

British Literature I: Culture in Con(text)

English 261/001: British Literature up to 1800
Spring Semester 2013

Instructor: Sreya Chatterjee

Office: G-05, Colson Hall-D

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and by appointment.

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Classes will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 1:00 P.M. to 2:15 P.M. in Room 102 of Chitwood Hall-D. Conferences will be held in the Downtown Library. The time and place will be specified in class.

Course Description: British Literature I: Culture in Con(text) is a survey course that will cover British Literature up to the 1800's. The focus of this course will be in reading literary texts as political/cultural products, which can enrich our understanding of British culture and politics through the early Anglo-Saxon period, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Restoration and the Eighteenth Century. The texts chosen for this class are not "token" Brit Lit texts but truly representative of the vibrant political and literary culture of Great Britain. We will read these texts in connection to the changing characteristics of the different ages and stages of British politics and history, look at the political economy of writing as a social practice, read about individual authors and examine the social and political forces which influenced and shaped their work.

List of required texts:

1. *The Longman Anthology of British Literature*, 4th Edition Vol1A, 1B & 1C.
ISBN 9780205693337
2. *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare, Norton Critical Edition,
ISBN 9780393978193

GEC Objectives: English 261 fulfills the General Education Curriculum (GEC) requirements for Objective 3 (The Past and its Traditions: Apply knowledge, methods and principles of inquiry to understanding the past) and Objective 5 (Artistic Expression: Apply methods and principles of critical inquiry to the analysis of literary or artistic expression).

Coursework: The key texts and texts assigned for secondary reading have been carefully selected to represent the history, politics and culture of a specific in British literature. Your knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of each period will be crucial to your interpretation of the texts. Hence you are strongly encouraged to be prepared for each class by reading the assigned text/s. This class is part lecture oriented and mostly discussion based, which means you will have to be prepared to participate regularly in

discussions. The discussion sessions will comprise of one-to-one conversations with the instructor as well as group discussion sessions where you will be required to be part of a discussion group. Your active participation in these sessions will cover a part of your grade. There will be **10 quizzes** in total and 3 class tests which will also be graded separately. **The class tests** will usually comprise of “reference to context” type questions, or short questions on individual texts as well as literary periods. This course will culminate in a **take home final exam** in which you will have to write 4 essay type answers to questions of your choice, based on various texts/periods covered during the course. The final exam will cover 40% of the grade percentage. The evaluation rubric is as follows:

1. Class Participation: 20%
2. Quizzes: 10%
3. Three Class Tests: 30%
4. The Final Examination: 40%

Quizzes: There will be a total of 10 Quizzes for this class. They will be announced and given at the beginning of the class. If you arrive late or are absent for the day, you will not be permitted to re-take the Quizz.

Take Home Final Examination: For the final Examination, you will be given a list of 8 questions out of which you will be required to answer any 4. The answers will have to be 2 pages (typed, double-spaced in 12 times font) each, so you will be required to submit around 8 pages of writing for the final examination.

Attendance: You will be allowed up to two absences from this class. There will be a 10% reduction on your final grade for every subsequent absence. If you miss four or more classes you will automatically fail the course. I keep an attendance record for each and every student and I strongly encourage you not to miss any classes unless there is an emergency. If you feel you might be unable to attend on a particular day or days, please send me an email **before** class. It is entirely your responsibility for making up any missed work and keeping up with the rest of the class. If you need help with assignments however, I can meet with you in my office during office hours or by appointment.

In Class Conduct: Since this is a discussion based class, I would encourage students to regularly participate in class discussions. However, negative participation, in the form of side conversations with peers during class or the use of cell phones or laptops is strictly discouraged. If you need to use a laptop, you will need to speak to me on the very first day of class and obtain permission to do so.

Special Needs If you have a learning disability or other special need that may impact your performance in this class, please talk with me about your concerns at the start of the semester. WVU’s Disability Services is a support system designed to assist you make the most of your educational experience. I will work with those in this resource and you. If you need help with any of the assignments, please visit the WVU Writing Center which is located on the downtown campus in G-02 Colson Hall.

Office of Student Life This office can assist students who encounter difficulties during the semester. The office specializes in troubleshooting and problem solving. Located in 116 Elizabeth Moore Hall, their main telephone number is (304) 293-5611.

Social Justice. I take my responsibilities as an English 102 instructor very seriously and am committed to providing a classroom space dedicated to open communication and mutual respect. I welcome suggestions to help meet this commitment.

Detailed Course Schedule:

Weeks	Days (Tuesday and Thursday)	Assigned Reading and Key Texts
WK 1	15/01 Discussion of the Syllabus, course policies and procedures, evaluation rubric and overview of major assignments. History of English Literature—an Introduction to the Timeline of British Literature and overview of various periods from the early Anglo-Saxon prose and poetry up to the 1800's.	Read <i>The Longman Anthology Vol1A</i> pages 7-19 as Homework for next class.
	17/01 Discussion on the socio-political conditions before the Norman Conquest. Introduction to early Anglo-Saxon Prose and Poetry. Introduction to “Beowulf”.	Read “Beowulf” pages 36-107 in <i>The Longman Anthology Vol1A</i> for Homework.
WK 2	22/01 Discussion of “Beowulf” and introduction to Old English Poetry, “Judith” and “The Dream of the Rood”.	Read pages 142- 152 in <i>The Longman Anthology</i> , Vol1A.
	24/01 Introduction to and detailed discussion of Anglo-Saxon Prose, pages 154-168. Anglo-Saxon Poetry—“The Wanderer”, page 172-175.	Reading for today, “The Wanderer”, page 172-175 in <i>The Longman</i> . Reading for next week, pages 182-199 in <i>The Longman</i> .

WK 3	<p>29/01 Arthurian Romance and the emergence of the feudal order in Britain. The place of the Arthurian Legend in British Literature. Introduction to “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight” Discussion of dominant themes and ideas.</p> <p>31/01 Introduction to Geoffrey Chaucer’s “The Canterbury Tales” Introduction to Middle English Prose. Discussion of “The General Prologue” and “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale”</p>	<p>Reading for the class- Pages 219-221 in <i>The Longman Anthology</i>.</p> <p>Reading for this class- pages 312-317. Background to Chaucer and pages 375-403, “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale” in The Longman. (Excerpts to be specified)</p>
WK 4	<p>05/02 Introduction to William Langland. “Piers Plowman” and the Rising of 1381.</p>	<p>Read pages 442-445 as Introduction to Langland and “The Prologue” to “Piers Plowman”, pages, 445-447 in <i>The Longman Anthology Vol1A</i>. (Excerpts to be specified)</p>
	<p>07/02 Class Test 1: Old English and Middle English Period.</p>	
WK 5	<p>12/02 Introduction to the Early Modern Period. Discussion of the socio-political background, The Humanist Renaissance and Early Modern Society. Reading More’s “Utopia”</p>	<p>Reading for this class, pages 627-649 in The Longman, Vol1B. Read pages 714-716 from <i>The Longman Vol1B</i>.</p>
WK 6	<p>14/02 Introduction to Elizabethan Drama- Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare.</p>	<p>Text for next class <i>The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus</i> pages 1111-1160 in <i>The Longman</i>, Vol1B.</p>
WK 6	<p>19/02</p>	<p>Read the Introduction to William</p>

<p>Wk 7</p>	<p>Christopher Marlowe's <i>The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus</i> Shakespeare</p> <p>21/02 Introduction to William Shakespeare.</p> <p>26/02 Shakespeare's "The Tempest", reading in class.</p> <p>28/02 Class Discussion of "The Tempest" to be continued.</p>	<p>Shakespeare in <i>The Longman</i>, pages 1199-1202, Vol1B, for Homework. Reading for next week, "The Tempest" (Norton Critical Edition). Homework: Reading from the Norton Critical Edition to be specified in class.</p> <p>Reading for today, "The Tempest" Act I-III</p> <p>Reading for today "The Tempest" Act III-Act V and "Epilogue"</p>
<p>Wk 8</p>	<p>(March 1st is Mid-term point)</p> <p>05/03 Introduction to Ben Jonson. <i>The Longman Anthology</i> page 1466. Plays and poems by Ben Jonson. Textual reading for the day- Ben Jonson's, "To the Memory of my Beloved, the Author, Mr. William Shakespeare and What He Hath Left us" Page 1573.</p>	<p>Reading for the class, Ben Jonson's "To the Memory of my Beloved, the Author, Mr. William Shakespeare and What He Hath Left us" Page 1573 in <i>The Longman</i> Vol1B.</p>
<p>Wk 9</p>	<p>07/03 Conferences with students.</p> <p>12/03 Shakespeare's Sonnets from Longman, pages 1203-1215. Sonnets 18, 33, 73, 106 and 116.</p> <p>14/03 Metaphysical poets—John Donne and Andrew Marvell. Selected poetry of John Donne: "The Good Morrow", "The Sun Rising", "The Canonization", "The Funeral" and "The Relic" Selected poetry of Andrew Marvell: "To His Coy Mistress."</p>	

WK 10	<p>19/03 "Paradise Lost" Book1 pp1726-1747. Lines 1-330.</p> <p>21/03 "Paradise Lost" Lines 330-798 (End of Book 1).</p>	<p>Reading for this class, Historical Background: The Civil War and "Introduction" to John Milton pp 1698-1701.</p>
WK11	<p>Spring Recess March 23rd to March 31st</p> <p>02/04 Class Test 2- Metaphysical Poets, Shakespeare's Sonnet's and Questions on the required reading for the class.</p> <p>The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century- historical and socio-political scenario, leading figures, an overview. Introduction John Dryden and Aphra Behn.</p> <p>04/04 Dryden "Absalom and Achitophel" pp2076-2102.</p>	<p>Required reading for this class- "Introduction", The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century, pp1985-2008 in <i>The Longman</i>, Vol1C.</p>
WK12	<p>09/04 Journalistic Writing- Addison and Steele. Journalism and mass culture in the Restoration Period.</p> <p>11/04 Jonathan Swift <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> "Introduction"</p>	<p>Reading for this class- "Reading Papers" pp 2310-2337</p>
WK 13	<p>16/04 Alexander Pope (1688-1744) "Introduction" pp2438-2440. Rape of the Lock- a discussion.</p> <p>18/04 The Rape of the Lock discussion continues.</p>	<p>Reading for the class- Jonathan Swift <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> in <i>The Longman</i> Vol1C (Excerpts to be specified) Reading for this class-"The Rape of the Lock"Cantos 1&2 pp 2472-2479 in <i>The Longman</i> Vol1C.</p> <p>Reading for this class, Cantos, 3, 4 and 5, pp2479-2491 in <i>The Longman</i>,</p>

<p>WK 14</p>	<p>23/04 Conferences</p> <p>25/04 Class Test3 on: Dryden, Addison and Steele and Swift. Introduction to John Gay, “The Beggar’s Opera”.</p>	<p>Vol1C.</p> <p>Reading for this class- pp 2555-2603 in <i>The Longman</i>, Vol1C.</p>
<p>WK 15</p>	<p>30/04 Discussion on John Gay’s “The Beggar’s Opera” continues. Final Quizz.</p> <p>02/05 Looking Back over the ages, a review of British History and Literature across the ages. Discussion about the Final Examination. Distribution of Final Examination questions.</p> <p>Final Examination Response sheets to be submitted to Instructor between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Monday</p> <p>(Final Examination Week) Final Grades for English 261 will be uploaded on MIX by May 11th</p>	