

# ENGLISH 203: MAJOR BRITISH AUTHORS

## SPRING 2011

Instructor: Dr. Casey A. Cothran  
Class: English 203-001  
Section: 21237, 2:00-3:15 TR (Kinard 215)  
Credits: 3  
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Office Hours: 9:00-12:00 TR (and by appointment)  
Turnitin.com Information: Class ID (3718934) Password (ilovepapers)

### TEXTS:

- Damrosch, David, ed. *The Longman Anthology of British Literature, Compact Edition: Volumes A and B, The Middle Ages to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*. New York: Pearson Longman, 2003.
- Harris, Muriel. *Prentice Hall Reference Guide to GramMarch and Usage, Custom Edition for Winthrop University*. Second Custom Edition for Winthrop University, Revised. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc., 2008.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

English 203: Major British Authors covers significant and representative British literary works spanning from approximately the late eighth century to the early twentieth century. The goal of the course is to allow students to become familiar with significant British literary works and to place these works within their historical contexts, creating a deeper understanding of how literature both shapes and reflects culture and history. Students will engage in close readings of literary works, will become familiar with literary terms and types of literary criticism, and will learn how to read texts in light of their historical and cultural contexts.

### Goals and Objectives of the Course

1. To study representative British literary works from the Anglo-Saxon through the Post-Modern periods.
2. To gain an understanding of how literary works shape and reflect specific times, places, and cultures.
3. To analyze and explicate literary texts and gain an understanding of literary terms and literary criticism.
4. To develop the skill of writing about literature, including the use of MLA documentation and the integration of scholarly, critical sources.
5. To understand how different authors treat similar topics and themes throughout history.
6. To enjoy literature as a source of insight into human nature, ourselves, and the world we inhabit.

In class, we will explore texts that arise from different historical periods and that take the form of essay, poem, short story, or drama (WU English Department Goal 1). Additionally, papers and exams will aid students in their quests to become better readers, writers, and critical thinkers (WU English Department Goal 3).

This course fulfills Touchstone Goals:

- 1.1 Read, write, and speak standard English.
- 1.2 Analyze written, spoken, and nonverbal messages from a variety of disciplines.
- 2.2 Analyze and use a variety of information gathering techniques
- 2.3 Conduct independent research
- 2.5 Use the library and other information sources competently
- 4.1 Analyze diverse cultures, historical periods and artistic expressions
- 4.2 Understand cultures in their own terms and in terms of the diversity of ideas, institutions, philosophies, moral codes, and ethical principles.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

#### **Learning Objectives Related to the Humanities and Arts Perspective**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of and appreciation for diverse intellectual and/or cultural viewpoints
2. Critically evaluate diverse intellectual and/or cultural viewpoints
3. Critically evaluate aesthetic process and/or performance
4. Demonstrate knowledge of creative process and aesthetic values
5. Engage in the creative process through composition and/or performance
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of the arts
7. Demonstrate understanding of the relationships among various art forms within their socio-historical contexts
8. Demonstrate knowledge of and appreciation for diverse values and beliefs
9. Critically evaluate those values and beliefs
10. Examine their own values and beliefs
11. Critically evaluate material in a variety of formats (e.g. written, aural, visual, etc.)
12. Gather information and to develop and effectively communicate ideas in Standard English
13. Conduct independent research and/or analysis
14. Discriminate among information sources (e.g. print sources, visual media, internet sources, performances and exhibitions, interviews, etc.)

Knowledge: By the end of the semester, students will be able to

- **Identify** the variety and development of literary forms and themes in selected major works of British literature from its beginnings through postmodernism. (Humanities LO 1, 3, 4, 6, 7)
- **Describe** how the selected readings reflect and reinforce “the diversity of ideas, institutions, philosophies, moral codes, and ethical principles” (Touchstone Goal #4, Humanities LO 2, 8, 9, 10)
- **Discuss** how literary periodicity reinforces this diversity (Humanities LO 2, 7).

Skills: By the end of the semester, students will be able to

- **Demonstrate** their ability to read critically and to write analytically (through successful completion of tests, papers, and other graded work) (Humanities LO 12)
- **Apply** the skills of literary research, including MLA documentation and research sources (Humanities LO 13, 14)
- **Incorporate** appropriate literary terminology in discussions of assigned works

Attitudes: By the end of the semester, students will be able to

- **Recognize** literature as a source of wonder and insight (Humanities LO 3, 4, 9, 10)

**Writing Component:** Students will write two short responses (3-4 pp each) and a 5-7 page research paper, as well as essay questions on exams.

## ASSIGNED PAPERS AND ACTIVITIES

Midterm Exam	20%	Final Exam	20%
1 (5-7 page) Research Paper	20%	2 (3-4 page) Responses (10% each)	20%
Class Participation/Reading Quizzes	10%	Group Presentation	10%

Your midterm and final exams will be in-class, written exams consisting of short answer, identification, and essay questions. The final exam will be comprehensive. Your short papers will consist of close readings and analysis of selected literary works, and will be thesis- and argument-driven. Your research paper will analyze a literary work in light of at least two scholarly, critical sources, and will feature a unique, assertive, and focused position (thesis) on the work(s) in question. Your Group Presentation will consist of a 15-minute presentation in which you provide a cultural or historical context for the literary work in question. You will be required to provide one visual aid and one written handout/email for your classmates, and all sources used must be documented using MLA documentation. You will receive detailed instructions for these assignments in class handouts and on my class webpage.

Students will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss and write about all assigned texts.

### Syllabus Change Policy

Any changes made to course policies or reading and assignment schedules will be announced in class, announced through the class listserv, and posted on my web page. If you have any questions about the current policies or reading schedule, please email me or consult my website or the updated schedule provided for you in class.

### Evaluation Procedures and Criteria

The English Department of Winthrop University has established a departmental *Rubric for Writing/English Courses*, available at [www.winthrop.edu/english/rubric.htm](http://www.winthrop.edu/english/rubric.htm). All essays will be graded in accordance with this published rubric.

### Grading Standards

Numerically, grades are as follows:

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	59 and below	F

**Writing Center:** The Writing Center provides support for all students in all Winthrop classes free of charge. It is located in 242 Bancroft (x-2138). Check its web page (<http://www.winthrop.edu/wcenter>) for current hours.

## **Plagiarism Policy**

All work in this class that uses outside sources must be documented correctly in the MLA documentation style. Please review the English Department's policy on Using Borrowed Information at <http://www.winthrop.edu/english/plagiarism.htm>. You are responsible for reviewing the Code of Student Conduct in your *Student Handbook* and the description of plagiarism in *The Prentice-Hall Reference Guide to Grammar and Usage* and handling source materials correctly. If you turn in plagiarized work, I reserve the right to assign you a failing grade for the course. The University Policy on Plagiarism is explained at <http://www.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/Judicial/judcode.htm> under section V, "Academic Misconduct."

Ignorance or failure to consult this material is no excuse. Unless you explicitly give credit to another source in your essays, your written words and ideas are assumed to be your own; failure to acknowledge the ideas and words of other sources, including those found in your textbooks, will be treated as a case of plagiarism and academic dishonesty, and, depending on the severity of the case, will result in a grade reduction on the assignment, failure of the assignment, or failure of the course.

We will be using [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) this semester. Your turnitin.com Class ID is 3718934, our class name is ENGL 203 S11, and the class password is ilovepapers. Be sure to sign up soon! Papers not submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) will not be graded.

**Student Conduct Code:** As noted in the Student Conduct Code: "Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals." The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the "Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy" in the online *Student Handbook* (<http://www2.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf>).

**Additionally, please refrain from texting during class.** Anyone caught texting, on Facebook, or generally playing with a phone or laptop may be thrown to the dragons, set upon by slaving wolves, or subject to the loss of points on his/her daily grade. Ouch!

**Duplicate Submission of Papers:** You may not submit a paper for a grade in this class that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course, unless you obtain the explicit written permission of your English instructor and the other instructor involved *in advance*. This is to conform to the *Student Code of Conduct*, §V, which states: "Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to ... presenting the same or substantially the same papers or projects in two or more courses without the explicit permission of the professors involved." (*Student Code of Conduct* §V: <http://www.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/Judicial/judcode.htm> )

## **Attendance Policy**

Winthrop policy is that students who miss more than 25% of the classes in a semester cannot receive credit for the course. Additionally, missing class or coming to class unprepared will damage your daily grade, which counts as a significant percentage of your final average.

## **Late Paper/ Assignment Policies**

Every day an assignment is late (including weekend days) is five points off the final grade. Generally, writing assignments may be turned in early, but not late, unless you have an amazing excuse.

## **Accommodations**

Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 323-

3290. Once you have your official notice of accommodations from Services for Students with Disabilities, please inform me as early as possible in the semester.

### Technology Requirements

I conduct most of my business with students using e-mail. If you do not have an e-mail account, go to 15 Tillman immediately to set it up. All class e-mail will be sent to your campus e-mail address, so make sure you set it to forward to any off-campus account you use (e.g. Comporium, AOL, Yahoo!, etc.) You must have a working Winthrop POBox e-mail address by the third day of class. All students must subscribe to the class listserve.

**You can find the syllabus and additional course materials on my website:**  
<http://faculty.winthrop.edu/cothranc>

### CLASS SCHEDULE:

Note: assignments are due on the days next to which they appear.

Tuesday January 11	Introduction (Syllabus, Groups, The Purpose of Studying Literature) In class: Critical Reading Handout and Practice with “Pangur the Cat” and “The Viking Terror”
Thursday January 13	Skim “The Middle Ages” (3-10); Read <i>The Dream of the Rood</i> (106-110), Bede “The Conversion of King Edwin” (112-114), and <i>The Wanderer</i> (130-133).
Tuesday January 18	Skim “The Middle Ages” (10-25); read <i>Beowulf</i> (lines 1-1235, pages 27-59)
Thursday January 20	<i>Beowulf</i> (lines 1236-2800, pages 59-91)
Tuesday January 25	Chaucer, <i>The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale</i> (287-314)
Thursday January 27	Chaucer <i>The Miller’s Prologue and Tale</i> (271-287), <i>The Parson’s Tale</i> and Chaucer’s <i>Retraction</i> (345-351)
Tuesday February 1	Skim “The Early Modern Period” (391-411); Read Elizabeth I (“On Marriage” 622-623 and “On Mary’s Execution” 626-628), Sir Walter Raleigh (664-665)
Thursday February 3	Sonnets: Philip Sidney (590-59), William Shakespeare (733-741) <b>Student Presentation I: Art, Music, and/or Education in the Renaissance</b>
Tuesday February 8	John Donne (804-815) <b>Response Paper 1 Due</b>
Thursday February 10	John Milton <i>Paradise Lost Book I</i> (920-940)

Tuesday February 15	Aphra Behn <i>Oroonoko</i> (1135-1176) <b>Student Presentation II: Commerce, Slavery, and Trade in the 18th Century</b>
Thursday February 17	Skim “The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century” (1041-1054); Read Behn and Wilmot (1116-1120), Swift and Montagu (1181-1186)
Tuesday February 22	Skim “The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century” (1054-1064); Read John Gay <i>The Beggar’s Opera</i> (1278-1322)
Thursday February 24	In-class: reading/lecture/film clips (Defoe, Richardson, Fielding, Austen) <b>Student Presentation III: The Rise of the Middle Class and the Novel in 18th Cent. England</b>
Tuesday March 1	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
Thursday March 3	Skim “Romantics and Their Contemporaries” (3-14); Read William Blake, “Songs of Innocence and Experience” (77-94)
Tuesday March 8	Skim “Romantics and Their Contemporaries” (14-28); Read William Wordsworth (194-206, 212-217, 282-290)
Thursday March 10	Samuel Taylor Coleridge “The Eolian Harp,” “Kubla Kahn,” “Frost at Midnight” (325-26, 341-45), Lord Byron “She Walks in Beauty”(358), Percy Shelley “Ozymandias,” “Ode to the West Wind” (399-401), John Keats, Odes (438-444)
Tuesday March 15	Spring Break
Thursday March 17	Spring Break
Tuesday March 22	Skim “The Victorian Age” (450-460); Read “The Industrial Landscape” (487-513) <b>Second Response Paper Due</b>
Thursday March 24	Skim “The Victorian Age” (460-473); Read Elizabeth Barrett Browning “Sonnets,” <i>Aurora Leigh</i> (528-554)
Tuesday March 29	“Popular Short Fiction” (Gaskell, Doyle, Kipling: 690-736)
Thursday March 31	Lord Tennyson (583-594), Robert Browning (659-668) <b>Student Presentation IV: Art and Literary Expression in the 19th Century/Pre-Raphaelites</b>
Tuesday	Christina Rossetti “Goblin Market” (759-770), Lewis Carroll (779-786)

April 5	
Thursday April 7	Aestheticism, Decadence, and the <i>Fin de Siecle</i> (889-94, 899-919)
Tuesday April 12	Skim: “The Twentieth Century” (921-929); Read: T.S. Eliot “Prufrock”(1194-1201), Joyce “Clay” (1134-1138) <b>Student Presentation V: Modernist Philosophy and Art – Minimalist Art, Skepticism, Existentialism, and/or Stream of Consciousness</b>
Thursday April 14	Skim: “The Twentieth Century” (929-942); Read: Mansfield (1290-1302), Carter (1307-1315)
Tuesday April 19	Topic: Aftermath of Empire Bowen, Orwell, Rushdie (1350-1370)
Thursday April 21	<b>Research Paper Due Friday April 22 by 5:00</b> Exam Review; Time for questions about Final Essay
Friday April 29	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> 11:30-2:00