

English 212: British Literature (Romantics to Present)

Monday 5:00-7:30 pm, CCC 213 (Spring 2022)

Instructor: Dr. Dejan Kuzmanovic, dkuzmano@uwsp.edu

Office: Collins Classroom Center 427

Office Hours: Mon 1:30-2:30, Tue 3:00-4:00, and Zoom meetings by appointment

By [the order of UWSP Chancellor](#), all students, employees and visitors must wear face masks inside campus buildings until further notice. Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in withdrawal from the course. Rare exceptions must be approved by the Disabilities and Assistive Technologies Center (DATC@uwsp.edu). For other COVID-related UWSP policies and practices, visit <https://www.uwsp.edu/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>.

SAFE SPACE:

A classroom must be a safe space for all students. Showing respect for every individual – regardless of their age, sex, race, ethnicity, religious or political opinions, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other forms of difference – is essential for everyone’s success and wellbeing. Please follow the Golden Rule: treat others as you expect to be treated!

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

English 212 surveys British literature from approximately 1785 until recent years. You will read exemplary texts in all major genres to explore the richness and diversity of this literary tradition. The course combines lectures, in-class discussions, and Canvas activities. You will study literary forms and concepts but also pay attention to how literature reflects and influences cultural issues, such as industrialization, class, religion, science, gender, sexuality, imperialism, wars, and more.

REQUIRED READINGS (rental in the Campus Bookstore):

- Stephen Greenblatt (ed.), *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: Volumes D-F*.
- Required readings/viewings include all materials posted in Canvas.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY :

Test 1: Romantic Literature	250 points
Test 2: Victorian Literature	250 points
Test 3: Twentieth-Century Literature	250 points
Attendance & Canvas Activities	250 points

To pass the course, you must:

- Earn at least 610 points. That is almost impossible if you miss one of the tests.
- Miss no more than 4 class meetings, except in the case of prolonged illness.
- Avoid being inactive in Canvas for more than 4 weeks during the semester.

This does *not* mean that there are no penalties for the first four absences or weeks of inactivity. They are explained below. This information merely defines what will cause failing the course.

ATTENDANCE & CANVAS ACTIVITIES

A = 230-240 points	B = 202-210 points	C = 178-186 points	D = 154-162 points
A- = 220-229 points	B- = 194-201 points	C- = 171-177 points	D- + 146-153 points
B+ = 211-219 points	C+ = 187-193 points	D+ = 163-170 points	F = 0-145 points

All students will automatically receive 10 welcome points to bring the DWG total to 250.

Attendance: You can earn 6 points every week by being present in class – in body *and* in mind! Students who doze off, repeatedly check their phones, or appear inattentive in other ways will receive fewer, if any, points for that day. **Please turn off all electronic devices** unless you use them only for taking notes. Texting, emailing, or Web browsing in class is not allowed because it will distract you and others from class activities. This is an easy way to **earn up to 90 points**. Absences will mean not only losing points, but also having a harder time studying for the tests.

Canvas Activities: There will be 1-2 simple Canvas assignments each week worth 5-10 points: reading quizzes, discussion posts, or short written responses. That will amount to approximately 50 points per unit and **150 points for the semester**.

Extra points for in-class participation: I will not force anyone to contribute to class discussion, but I certainly encourage it. At my discretion, I will award **up to 20 extra points** to the students who make a strong effort to participate. Keep in mind: you do not need to have brilliant ideas; any relevant thought or question is valuable. Step outside of your comfort zone and speak up!

If you miss more than 4 class sessions or 4 weeks of Canvas activities, you'll fail the course. I might excuse one absence for documented medical reasons or official university business. If you do miss class, you will find all PowerPoint notes, handouts, and assignments in Canvas. You should ask a classmate to see their notes. Then you could email me if you have questions.

Email will work only for simple and quick information. For a substantial conversation about the readings, assignments, or other activities, come to my office hours or set up a Zoom meeting.

TESTS

The tests will consist of multiple-choice questions (including identification of quoted passages), short-response questions, and mini essays. They will be based on the readings, the lectures, and class discussions. So, you should attend regularly, participate, and take notes.

There will be specific instructions for each test. Test 1 will focus on Romantic literature, Test 2 on Victorian literature, and Test 3 on twentieth-century literature. Each test is scheduled for a particular date, and you may not take it on a different day, unless I pre-approve it.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES (GEP: Humanities)

- Read closely, think critically, and write effectively about texts or cultural artifacts that reflect on perennial questions concerning the human condition (such as the search for truth and meaning, the confrontation with suffering and mortality, or the struggle for justice, equality, and human dignity).
- Investigate and thoughtfully respond to a variety of ideas, beliefs or values held by persons in situations other than one's own.

- Identify and analyze how culturally specific beliefs, values, and events shape literary works, as well as how literary works impact the culture in which they are produced.
- Identify and describe various literary concepts and approaches to the study of literature.

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS:

Being a Pointer entails rights and responsibilities. You should be familiar with the UWSP policies regarding student conduct: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>.

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct are serious violations. Read about academic integrity: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/AcademicIntegrityBrochure.pdf>. If unsure whether certain actions are appropriate or not, please feel free to talk to me about it.

You have the right to be free from physical or verbal harassment: Bullying is unacceptable. Be aware of the policies regarding sexual assault and incidents of bias or hate, and how to report them (<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Bias-Hate-Incident.aspx>). You can report (anonymously if you prefer) any incident of interpersonal violence or bias-based hateful behavior.

Copyright Note: All lecture materials and recordings are protected intellectual property. You may use them only for personal use related to class participation. Copying or sharing lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting them online or selling them to commercial entities constitutes illegal copyright infringement and violates university policies.

Names and Pronouns: Let me know if you would like to be addressed by a different name from the one in official records or if you identify with pronouns other than “he” and “she” (ex.: “ze” or “they”). Please join me in doing our best to respect other people’s self-identification choices. If you want to learn more about why pronouns matter, visit <https://www.mypronouns.org/>.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

This is the plan, but plans have a way of changing. You will always find the most up-to-date information about required readings and assignments on the Canvas page for each week.

This schedule includes only the longer readings, which you must completed before class. We will read additional shorter texts together in class.

Always bring the book to class so you can follow the lecture and participate in discussion. Unless otherwise noted, all readings are from *The Norton Anthology*. I do not include page numbers because I am not sure which edition will be available in the bookstore. You can easily find each reading by looking up the author and the title in the Table of Contents.

In Unit 1, each class session will be divided into three segments: 1) Discussing at-home readings, 2) Discussing in-class readings, and 3) Viewing and discussing a film based on a British novel. Depending on who well this strategy works, we may or may not continue it in Units 2 and 3.

UNIT 1 – ROMANTIC LITERATURE (Volume D)

Recommended: “The Romantic Period: Introduction” and the bios of William Blake, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Percy Bysshe Shelley, John Keats, and Jane Austen

Please see the previous page for a clarification of this tentative schedule.

Unit 1 Film: *Pride and Prejudice* (2005, Dir. Joe Wright) – We will watch it over several weeks.
Available for streaming with UWSP ID: <https://digitalcampus.swankmp.net/uwsp299375/watch/E13B690D1D35F0F7?referrer=direct>

- Jan. 24 Introductions to Course and Romantic Literature
- Jan. 31 John Polidori, “The Vampyre” (in Canvas)
- Feb. 7 William Wordsworth, “Michael”
- Feb. 14 Practice Test
- Feb. 21 Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”
- Feb. 28 **TEST 1** & Introduction to Victorian Literature

UNIT 2 – VICTORIAN LITERATURE (Volume E)

Recommended: “The Victorian Age” and the bios of Lord Alfred Tennyson, R. L. Stevenson, Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Christina Rossetti, Oscar Wilde, and Charles Dickens

- Mar. 7 Thomas Henry Huxley, “Agnosticism and Christianity”
Matthew Arnold, from *Culture and Anarchy*
- Mar. 14 “The Woman Question” & Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh*, selections
- Mar. 21 **No class! Enjoy Spring Break! Have fun! Be safe!**
- Mar. 28 R. L. Stevenson, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
- Apr. 4 Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- Apr. 11 **TEST 2** & Lecture on Modernism

UNIT 3 – TWENTIETH-CENTURY LITERATURE (Volume F)

Recommended: “The Twentieth Century” and the bios of Virginia Woolf, Katherine Mansfield, T. S. Eliot, E. M. Forster, Nadine Gordimer, Hanif Kureishi, and Bernardine Evaristo.

- Apr. 18 Virginia Woolf, “Modern Fiction” & *Mrs Dalloway* (first half)
- Apr. 25 Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway* (second half)
- May 2 Virginia Woolf, “Professions for Women”
Katherine Mansfield, “The Daughters of the Late Colonel”
- May 9 Nadine Gordimer, “The Moment before the Gun Went Off”
Hanif Kureishi, “My Son the Fanatic”
Bernardine Evaristo, *Girl, Woman, Other*, Chapter 1 (in Canvas)

TEST 3: Thursday, May 19, 5:00-7:00 p.m.