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English 2121—British Literature I  
Fall 2016: CRN 80222 (01)/80224 (02); MW 2:10-3:25/MW 5:00-6:15

Course Content: This is a survey of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the late seventeenth century with strong emphasis on masterpieces of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Our reading and discussion will give some attention to biographical issues and the historical context of the works, but the primary focus will be on the works themselves. Poetry and drama will be the genres most frequently explored, and there will be some examination of prose fiction and non-fiction prose. We will examine Old, Middle, and Modern English literature. All Old English texts and some Middle English texts will be in translation. Three credit hours.

Outcomes:
- Students will become familiar with a representative body of major early British literature.
- Students will considerably improve skills in reading and understanding literature.
- Students will considerably improve skills in discussing and writing about literature.

Required Text*:

- One good-quality, *college ruled* spiral notebook, approximately 6.75" x 9.5"

*All students are expected to have the required books from the start of the semester, to bring the appropriate books—including the reading journal—to each class meeting, and to have books out and ready at the start of class. Students arriving to class without books will be dismissed and considered absent for the day. Memo books or diary-type books are generally not sufficient for use as a reading journal: the journal must be done in a proper college notebook—fancy designs are fine and encouraged, but the book needs to be of the correct size and ruling. If you have a question about your choice of journal, please check with me.

Attendance and Requirements: I expect everyone to be present and on time for each class meeting. Being on time means being seated and ready for the session with books out a few minutes before class is scheduled to begin. Tardiness is generally discourteous and distracting and will not be tolerated. Students arriving tardy to class will be dismissed and assigned a zero for the day. Students who are absent are personally responsible for all missed work and any and all information or instructions disseminated in class. No make-up work will be given. Any student absent from 50% or more of class sessions by mid semester will be subject to administrative withdrawal.

Student Conduct: As a Clayton State University student and as a student in this class, it is your responsibility to read, understand, and abide by the Student Code of Conduct, outlined in the Clayton State University Catalog as “Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities” at [http://a-s.clayton.edu/BasicUndergraduateStudentResponsibilities.htm](http://a-s.clayton.edu/BasicUndergraduateStudentResponsibilities.htm).

Classroom Deportment*: Our classroom—we share it, and we share responsibility for it—ought to be, I think we would all agree, a polite, intellectually stimulating, focused setting, diverse yet unified, so:

- I expect all students to behave responsibly and respectfully toward me and toward one another. I will not tolerate aggressive, rude, juvenile, or similarly trying behavior in the classroom. Repeatedly or outrageously disruptive students will be dismissed from class indefinitely and referred to the appropriate campus office (e.g., student affairs, campus security, etc.).
- All telephones and communications or entertainment devices must be turned off and stored away during class time. Students observed to be texting or using a phone in any manner at any time during class will be considered disruptive, dismissed from class, and assigned a zero for the session; any form of phone use during any graded activity will result in forfeit of the assignment.
Computers are to be turned off and stored away from the time you enter the classroom and should remain turned off and stored away unless I indicate otherwise. As with telephones and entertainment devices, there should be no time when your computer is out or on during class.

Eating or drinking in class, provided that there are no posted prohibitions in the classroom itself, should be neat, discreet, and respectful of others. Please do not bring hot food, food in noisy bags, or food that is likely to make a mess in the classroom.

These few rules are neither inhumane nor hard to follow and each is in place for the benefit of the class as a whole: please do not cause me to waste class time addressing behavior problems. Reasonable suggestions as to how we might improve the classroom environment will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

Special Needs: If you have a documented disability or special needs and require any assistance, please do not hesitate to speak with me as soon as possible. All information will be kept confidential. Students who suspect they have a disability that has not been documented or sufficiently accommodated for should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Student Center 214, 678-466-5445, disabilityservices@clayton.edu.

Personal Problems: Please remember that your professors are primarily responsible for helping you master specific subject matter within certain legal, professional, and ethical guidelines. If you are experiencing personal problems—including intellectual or social frustrations—and need help, there is a counseling service available on campus in addition to various offices addressing health and public safety. These services are for your benefit and are freely available to you and confidential.

Communication: For your convenience, I have noted my e-mail address and campus telephone number in the heading of this syllabus. If you need to e-mail me for any reason, please use your Clayton State University e-mail account and put your name in the subject line. Please ensure that your communications are polite and that you state your question, observation, or concern in clear and correct language to the best of your ability. I will show this same respect in writing to you and will endeavor to respond in a timely manner. The same basic idea applies to voice mail; however, I do prefer e-mail to voice mail, I check e-mail much more frequently, and you will likely get a faster response to e-mail than to voice mail. Please know the limits of e-mail and voice mail: find me at my office hours or schedule an appointment if you need extensive help or want to have a conference; further, please do not e-mail me about grades—see me in person.

E-Mail: Occasionally I will send out e-mail to the class which may contain observations or instructions for which you are individually responsible and which may be time sensitive. This means, therefore, that you are responsible for checking your CSU e-mail account regularly. For reasons of confidentiality and liability, I am also required to inform you that e-mail you send to me should be from your CSU account: I am prohibited from responding to student e-mail not from a valid CSU account.

Office Hours: I hold regular office hours on campus for your convenience, and I encourage you to consult me during those hours if you are in need of assistance in the course or want to have a conference about a specific, course-related issue or discuss your grade. If you need help, please don’t delay coming to see me, since problems are best solved early on. As with my e-mail and voice mail, I have noted my office location and office hours in the heading of this syllabus. You may either make an appointment with me or just stop by during my posted hours. Please do not be afraid to approach me: I am here to help you.

Graded Work*: Reading Quizzes (12-15 over the semester) 15%
Reading Journal 15%
Drama Report (1000 words) 10%
Two Examinations (short essay) 50%
Classroom Participation 10%

These course components are described below and will be explained in further detail in class.

The Course Text: The Norton Anthology of English Literature contains excellent editions of the literature under consideration in addition to helpful marginal notes and footnotes. In addition to these features, the text offers
clearly written and useful introductions to the literature. Please take note of your book’s apparatus and learn to use its features to read more efficiently and effectively.

Quizzes: Regular quizzes are designed to improve your reading comprehension and inspire you to read closely. Many of our readings are quite challenging: the daily quiz will encourage you to prepare thoroughly and more fully enjoy the readings. The quiz, combined with your participation, constitutes the most significant student-centered classroom activity of the course.

Reading Journal: For each reading, group of readings, or film experience listed in the Schedule of Assignments, you are expected to offer a reflective journal entry in your notebook. Journal entries should be one full page at bare minimum, two full pages as an ideal, and three full pages at maximum. Entries should be semi-formal, thoughtful, and neat. Your journal entries represent your immediate and personal thoughts about each reading assignment and will help prepare you for each class discussion, quiz, and examination. Journal entries should be completed before each class for best results. The journal is to be handwritten and must be presented in a proper college notebook as defined above.

Drama Report: The Drama Report provides you with the opportunity to respond formally to one of the examples of dram on film we will experience over the course of the semester. The purpose of the report is for you to isolate on key aspect of the performance and develop a clear thesis, supported by evidence from the film and the text itself, making a dramatic and literary claim about the production. You may choose to focus on such aspects of the production as casting, costuming, lighting, the stage setting itself, editorial considerations, aesthetic or artistic concerns or similar concepts related to drama appreciation and textual analysis. The report must not be a mere summary of the performance in question but rather an analytical discussion with a clear thesis, well-organized main ideas supported by evidence, and a thorough introduction and conclusion. All written work is expected to meet if not exceed the standards of ENGL 1102 and follow the guidelines of the Modern Language Association for style. Drama Reports are to be to not significantly (50 words) more or less than 1000 words, presented in twelve-point font, double spaced, stapled in the top left. Students are to complete one Drama Report to be submitted on one of three due dates respectively. Dramas and due dates cannot be mixed and matched, e.g.: First Drama on Film=First Due Date; Second Drama on Film=Second Due Date; etc. You may select from either one of the three drama on film offerings for your project.

Examinations: Exams will be in short essay form and will require that you identify and offer thorough discussion of several representative passages from our reading units. This activity presents you with an opportunity to demonstrate in writing your capacity for comprehension and interpretation of complex literature.

Participation: I expect each student to contribute actively to the course in his or her own positive way. This does not necessarily mean speaking up at each class meeting, although speaking frequently might be your particular manner of participating. It is possible to earn significant participation credit through quiet and non-verbal contributions, too. Remember: even basic, well-intended questions are an important form of participation; no well-intended question is a dumb question. Please be aware, too, that there is a difference between consistent and lively participation and monopolizing the conversation. The main goal for participation is to contribute positively to the group and to exhibit some curiosity and enthusiasm.

Study Guides: Much of our reading for this course will be quite challenging, and you may sometimes wish to consult library texts and other study guides. But remember that reading a discussion of a work of literature or notes to a work of literature is not a substitute for reading the literature itself. In general, study guides alone will not provide sufficient preparation for classroom discussion and graded assignments. Reading a study guide as a substitute for reading the assigned text is basically pretending to have prepared for class and can yield unfortunate results in discussion with others who truly have prepared. Further, the most common form of academic dishonesty I encounter is plagiarism, and there is almost always a study guide involved in such cases.

Operation Study: At Clayton State University, we expect and support high motivation and academic achievement. Look for Operation Study activities and programs this semester that are designed to enhance your academic success such as study sessions, study breaks, workshops, and opportunities to earn Study Bucks (for use in the University Bookstore) and other items.
**Late Work:** Generally speaking, I do not accept late work. If your situation is exceptional, persuade me in advance, not on the day the work is due. In the rare cases that I do accept late work, I reserve the right to drop a letter grade for each day the work is late. There will be no make-ups for missed or failed quizzes.

**Midterm Grades:** Midterm grades will be posted for all students before the midterm date noted on the University Calendar. Midterm marks will represent performance on approximately 40% of the total course requirements.

**Academic Dishonesty:** In accordance with University policy, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. All students are expected to understand and avoid plagiarism. Briefly stated, plagiarism may involve such practices as appropriating another person’s words or ideas in an egregious manner or presenting borrowed words, phrasing, and/or ideas without following proper quotation and citation practices. Cheating includes dishonest or deceptive practices in preparing exams and other assignments and/or inappropriate forms or degrees of collaboration with fellow students or others—use of telephones or electronic devices applies here. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will fail the course outright and risk further disciplinary consequences at the University level. Please see the Student Code of Conduct for further information: [http://adminservices.clayton.edu/judicial/](http://adminservices.clayton.edu/judicial/). If you do not understand an assignment or feel incapable of adequate performance on an assignment or examination, seek legitimate academic support through me or through the Center for Academic Success.

**Disclaimer:** There may be minor revisions to this syllabus over the course of the semester. Any changes will be announced in class and given with reasonable notice. As stated above, all students are expected to be or become aware of information disseminated in class or by e-mail, with absence from class being no excuse for unpreparedness. I will strive to present key information or changes in the schedule in a clear and timely fashion, and I am available to you through office hours and e-mail in the event you are absent or something is unclear.
**Schedule of Assignments**

**August 15**  
Introduction to the course.

17  
Read from *Beowulf* (*Norton* 36-80).

22  

24  
Read *Everyman* (*Norton* 507-29).

29  
Read Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus* (*Norton* 1129-47).

31  
Read Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus* (*Norton* 1147-63).

5  
**Labor Day**—Class will not meet.

7  
Continue Discussion of *Doctor Faustus*. Drama on Film.

12  
Continue Discussion of *Doctor Faustus*. Drama on Film.

14  

19  

21  
Continue Discussion of *The Tempest*. **Drama Report Due Date One.**

26  
Review for Exam One.

28  
**Exam One.**

**Mid-Semester Grades Submission Period.**

October 3  
Read Shakespeare, from *Shakespeare’s Sonnets* (*Norton* 1170-86).

5  
Reading Day. Class will not meet.

October 8-11  
**Fall Break.**

12  
Continue Discussion of *Shakespeare’s Sonnets*.

17  

19  

24  
Continue Discussion of *Twelfth Night*. Drama on Film.

26  
Continue Discussion of *Twelfth Night*. Drama on Film.

31  
Read Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi* (*Norton* 1571-98). **Drama Report Due Date Two.**

**November 2**  
Read Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi* (*Norton* 1599-1647). Drama on Film.

7  
Continue Discussion of *The Duchess of Malfi*. Drama on Film.

9  
Continue Discussion of *The Duchess of Malfi*. Drama on Film.

14  
Read Herrick, Selected Poems (*Norton* 1756-68). **Drama Report Due Date Three.**

16  
Read Milton from *Paradise Lost* (*Norton* 1943-86).

21  
Read Milton from *Paradise Lost* (*Norton* 2003-44). **NB:** We skip Book Three.

**November 23-26**  
**Thanksgiving Break.**

28  
Read Milton from *Paradise Lost* (*Norton* 2091-2116).

30  
General Review.

**December 5**  
Last Day of Class. **Second Exam.**