

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

ENGL 30143 Seminar: British Literature

I

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 14343 Honors Composition

Prerequisites or corequisites: ENGL 21143 Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies and ENGL 32053 Textual Research Methods

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A critical study of canonical works of the British Isles from the beginnings to the early eighteenth century.

B. Additional Information – None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity and facility with fundamental terminology and concepts relevant to the analysis of British literature from the beginning to the early eighteenth century.
2. Formulate critical arguments related to medieval, early modern, 16th century, 17th century, the Restoration era, and the early 18th century British literature and to support the thesis with evidence and argumentation. Critical essay should be 8 to 10 pages, with 6 to 8 sources of secondary scholarship minimum.
3. Evaluate sources and arguments in scholarly works, or in various literary approaches and techniques employed by British writers from medieval, early modern, 16th century, 17th century, and/or Restoration era.
4. Conjecture how various British writers' use of language is related to contemporary ways of thinking, cultural heritage, and cultural values.
5. Differentiate various critical approaches to literature in literary periods pre-1750; applicable modes of cultural studies may include: Post-Colonialism, Mass Culture

Studies, Nationhood and National Identity Studies, Gender Studies, Class Studies, Trauma.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULOs)

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will use critical thinking skills to identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Anglo-Saxon England
 - 1. *Beowulf*
 - 2. Bede and *Caedmon's Hymn*
 - 3. Shorter poems
- B. Anglo-Norman England
 - 1. Histories and Romances
 - 2. Celtic works
- C. Middle English Literature
 - 1. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
 - 2. Chaucer
 - 3. *Piers Plowman*
 - 4. Various Lyrics
 - 5. Margery Kempe
 - 6. Malory
 - 7. *Everyman*
- D. The Sixteenth Century
 - 1. Poetry of Skelton and Wyatt

2. *Utopia*
 3. Literature of the sacred
 4. Selected poems and essays
 5. Readings from "the wider world"
 6. Shakespeare's Sonnets (selection)
 7. Shakespeare's plays (selection, major themes)
- E. Seventeenth Century
1. Donne
 2. Lanyer
 3. Jonson
 4. Wroth
 5. Selected essays
 6. Metaphysical and Cavalier poets
- F. Restoration and 18th Century
1. Dryden
 2. Pepys
 3. Bunyan
 4. Swift
 5. Pope
 6. Various other selected poems and essays