

British Literature I: The Literary/Literal World(s) Within and Without

ENGL 261/001: British Literature to 1800
Spring 2012, MWF 9:30-10:20 AM
White Hall, G06

Instructor Aaron Matthew Percich

E-mail apercich@mix.wvu.edu

Office Colson Hall, G05

Office Hours Monday and Wednesday: 11:30-12:30 **and by appointment**

Course Description: This course will survey works drawn from the first 1,000 years of the British literary tradition. Although rooted in the historical geography of Britain—encompassing England, Wales, and Scotland—the British literary tradition is neither insularly British nor a single tradition. This course will demonstrate how the earliest foundations and developments in British literature were possible because of a variety of diverse, and at times global, connections to other cultures and worlds that forged British literary traditions. Our readings will examine the influences that created these traditions, including, but not limited to: Irish, Welsh, Scottish, Continental, African, and various other global literary influences. From the beginning, British literature has been interconnected, influenced, and interrogated by the wider world surrounding its limited geography. “Foreign” cultures, “foreign” experiences, and “foreign” worlds all constitute a diverse, global literary tradition that we refer to today as “British.”

Required Texts: (you must purchase the required editions)

Early Irish Myths and Sagas – translated by Jeffrey Gantz **ISBN-13:** 978-0140443974
The Longman Anthology of British Literature – Volumes 1A, 1B, 1C **ISBN-13:** 978-0205693337
The Táin – translated by Thomas Kinsella **ISBN-13:** 978-0192803733
The Tempest: The Oxford Shakespeare – William Shakespeare **ISBN-13:** 978-0199535903

Important: This course is centrally focused around reading and discussion. Your grade will be heavily determined by your ability to keep up with the required reading, closely analyze the literature, and intelligently engage these materials in class. Close reading is vital to understanding the material in order to have success during discussion, quizzes, responses and tests; budget your time accordingly.

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). English 261 fulfills requirements for the English major and minor. Please note: English 101 and English 102 (or equivalents) are not prerequisites for English 261, but they will enable your success in this course.

Coursework: Assigned readings are due for the day they are listed on the syllabus. On days when you have a “light” reading load, I would strongly encourage you to read ahead. Some

material is written in older languages and/or is dense; careful, thorough reading will allow you to understand each work. Your grade will break down as follows:

- Participation (30%)
- Quizzes and Critical Responses (20%)
- Midterm Exam (25%)
- Final Exam (25%)

Quizzes: These will be unannounced and given at the beginning of the class. If you arrive late to class, or you are absent from class, you will not be allowed to make up missed quizzes. There will be approximately nine quizzes and I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

Critical Responses: These will be assigned on Mondays and due to eCampus by Thursday night. Critical responses must be submitted as attachments, either Microsoft Word documents or rich text files. Additionally, they should be formatted with one-inch margins, double-spacing, and Times New Roman, 12-point font. A proper heading should include your name, the date, and the course. Each response should be 1-2 pages and they should focus on a specific passage from one of the works assigned during the week. There will be a total of four Critical Responses assigned. Missed responses cannot be made up.

There will be no extra credit in this course. You must take the midterm and final exam in order to pass the course. The final exam cannot be rescheduled.

Attendance: You are allowed three absences without penalty; I don't care how your absences are "used": illness, appointments, medical emergencies, skipping, etc. If you miss class I expect an email within 24 hours requesting any work missed, but I do not expect a note or any excuse, unless you will be missing multiple classes in a row. Each class you miss past the third will result in a 10% reduction to your participation grade. I keep track of attendance and I would strongly suggest you don't miss class unless it is an emergency.

In-Class Conduct: I expect everyone in my class to embrace principles of social justice. Everyone in my class will be respectful to each other regardless of religion, race, politics, class, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, etc. If you are disruptive during class I reserve the right to ask you to leave. Once you enter the classroom, please turn off your cell phone and put it away; I am mindful of the time and will dismiss everyone on-time. If you must use the restroom during class you do not have to ask, just please leave the classroom quietly and without disruption.

Course Schedule:

Week	Required Reading
M 1/9	Course Introductions: Syllabus
W 1/11	“The Middle Ages at a Glance” & “Introduction,” pp. 2-32 in <i>LABL IA</i> & “Introduction,” pp. 1-27 in <i>EIM&S</i>
F 1/13	“The Wooing of Etain”, pp. 37-59 & “The Dream of Oengus”, pp. 107-112 in <i>EIM&S</i>
M 1/16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO CLASS
W 1/18	“The Cattle Raid of Froech,” pp. 113-126 & “The Boyhood Deeds of Cu Chulaind,” pp. 130-146 & “The Tale of Macc Da Tho’s Pig,” pp. 179-187 & “Bricriu’s Feast,” pp. 219-255 in <i>EIM&S</i>
F 1/20	<i>The Tain</i> Introduction, pp. IX-XVII & “Before The Tain,” pp. 1-50
M 1/23	<i>The Tain</i> , pp. 51-156
W 1/25	<i>The Tain</i> , pp. 156-205
F 1/27	<i>The Tain</i> , pp. 205-253
M 1/30	“The Dream of the Rood,” pp. 148-152 & Taliesin: “Introduction” and poetry, pp. 168- 172 in <i>LABL IA</i>
W 2/1	Marie de France: “Arthurian Romance,” pp. 200-201 & <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , pp. 219-247 in <i>LABL IA</i>
F 2/3	Marie de France: <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , pp. 247-277 in <i>LABL IA</i>
M 2/6	Geoffrey Chaucer: “Introduction” & “The General Prologue,” pp. 312-357 in <i>LABL IA</i>
W 2/8	Geoffrey Chaucer: “The Miller’s Prologue and Tale,” pp. 358-374 in <i>LABL IA</i>
F 2/10	The York Play of the Crucifixion, pp. 521-529 & Dafydd ap Gwilym: “Introduction” and poetry, pp. 566-573 in <i>LABL IA</i>
M 2/13	“The Early Modern Period at a Glance,” pp. 622-650 in <i>LABL IB</i>
W 2/15	Sir Philip Sidney: “Introduction,” pp. 998-999 & from “Astrophil and Stella,” pp. 680- 697 in <i>LABL IB</i>
F 2/17	William Baldwin: <i>Beware the Cat</i> , pp. 790-822 in <i>LABL IB</i>
M 2/20	Thomas Moore: <i>Utopia</i> , pp. 714-789 in <i>LABL IB</i>
W 2/22	“Perspectives: Early Modern Books” & Elizabeth I: Introduction and Selections, pp. 1061-1085 in <i>LABL IB</i>

F 2/24	Mid-Term Exam
Week	Required Reading
M 2/27	Christopher Marlowe: "Introduction" & <i>Hero and Leander</i> , pp. 1091-1110 in <i>LABL 1B</i>
W 2/29	Christopher Marlowe: <i>The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus</i> , pp. 1110-1160 in <i>LABL 1B</i>
F 3/2	Sir Walter Raleigh: "Introduction," pp. 1163 & <i>Discovery of the Large, Rich and Beautiful Empire of Guiana (Web)</i> & "Perspectives: England, Britain, and the World", pp. 1173-1199 in <i>LABL 1B</i>
M 3/5	William Shakespeare: "Introduction," pp. 1199-1203 in <i>LABL 1B</i> & <i>The Tempest</i> "Introduction", pp. 1-87
W 3/7	William Shakespeare: <i>The Tempest</i> , pp. 97-151
F 3/9	William Shakespeare: <i>The Tempest</i> , pp. 152-205
M 3/12	Shakespeare: "the dark lady" sonnets, pp. 1212-1215 & Ben Johnson: "Introduction" and poetry, pp. 1466-1468 & 1567-1574 in <i>LABL 1B</i>
W 3/14	Instructor at Conference – George Herbert: "Introduction" and poetry, pp. 1626-1639 in <i>LABL 1B</i>
F 3/16	Instructor at Conference – Robert Herrick: "Introduction" and poetry, pp. 1618-1625 & Henry Vaughan: "Introduction" and poetry, pp. 1644-1653 in <i>LABL 1B</i>
M 3/19	John Donne: "Introduction," pp. 1586-1588 & selected poetry: "The Good Morrow", "Song", "Twickenham Garden", "The Sun Rising", "Love's Alchemy", "The Flea", "The Apparition", "The Ecstasy", and "The Funeral" in <i>LABL 1B</i>
W 3/21	John Milton: "Introduction," pp. 1698-1701 & <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 1, pp. 1726-1747 in <i>LABL 1B</i>
F 3/23	John Milton: <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 2, pp. 1748-1772 in <i>LABL 1B</i>
3/24-4/1	Spring Recess
M 4/2	"The Restoration At A Glance," pp. 1981-2009 in <i>LABL 1C</i>
W 4/4	Samuel Pepys: <i>from</i> The Diary, pp. 2010-2038 & Margaret Cavendish: "Introduction," pp. 2058-2059 & "from The Description of a New Blazing World," pp. 2070-2074 in <i>LABL 1C</i>
F 4/6	Friday Before Easter Recess - NO CLASS
M 4/9	John Dryden: "Introduction" and <i>Absalom and Achitophel</i> , pp. 2074-2102 in <i>LABL 1C</i>
W 4/11	Aphra Behn: <i>Oroonoko</i> , pp. 2137-2177 in <i>LABL 1C</i>
F 4/13	Daniel Defoe: "A True Relation" and "A Journal of the Plague Year," pp. 2293-2309 in <i>LABL 1C</i>

Week	Required Reading
M 4/16	Jonathan Swift: "Introduction," pp. 2337-2339 & "from Journal to Stella," pp. 2365-2370 & <i>A Modest Proposal</i> , pp. 2430-2438 in <i>LABL 1C</i>
W 4/18	Alexander Pope: "Introduction" pp. 2438-2440 & <i>Windsor-Forest</i> , pp. 2458-2470 in <i>LABL 1C</i>
F 4/20	Alexander Pope: <i>The Rape of the Lock</i> , pp. 2470-2491 in <i>LABL 1C</i>
M 4/23	James Thomson: "Introduction" and poetry, pp. 2645-2665 in <i>LABL 1C</i>
W 4/25	Lady Mary Wortley Montagu: "Introduction" and "The Turkish Embassy Letters" pp. 2543-2548 & Samuel Johnson: "Introduction" and <i>The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia</i> , pp. 2674-2677 & 2718-2727 in <i>LABL 1C</i>
F 4/27	John Gay: <i>The Beggar's Opera</i> , pp. 2555-2603 in <i>LABL 1C</i>

Final Examination:

Monday, April 30, 8:00-10:00 AM