA formatting, which requires:

- 12-point font in Times New Roman
- Double spacing
- 1" margins
- A heading that starts on page two
- A Works Cited page

Use the Purdue OWL resource for MLA formatting:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html

Participation: It is imperative that students log in regularly to stay informed and ensure successful completion of the course. Missing assignments greatly affects a student's chance of success. Please stay abreast of all discussion board posts, quizzes, and exams. See the syllabus for information regarding religious or school-sponsored absences.

Late Work: No late work will be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances. Communicate ahead of deadlines if there will be an issue. Waiting until the last minute increases the likelihood of complications.

Dishonesty and Cheating: The nature of this course allows for the use of books and notes during quizzes and exams. However, collusion with other students regarding quizzes or exams is not allowed. Every writing assignment will be submitted through Unicheck to check for plagiarism, which will result in a grade of zero if detected. For further information regarding academic dishonesty, see pages five and six of the syllabus.

University Policies and Additional Information:

- **UT Tyler Honor Code:** Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace honor and integrity.
 - **Student Rights and Responsibilities:**
<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>
 - **Campus Carry Policy:** <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>
 - **Tobacco-Free Campus:** www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free
 - **Student Accessibility and Resources:** Contact the SAR office for accommodations: 903-566-7079 or cstaples@uttyler.edu.
 - **Emergency Procedures:** Exit the building during alarms and follow safety instructions.
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15-Week Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Romanticism (January 13–17, 2025)

- **Lectures:**
 - Introduction to the Romantic Period (1785–1832)
 - Exploring Romanticism Through the Poetry of William Blake
 - **Readings:**
 - “Introduction to the Romantic Period” (pp. 3–27)
 - William Blake’s Poetry: *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience*:
 - “The Lamb” (p. 120), “The Tyger” (p. 129)
 - “The Chimney Sweeper” (p. 128), “London” (p. 132)
 - “The Marriage of Heaven and Hell” (p. 148)
 - **Activities:**
 - Discuss key Romantic themes: imagination, nature, and the individual.
 - Quiz on Romanticism’s historical and cultural context.
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Week 2: Wordsworth and Nature (January 21–24, 2025)

(Note: No class January 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday)

- **Lectures:**
 - Wordsworth’s *Lyrical Ballads* (1798 and 1800)
 - Themes in Wordsworth’s Nature Poetry
 - **Readings:**
 - Wordsworth’s Poetry:
 - “Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey” (p. 288),
 - Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (p. 292),
 - “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” (p. 334),
 - “Ode: Intimations of Immortality” (p. 335)
 - **Activities:**
 - Analyze Wordsworth’s view of nature as a moral guide.
 - Quiz on imagery and themes in Wordsworth’s poetry.
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Week 3: Coleridge and the Supernatural (January 27–31, 2025)

- **Lectures:**
 - Ballads of Nature and the Supernatural
 - Coleridge’s Poetic Imagination
 - **Readings:**
 - Samuel Taylor Coleridge:
 - “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (p. 443),
 - “Kubla Khan” (p. 459),
 - “Frost at Midnight” (p. 477)
 - **Activities:**
 - Discuss Romantic fascination with the supernatural and imagination.
 - Quiz on themes and concepts in Coleridge’s works.
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Week 4: Individualism in Byron and Shelley (February 3–7, 2025)

- **Lectures:**
 - The Byronic Hero
 - Themes of Rebellion in Byron and Shelley
 - **Readings:**
 - Lord Byron: “She Walks in Beauty” (p. 617), “Darkness” (p. 618)
 - Percy Bysshe Shelley: “Ozymandias” (p. 776), “Ode to the West Wind” (p. 791)
 - **Activities:**
 - Explore the Byronic hero and Shelley’s themes of power and change.
 - Quiz on Romantic heroism and literary imagery.
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Week 5: Keats and the Sublime (February 10–14, 2025)

- **Lectures:**
 - Keats’s Great Odes
 - Keats’s Exploration of Beauty and Mortality
 - **Readings:**
 - John Keats: “Ode to a Nightingale” (p. 927), “Ode on a Grecian Urn” (p. 930), “To Autumn” (p. 951)
 - **Activities:**
 - Close-reading exercise on Keats’ exploration of mortality and beauty.
 - Literary Analysis Essay #1: Romantic Period themes.
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Week 6: Early Victorian Concerns (February 17–21, 2025)

(Note: February 17, Mid-Term Grade Rosters Open)

- **Lectures:**
 - Transition to the Victorian Era
 - **Readings:**
 - “Introduction to the Victorian Age” (pp. 1017–1043)
 - Alfred, Lord Tennyson: “Ulysses” (p. 1170), “The Lady of Shalott” (p. 1161)
 - **Activities:**
 - Discuss Victorian anxieties regarding industrialism and morality.
 - Quiz on early Victorian themes.
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Week 7: Industrialism and the Working Class (February 24–28, 2025)

- **Lectures:**
 - Dickens and Victorian Prose
 - **Readings:**
 - Charles Dickens: Excerpt from *Hard Times* (p. 1599)
 - Matthew Arnold: “Dover Beach” (p. 1387)
 - **Activities:**
 - Analyze industrialism’s impact on society through prose and poetry.
 - **Midterm Exam:** Covers Romanticism and early Victorian literature.
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Week 8: Victorian Poetry - Dramatic Monologues (March 3–7, 2025)

- **Lectures:**
 - The Dramatic Monologue Form

- **Readings:**
 - Robert Browning: “My Last Duchess” (p. 1282), “Porphyria’s Lover” (p. 1278)
 - Emily Brontë: “I’m happiest...” (p. 1329), “The Night Wind” (p. 1329), “No Coward Soul Is Mine” (p. 1334)
 - **Activities:**
 - Explore themes of power and obsession in dramatic monologues.
 - Quiz on poetic techniques in Victorian poetry.
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Week 9: Gender and Social Commentary (March 10–14, 2025)

(Note: Spring Break is March 17–21)

- **Lectures:**
 - Christina Rossetti and Gendered Voices
 - **Readings:**
 - Christina Rossetti: “Goblin Market” (p. 1496)
 - George Eliot: Excerpt from *Silly Novels by Lady Novelists* (p. 1361)
 - Rudyard Kipling: “If” (p. 1882)
 - **Activities:**
 - Discuss representations of women and societal expectations.
 - Quiz on feminist themes in Victorian literature.
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Week 10: Transition to Modernism (March 24–28, 2025)

- **Lectures:**
 - Victorian Decline and Modernist Beginnings
 - **Readings:**
 - “Introduction to the Modern Period” (pp. 1887–1912)
 - Thomas Hardy: “The Darkling Thrush” (p. 1933), “The Convergence of the Twain” (p. 1940)
 - Joseph Conrad: Excerpt from *Heart of Darkness* (p. 1951)
 - **Activities:**
 - Discuss the transition from Victorian optimism to Modernist disillusionment.
 - Quiz on Modernist disillusionment.
 - **Literary Analysis Essay #2:** Victorian ideals.
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Week 11: The Great War and Poetry of Disillusionment (March 31–April 4, 2025)

- **Lectures:**
 - Great War, Great Poetry
 - **Readings:**
 - Siegfried Sassoon: “The General” (p. 2024)
 - Wilfred Owen: “Anthem for Doomed Youth” (p. 2034), “Dulce Et Decorum Est” (p. 2037)
 - **Activities:**
 - Examine war’s impact on British poetry.
 - Quiz on themes of loss and futility in WWI poetry.
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Week 12: Modernist Experimentation (April 7–11, 2025)

- **Lectures:**
 - Eliot and the Fragmentation of Meaning
 - **Readings:**
 - T.S. Eliot: “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (p. 2524), “The Waste Land” (p. 2529)
 - **Activities:**
 - Explore Modernist techniques: fragmentation, allusion, and irony.
 - Quiz on Eliot’s reinvention of poetic form.
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Week 13: Gender and Identity in Modernism (April 14–18, 2025)

- **Lectures:**
 - Woolf and Joyce—Stream of Consciousness
 - **Readings:**
 - Virginia Woolf: Excerpt from *A Room of One’s Own* (p. 2264)
 - James Joyce: “Araby” (p. 2278)
 - **Activities:**
 - Discuss stream-of-consciousness and narrative experimentation.
 - Quiz on gender and identity in Modernist prose.
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Week 14: Postcolonial and Postmodern Literature (April 21–25, 2025)

- **Lectures:**
 - British Fiction: Rushdie
 - **Readings:**
 - Salman Rushdie: “British Indian Writer and a Dream-England” (p. 2746); “The Prophet’s Hair” (p. 3002)
 - **Activities:**
 - Analyze themes of empire, race, and identity.
 - Quiz on postcolonial critiques in British literature.
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Week 15: Contemporary Voices (April 28–May 2, 2025)

- **Lectures:**
 - New Literary Worlds
 - **Readings:**
 - Seamus Heaney: “Digging” (p. 2953)
 - Zadie Smith: “The Waiter’s Wife” (p. 3058)
 - **Activities:**
 - Discuss diversity and global perspectives in British literature.
 - Quiz on modern and contemporary themes.
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Week 16: Final Reflections (May 5–9, 2025)

- **Activities:**
 - **Literary Analysis Essay #3:** Reflect on the evolution of British literature’s treatment of identity and societal change across the three periods.
 - **Final Exam:** Cumulative exam covering Romanticism, Victorian, and Twentieth Century periods.
 - **Part 1:** Multiple-choice and short-answer questions.



- **Part 2:** Comparative essay addressing British literature's evolution in themes such as identity, societal change, and modernist techniques.