

British Literature 2323 Syllabus  
Jan. 2012

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Conference Period: 4<sup>th</sup>  
Tutorials/Makeups: By arrangement.

### **Course Philosophy:**

2323 British Literature is a course that follows the curricular requirements described in the Odessa College Course Catalogue, subsequently, students will be actively involved on a daily basis with college writing and learning the techniques of close reading of a variety of British Literature encompassing texts such as William Blake's *Songs of Innocence* and continuing through such modern works as Salman Rushdie's "The Prophet's Hair." Our study will also encompass a broad variety of genres written over the same time period. We will be utilizing a variety of rhetorical strategies in both our reading and writing assignments, including but not limited to, recognition of fallacies, ethos, pathos, logos, and the disposition or structure and style, including but not limited to diction, syntax, figurative language, and mechanics.

Students will be writing in a number of rhetorical modes including, persuasive, expository, analytical, informative, and evaluative, as well as research based writing that includes an appropriate use of the MLA format. Students will also be required to continually both self-edit and peer-edit the writings that they generate. Part of facilitating effective writing is appropriate feedback. I will be working with students in both group settings and one on one to provide support in this area at every stage of the process. Since the only way to become a competent writer is by reading critically, and writing often, students must be willing to devote approximately five to six hours per week **outside of the classroom** in order to complete their required reading and writing assignments.

What is most important in any class of this level is a commitment by the student to fully engage in the process. Students must be willing to work hard and produce products that are of college quality. Subsequently, writing is expected to be coherent, free of grammatical errors, logically organized, and when required, written in MLA format using proper documentation and research techniques. By the same token, students must be prepared to integrate extra reading time into their schedules. Much of the material that is required reading for the course will be read outside of the classroom. For students unused to a heavy schedule of independent reading, the tendency to "put off" until the last minute must be avoided at all costs.

### **Course Objectives**

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

- ❖ analyze and interpret literature using formalist techniques;

- ❖ write for understanding;
- ❖ write to explain;
- ❖ write to evaluate;
- ❖ recognize an author's use of style, syntax, diction, and structure;
- ❖ develop your own personal style of writing;
- ❖ write literary papers that are interpretive in nature, based on close reading of literary texts.
- ❖ create a reader/response journal

## **Reading Assignments**

In order to become polished writers, students must first become competent, **critical**, readers. The only way in which this can be accomplished is by students reading, and oftentimes, re-reading all assigned materials carefully. This involves a certain level of responsibility from the student. **You** must schedule your time appropriately and make the personal commitment necessary to be successful in managing your assigned reading.

## **Writing Assignments--Critical**

Students will be required to write a number of critical explication papers over all the genres covered in the course. These will be short papers of approximately 2-3 pages. Students will be expected to observe the conventions in these explications. The papers must be typed, double-spaced and grammatically correct. Students are **always** required to write a rough draft for this class. Your first draft is not acceptable as a final copy. Students will be using the formalist theory of critical analysis (close reading) as a basis for these explications. Papers should cover structure, style, diction, characterization, imagery, symbolism, tone, and other aspects of the writer's craft. We will have group work shops that focus on peer editing as well as instructor feedback. Our most important critical paper of the year will be a 7-8 page analytical literary research paper utilizing a minimum of 7-8 outside sources including both primary and secondary source materials. Students will be required to write this paper in MLA format.

## **Instructor Feedback**

The instructor will provide instruction and feedback on students' writing assignments, both before and after the students revise their work, that help the students develop a wide-ranging literary vocabulary used appropriately and effectively, as well as a variety of sentence structures, including appropriate use of subordination and coordination. Furthermore the teacher will aid in students learning to use logical organization, enhanced by specific techniques to increase coherence, such as repetition, transitions, and emphasis. Teachers will provide instruction and feedback that will help students achieve a balance of generalization and specific, illustrative detail, and an effective use of rhetoric, including controlling tone, establishing and maintaining voice, and achieving appropriate emphasis through diction and sentence structure.

## Quizzes, and Exams

Students will have periodic quizzes taken from the readings. These quizzes will be unannounced and subsequently will not appear on the syllabus schedule. Students will also take six weeks exams and semester exams that will cover material studied both in and outside of class.

## Grading Scale

In-class writings, discussions, reading, and homework	30%
Major six weeks essay	20%
Quizzes	15%
Attendance, class participation, workshops, and discussion	10%
Six Weeks Exam	25%
Semester Exam—multi-media project (25% of Semester Average)	25%

## Plagiarism:

**“Plagiarize” is defined by the Tenth Edition of Webster’s Dictionary as:** to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own; use (another’s production) without crediting the source; to commit literary theft...”886). **Cheating in any form WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** If you plagiarize an essay; take too much liberty with another person’s ideas (even another student’s); or cheat on an exam once, that assignment will receive a “0.” If you plagiarize or cheat the second time, you will receive an “F” in the course.

## Final Note:

Although a syllabus is not set in stone, neither is it written in chalk; subsequently, although changes are inevitable, I will do my best to keep the course on track and on schedule.