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:
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 18th 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)  

**Jan 24**  
Swift “A Modest Proposal” (2473)

**Jan 26**  
“Restoration and the 18th century” (2053-58); Pope, “The Rape of the Lock”(2527-2544)

**Jan 29**  
Johnson Rasselas (2679-2686) **Discussion:** What is the 18th century’s vision of poetic greatness?

**Jan 31**  
Turn in narratives. Gray “Elegy written in a Country Churchyard” (2830)

**Feb 2**  

**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 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 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 Dorian Gray” (1697) Hardy “Drummer Hodge” (1870), “The Darkling Thrush” (1870)  
**Discussion:** The Late Victorians/ Writing Literary History  
Mar 28  Second exam  
Apr 2-6  Woolf, *To The Lighthouse*  
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, *To The Lighthouse*  
Apr 11  Eliot “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (2289), *The Wasteland,* (2295) *To The Lighthouse*  
Apr 13  Eliot “Tradition and the Individual Talent”(2319) **Discussion:** Eliot and Yeats: What is poetry?  
Apr 16  V. Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own* Chapter One (2092) Finish *To The Lighthouse*  
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