



ENGL 8 - British Literature I

Catalog Description

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

Unit(s): 3.00

Lecture: 51.00 Contact hours/102.00 Out of class hours/153.00 Total hours/3.00 Unit(s)

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Course Description: This course is an introductory survey to the seminal works, genres and eras of the development of literature in English in the British Isles, from the early Medieval to the Renaissance and 17th century, to conclude with the Augustan literature of the 18th century. It is designed for students seeking an introductory survey of British literature, its figures, and movements. Authors include Chaucer, Spenser, Milton, Shakespeare, Swift, and others. Graded only. (C-ID ENGL 160).

Objectives

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

1. Demonstrate familiarity with major authors, works, genres, and themes of the period
2. Analyze and interpret the literature and intellectual movements of the period
3. Demonstrate understanding of appropriate academic discourse and the conventions of critical literary analysis
4. Relate the literary works to their historical, philosophical, social, political, and aesthetic contexts
5. Demonstrate comprehension of the above through class discussion, written exams, and essays

Course Content

Topic Titles / Suggested Time Topic	
<u>Lecture</u>	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Lec Hrs</u>
Introduction to Course and Literary Study	3.00
a. Literary terms	
b. Themes and context	
c. Chronological and thematic development of English language and literature (These topics will be reiterated and reinforced throughout the course).	
Old English and the Medieval Period	8.00
a. The age of migrations and the Anglo-Saxon world view	
b. Celtic influences and the "Matter of Britain"	
Major work and authors: Beowulf, the Bede, Anglo-Saxon, Chronicle, Geoffrey of Monmouth	
High Medieval and the Court of Richard II	10.00
a. The cultural flowering of Chaucerian England	
b. Monastic influences and the tensions of proto-Reformation	
Major works and authors: Gawain and the Green Knight, Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, William Langland, Julian of Norwich, Margery Kempe, Everyman	
Renaissance England	10.00
a. The age of the sonnet and the sonnet cycle	
b. Literature and Tudor power	
c. The birth and flowering of the English theater	
Major authors: Sidney, Spenser, Marlowe, Raleigh, Shakespeare	
The Seventeenth Century	10.00
a. The inward turn: the literature of meditation and essay	
b. Jacobean unrest, regicide, and the English Civil War	
c. Epic conceptions and the Restoration	
Major works and authors: Donne, Jonson, Bacon, Burton, The English Bible, Webster, Hobbes, Marvell, Traherne, Vaughn, Milton	
The Eighteenth Century	10.00
a. Enlightenment: The Age of Reason	
b. The age of wit and satire	
Major works and authors: Swift's Gulliver's Travels, Pope, Dryden, Johnson	

Total Hours: 51.00

Methods of Instruction

- A. Class Activities
 - B. Discussion
 - C. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
 - D. Lecture
 - E. Multimedia Presentations
 - F. Reading Assignments
 - G. Small Group Work
 - Analytical Research Projects
- Methods may also include one or more of the following:
- 1. Interactive Journals
 - 2. Student Oral Presentations
 - 3. Internet/Online Research
- Students are expected to write a minimum of 4000 words for this course.

Methods of Evaluation

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Projects
- C. Homework
- D. Short papers
- E. Essays and research papers
- F. Class Discussion
- G. Analytical Research Projects, Methods may also include one or more of the following:
 - 1. Interactive journals
 - 2. Oral presentations
 - 3. Smaller analytical papers

Examples of Assignments

Reading Assignments

1. Evaluate one classmate's literary analysis, and offer suggestions for deepening it. Think about the ways your own interpretation of the work differed from your classmate's and offer these different perspectives. Select additional quotes from the literary selection to question, debate, or add to your classmate's analysis.
2. Read the literary work assigned by your instructor, choose two quotations from the work, analyze the meanings of the quotes and explain how you think they connect to the theme of the work as a whole.

Writing Assignments

1. Choose one of the assigned literary works to articulate a specific question that has emerged from your reading and analysis of it. Use that question to help you formulate a thesis that you can support and develop in a formal essay. Be sure to consistently synthesize specific details from your chosen literary work and outside research, and come to a logical conclusion that develops the implications of your thesis for your audience.
2. Articulate a specific question that has emerged from your comparison of two of the assigned literary works, and formulate a thesis about that question. Compose a formal essay, supporting and developing your thesis. Consistently synthesizing specific details from your chosen literary works and outside research, come to a logical conclusion that develops for your audience the implications of your thesis.

Out-of-Class Assignments

1. Select two or more of the assigned literary works from a particular period, and research their historical and cultural contexts, using this new information to deepen your analyses of those works.
2. Choose one or two of the assigned authors, and research specific circumstances of their lives and times that might have influenced their literary productions. Select the most relevant information to further inform and develop your analysis of the authors and their texts.

Recommended Materials of Instruction

Greenblatt, Stephen. (2018). The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Volumes Package 1: A, B, C. *W.W. Norton, 10th*.

Robertson, B. & Getty, L. (2019). British Literature I Anthology: From the Middle Ages to Neoclassicism and the Eighteenth Century. *University System of Georgia, OER*.

Other Learning Materials

Literary Works:

Beowulf, The Canterbury Tales, The Fairie Queene, King Lear, Twelfth Night, Paradise Lost, Gulliver's Travels and/or other appropriate selections.

Minimum Qualifications

English (Masters Required)

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