**English 212.2: British Literature (Romantics to Present)**

**Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15 pm, CCC 104**

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

Office: Collins Classroom Center 427 (346-4719)

Office Hours: Mon 2:30-3:30, Tue 12:30-1:30, Thu 6:00-7:00, and by appointment

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

English 212 is a survey of British literature from approximately 1785 until the late twentieth century. We will study representative literary texts in all major genres in order to explore the richness and diversity of British literary tradition. The course combines in-class discussions, D2L activities, and lectures on varied topics in British political, intellectual, and literary history.

We will pay close attention to literary forms and concepts but also look at the ways in which literary texts reflect and impact a variety of historical events and cultural issues, such as industrialization, class, religion, science, gender, sexuality, imperialism, wars, and others.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

**This course meets the General Education Program Humanities requirement (GEP: HU)** or the GDR: HU2 requirement under the old General Education program.

Upon the completion of the course, students will be able to:

* Demonstrate an ability to approach literary works critically and to express their interpretations and aesthetic evaluations of them in a clear and supported manner.
* 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.
* Engage a variety of worldviews critically and ethically by making an imaginative leap outside of their own perspective to consider experiences and positions different from theirs.
* Identify and describe various literary concepts and approaches to the study of literature.

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

* Stephen Greenblatt (ed.), *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: Volumes D-F*.

(9th ed.), W. W. Norton, 2012. ([http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/)](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/)

All three volumes of this anthology are available for **rental** in the Campus Bookstore.

* Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Dover Thrift Edition) – **purchase** in the Campus Bookstore.
* Required readings also include my PowerPoint lectures and occasional handouts.

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY:**

% of the course grade

Test 1: Romantic Literature 20%

Test 2: Victorian Literature 20%

Test 3: Twentieth-Century Literature 20%

Daily Work Grade (attendance, in-class discussions, reading quizzes) 20%

Writing Assignments (six informal two-page papers) 20%

**TESTS:**

The tests will consist of multiple-choice questions (including identification of quoted passages) and mini-essay responses. They will be based on the information in your books as well as on lectures and class discussions, so you should take notes. You will receive more specific instructions before each test. Test 1 will focus on Romantic literature (1786-1830), Test 2 on Victorian literature (1830-1901), and Test 3 on the 20th-century literature. Each test is scheduled for a particular date, and you may not take it on a different day, unless that is preapproved.

**DAILY WORK GRADE:**

**This grade will be based on** **attendance, in-class discussions, and pop-up reading quizzes. You are strongly encouraged to attend the class regularly, keep up with the readings, complete all homework assignments, and actively participate in class discussions**.

Irregular attendance will make it harder for you to understand the readings and prepare for the tests. Active participation in class discussions and other activities will make both much easier, so come to class prepared and ready to ask questions and exchange ideas. You will need a notebook for lecture notes, your own thoughts about the readings, and various in-class exercises.

There will be frequent **pop-up reading quizzes**, with a few simple and factual questions which anyone who has done the readings will be able to answer correctly. Since these quizzes are meant to gauge your preparation for a particular class, they cannot be made up later.

I will assign your **Daily Work Grade** based on this policy:

**Attendance** **Class** **Participation Reading Quizzes** **Grade**

1-2 absences frequent outstanding (++) A / A-

3 absences occasional good (+) B+ / B / B-

4 absences rare mostly satisfying () C+ / C / C-

5 absences only when asked mostly unsatisfying (-) D+ / D

6-7 absences F

**More than 7 absences will lead to failing the course**. I can only excuse absences due to medical emergency or official university business, which would require written documentation.

If you miss a class, you should obtain the assignments and handouts from me or from D2L. Take a look at a classmate’s notes to see what you missed. Check D2L and your e-mail regularly for any updates. And always feel free to email me with quick questions or to make an appointment.

**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:**

There are no formal papers in this class. Instead, you will write **six informal two-page papers**, which will allow you to practice specific skills of literary analysis and express your own views about the readings, as well as help you prepare for the tests. In these papers, you should apply what you learn from lectures and discussions, but also go beyond transcribing lecture notes. They should show your careful reading of literary texts and an ability to analyze them independently.

For each paper you can earn up to 7 points for a total of 42 points. I will show you a rubric used for evaluating the papers. The failure to turn it in, plagiarism, or complete miscomprehension of the text will yield 0 points. The overall writing assignments grade will be determined as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A = 38-42 pts | A- = 35-37 pts | B+ = 32-34 pts | B = 28-31 pts | B- = 25-27 pts |
| C+ = 22-24 pts | C = 18-21 pts | C- = 15-17 pts | D+ = 12-14 pts | D = 8-11 pts |

**ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS:**

**Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct are serious violations.** Please familiarize yourself with UWSP Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures (<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf> ). If you are unsure whether certain action is appropriate or not, please feel free to talk to me about it.

**All members of the campus community have the right to be free from physical or verbal harassment of any kind.** Become familiar with UWSPCommunity Bill of Rights and Responsibilities (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>) and be aware of Bias/Hate Incident Reporting Form (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Bias-Hate-Incident.aspx>), which can be used to report (anonymously, if preferred) any bias/hate incidents a student experiences or witnesses, such as sexual assault and blatantly racist or homophobic behavior. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at UWSP, and it is your right and duty to report it.

**The classroom should be a safe space for all students**, which requires appropriate classroom conduct. 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. Treat others as you would like to be treated!

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, UWSP provides accommodations allowing people with disabilities to participate in and benefit from all its programs and services. I am committed to **accommodating students with a documented disability**. For the procedure and paperwork, please contact UWSP Disability Services (Learning Resource Center, Room 609, [datctr@uwsp.edu](mailto:datctr@uwsp.edu), <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/toQualifyForDisabilityServices.aspx>).

**Please turn off all electronic devices** unless you use them for the sole purpose of taking notes. Texting, emailing, or Web browsing in class is not allowed because it will distract both you and others from class activities. Being inattentive will adversely impact your Daily Work Grade.

The English Department policy is that students may not make audio, video, or photographic recordings of lectures or other class activities without written permission from the instructor.

**READING SCHEDULE:**

**All readings must be completed before the assigned date.** Pop-up quizzes and in-class activities may be based on any reading(s) assigned for that day. It is literary texts themselves that matter the most, but reading biographical and editorial notes is also highly recommended.

**Please always bring the readings to class.** All page numbers refer to *The* *Norton Anthology*, except for *Frankenstein*. At times we may study in class short texts that are not listed in the schedule. They might be on the tests, so if you miss a class, take a look at a classmate’s notes.

**UNIT 1 – ROMANTIC LITERATURE (Volume D)**

# As you can during weeks 1-5, I highly recommend that you read “The Romantic Period: Introduction” (3-27), as well as the bios of Blake (112-114), Wordsworth (270-272), Coleridge (437-439), Percy Bysshe Shelley (748-751), Keats (901-903), and Mary Shelley (981-983).

# **Week 1:** Romantic Reaction to the Enlightenment Philosophy and Neoclassicism

# 9/6 Introduction to the course

# 9/8 William Blake, poems (118-130)

**Week 2:** Romantic Politics and Poetics: Revolution and Literary Innovation

9/13 William Wordsworth, “Lines” [often called “Tintern Abbey”] (288-292), “Michael” (320-330)

9/15 Percy Bysshe Shelley, “Ode to the West Wind” (791-793) & “To a Sky-Lark” (834-835)

**Writing Assignment 1 is due in D2L by 6 pm on Monday, 9/19.**

**Week 3:** Romantic Themes and Forms: Odes and Ballads about Nature and the Human Mind

9/20 John Keats, “Ode to a Nightingale” (927-929) & “Ode on a Grecian Urn” (930-931)

9/22 Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” Parts 1-4 (443-451)

**Practice Test (30 minutes, in class)**

**Weeks 4-5:** Romantic Individualism and Gothic Fiction

9/27 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, through Chapter VIII (1-60)

9/29 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, Chapters IX-XVII (61-108)

**Writing Assignment 2 is due in D2L by 6 pm on Monday, 10/3.**

10/4 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, Chapters XVIII-XXIV (108-166)

10/6 **TEST 1**

**UNIT 2 – VICTORIAN LITERATURE (Volume E)**

# I highly recommend that, as you can during weeks 6-10, you read “The Victorian Age” (1017-1041) and the bios of Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1123-1124), Alfred Tennyson (1156-1159), Christina Rossetti (1489-1490), R. L. Stevenson (1675-1677), and Oscar Wilde (1720-1721).

**Week 6:** Victorian Debates about Religion and Science

10/11 Thomas Henry Huxley, “Agnosticism and Christianity” (1458-1462)

Lord Alfred Tennyson, *In Memoriam*: introduction and introductory poem (1186-1188)

and poems 8, 21, 50, 54, 55, 56 (various pages between 1192 and 1207)

10/13 Lord Alfred Tennyson, *In Memoriam*: poems 108, 118, 120, 123, 129, 130 (various pages between 1227 and 1233) & “Ulysses” (1170-1172)

**Writing Assignment 3 is due in D2L by 6 pm on Monday, 10/17.**

**Week 7:** Victorian Debates about Gender Roles and Identities

10/18 Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh*, from Books 1 & 2 (1138-1150)

Robert Browning, “My Last Duchess” (1282-1283)

The “Woman Question” (1607-1614 & 1630-1636)

10/20 Christina Rossetti, “Goblin Market” (1496-1508)

**Week 8:** Victorian Debates about the Duality of Human Nature

10/25 Matthew Arnold, from *Culture and Anarchy* (1418-1425)

R. L. Stevenson, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1677-1695)

10/27 R. L. Stevenson, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1695-1719)

**Writing Assignment 4 is due in D2L by 6 pm on Monday, 10/31.**

**Week 9:** Late-Victorian Aestheticism and Decadence

11/1 Walter Pater, from *Studies in the History of the Renaissance* (1538-1545)

Oscar Wilde, bio and poems (1720-1723)

Ernest Dowson, bio and poems (1883-1884)

11/3 **TEST 2**

**Week 10:** Satirical Critique of Victorian Values and Genres

11/8 Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1734-1756)

11/10 Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1757-1777)

**Writing Assignment 5 is due in D2L by 6 pm on Monday, 11/14.**

**UNIT 3 – TWENTIETH-CENTURY LITERATURE (Volume F)**

# I highly recommend that, as you can during weeks 11-13, you read “The Twentieth Century and After” (1887-1910) and the biographies of Virginia Woolf (2143-2144), T. S. Eliot (2521-2524), E. M. Forster (2121-2122), and Katherine Mansfield (2332-2333).

**Week 11:** Ghosts of the Past: New Freedom and Lingering Prejudice

11/15 Virginia Woolf, “Professions for Women” (2152-2155)

Katherine Mansfield, “The Daughters of the Late Colonel” (2333-2346)

11/17 E. M. Forster, “The Other Boat” (2122-2142)

**Week 12:** The Sense of Crisis in War and Peace

11/22 Voices from World War I (2016-2018)

Rupert Brooke, bio & “The Soldier” (2018-2019)

Siegfried Sassoon, bio & “’They’” (2023-2024), “Glory of Women” (2025)

Wilfred Owen, bio & “Anthem for Doomed Youth” (2034-2035),

“Dulce Et Decorum Est” (2037), “Strange Meeting” (2038-2039),

“Owen’s Letter to His Mother” & “Preface” (2041-2042)

T. S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (2524-2527)

11/24 No class! **Happy Thanksgiving!**

**Week 13:** Modernist Experiments: Subjectivity, Flux, Fragmentation

11/29 Virginia Woolf, “Modern Fiction” (2150-2155) & *Mrs. Dalloway* (2155-2182)

12/1 Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (2182-2213)

**Writing Assignment 6 is due in D2L by 6 pm on Monday, 12/5.**

**Weeks 14-15:** Recent Voices

The schedule for the last two weeks will be announced later because we need flexibility in case of slower pace of work or cancelled classes. The readings will consist of a selection of texts from the second half of the twentieth century, including those by authors from former British colonies.

**FINAL EXAM (TEST 3): Monday, December 19, 2:45-4:45**