



**English 2121—British Literature I** | CRN 80326 (MW) / 80327 (TR)  
Section 01—MW 2:10-3:25 / Section 02 TR 2:10-3:25 | Fall 2019

Dr. Greg McNamara | 678-466-4557 | [gregorymcnamara@clayton.edu](mailto:gregorymcnamara@clayton.edu) | <http://www.clayton.edu/faculty/gmcnamar>  
Office Hours: MW 12:30-2:00; T 5:00-6:00; R 1:00-2:00—and by appointment

**Please read and understand this document, save a digital copy, and bring a printed copy with you to every class meeting.**

**Course Content** This is a survey of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the eighteenth century with strong emphasis on masterpieces of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. 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** *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition, vols. A, B, C  
One good-quality, mid-sized, *college ruled* notebook (~7" x 9" with ~70-90 pages)

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature* contains excellent editions of the assigned readings and helpful notes. 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. Regular and proper use of your course text is an excellent strategy for earning a good grade in the class.

Students are expected to have the required books from the start of the semester and to bring the appropriate books—including the reading journal—to each class meeting. Small-format memo books or diaries or large or multi-section notebooks or binders will not be accepted as journals. Please check with me if you intend to use an electronic version of *The Norton Anthology* in class.

**Attendance and Requirements** Be present and in good time for each class meeting. Please do not make late or down-to-the-minute arrival a habit. No make-up work will be given in cases of elective absence or tardiness. Any student absent from 50% or more of class sessions by mid semester will be subject to administrative withdrawal. If you are a university athlete, please let me know if this will affect your attendance.

**Computer Policy** All students are required to have access to a computer in proper working order with functional word processing software and access to a business-quality laser printer. All students must have access to Clayton State e-mail and maintain regular electronic availability for notifications throughout the semester. Computers are not to be used for multi-tasking or general browsing and communication during class time unless by the instructor's request or for specific class purposes.

**D2L** This is a seated section not taught over D2L—no grades or assignments for this course will be distributed over D2L.

**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 <https://www.clayton.edu/Portals/47/docs/student-code-of-conduct.pdf>.

### Classroom Department

- Respect my responsibility to conduct a good, orderly class.
- Be prepared and be involved in a positive way.
- Silence and set aside devices. I recommend airplane mode.
- Be reasonable with attire and accessories.
- Be reasonable with food and drink.
- Do not enter or exit the classroom inappropriately or unnecessarily.
- Recorders or cameras are not to be used in class without permission.
- If you have private or confidential questions or concerns, please check with me discreetly.

**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, 255 Edgewater Hall, 678-466-5445, [disabilityservices@clayton.edu](mailto: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** I am usually available for a few minutes before and after class for quick questions. Feel free to stop me on campus if you see me and have a question. Please see me at office hours or schedule an appointment if your questions or concerns require several minutes of consideration or are grade-related. My e-mail is available for standard clarification questions or inquiries regarding missed classes or scheduling matters. Please do not e-mail me with questions 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. 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 these 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.

<b>Graded Work</b>	Reading Quizzes (12-15 over the semester)	15%
	Reading Journal with Record of Class Meetings	20%
	Drama Report (~1000 words)	15%
	Two Examinations	50%

**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 in discussion, constitutes the most significant student-centered classroom activity of the course.

**Reading Journal and Record of Class Meetings** The Reading Journal has two functions—it helps with reading and it helps with thinking about what we do in class. Please do the assignment as follows:

- 1) You should have an entry in your reading journal for each day of assigned reading, with entries clearly dated and the subject of the entry noted. Journal entries should offer an analysis of each reading assignment, going beyond summary. Entries can examine theme, character, literary technique, and also raise and explore questions that

**Journal, continued**

occur to you as you read. Each entry should be about two pages in length and need not exceed three pages. Journal entries must be original—taking material for entries from online summaries or similar resources is plagiarism and will be treated as such.

- 2) Along with each reading entry, there should be a record of the accompanying class meeting and notes from that day's discussion: indicate the calendar date and key points covered in class. Notes will likely take two pages at least, so each full entry should be four pages or so in the journal. The point of the assignment is to have a complete, consistent, regularly dated journal of reading and response activity and accompanying notes.

Journals can be written in whatever style you like, even including illustrations. Journals will be evaluated twice during the semester, but I will expect to see journals in use at each class meeting. Please keep your journal neat and presentable.

**Drama Report** The Drama Report is an opportunity to respond to one of the drama on film experiences over the course of the semester with a short paper. The purpose of the report is to discuss some key aspect of the drama on film that intensifies or challenges your understanding of the reading itself. You might choose to focus on such aspects of the production as casting, costuming, lighting, the stage setting, or other dramatic elements. The report must not be a mere summary of the performance: offer a well-organized analysis and use examples. Reports should be about 1000 words in a standard font, properly printed and stapled. Prewriting for this assignment can be done in your journal, if you wish.

Drama Reports are to be submitted on the due dates corresponding to the related film presentations, as noted in the Schedule of Assignments: the report must match the due date. You may choose to report on any one of the three scheduled drama on film offerings for your project, submitting your work at the appropriate deadline.

**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. The exams present you with an opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned in the class and are significant part of the overall course grade. You will have guidance and throughout the semester designed to help you approach the exams successfully.

**Participation** I expect each student to contribute positively to the group and to exhibit some curiosity and enthusiasm. Regular and active attendance, doing the reading, and paying attention to activities and discussion are the essential elements of participation in this course.

**Doing the Reading** This course is reading intensive and offers one of the richest educational opportunities you will have this semester. Doing the reading and coming to class is the best and most certain way of preparing for graded assignments and the surest way to achieve course outcomes. Doing the reading requires dedication to learning new skills and persistence. Consulting online summaries, encyclopedia pages, or study guides is not an acceptable substitute for doing the assigned reading and is insufficient preparation for class discussion. Further, reliance upon summaries and secondary sources and not doing the reading can lead to unnecessarily poor performance on graded assignments and even cheating out of desperation and the risk to grades and good standing associated with that behavior.

**Written Work** All written work submitted for this class must be original and presented in accordance with MLA style or similar. Proper spelling, grammar, and formatting are expected and work submitted which falls far outside these norms will be returned for revision or correction. All papers must be submitted with a proper heading and headers, a proper title, and a proper staple in the upper left-hand corner. Papers should be properly proofread and written in good style: I grade according to content, organization, and style, and presentation is a factor in each of these areas. If you have doubts about your capacity to write properly, I strongly encourage you to visit Writers' Studio 224 for assistance. Please do not risk your grades and good standing by submitting dishonest or plagiarized work.

**Late Work** Graded assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date—anything else is late unless I have agreed to other terms at least one full day in advance. Late submissions will be penalized one full letter grade. Submissions a week or more overdue will not be accepted, will be forfeit, and a mark of zero will be recorded. Class presentations are expected to be done at their scheduled times and dates and will be considered forfeit if this obligation is not met unless alternative arrangements have been made with me at least one class period in advance.

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

**Grades in General** I am committed to straightforward and fair grading by clear standards, and I frequently review grading guidelines and suggest study strategies in class. I will return graded work in a timely fashion and take responsibility for my findings. If you have a question about your grade for the course or specific grades for assignments, please ask to schedule a conference. I will not discuss individual grading matters or venture far into the philosophy of grading in the classroom, but I will announce trends and averages on exams and assignments when applicable. I am always happy to discuss your grade with you and offer suggestions, but please do not abuse this availability through manipulative action or inquiry or willful or pretended ignorance of grading standards and policy.

**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: any form of phone use during any graded activity will result in forfeit of the assignment. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing risk failure for the course further disciplinary consequences at the University level. Please see the Student Code of Conduct for further information. 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 or similar.

**Acting Out** Acting Out conduct violations can be disruptive and dangerous and these behaviors are taken seriously in all social and professional settings for obvious reasons. Please avoid behavior or demeanor that others might reasonably consider a serious or sustained distraction, imposition, or cause for concern. Encouraging others in disruptive behavior or antagonizing others in subtle or overt ways also violates the code of conduct and should be avoided.

**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—MW: Section 01 (See Below for TR Schedule)

- August 12 Introduction to the course. Read Bede, "The Story of Caedmon" (*Norton A 30-3*).
- 14 Anglo Saxon Riddles. Read "The Dream of the Rood" and "The Wanderer" (*Norton A 33-7; 118-21*).
- 19 Read *Beowulf*, first 1800 lines (*Norton A 36-80*). **Journal Check.**
- 21 Read Chaucer, *The Miller's Prologue and Tale* (*Norton A 282-98*).
- 26 Read Chaucer, *The Nun's Priest's Tale* (*Norton A 344-58*).
- 28 Read *Everyman* (*Norton A 558-80*).
- Sept 2 **Labor Day Holiday.**
- 4 Read Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, Scenes 1-6 (*Norton B 679-700*).
- 9 Read Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, Scenes 7-13 (*Norton B 700-15*).
- 11 Continue Discussion of *Doctor Faustus*. Drama on Film.
- 16 Continue Discussion of *Doctor Faustus*. Drama on Film.
- 18 Read Harriot and Raleigh, Selected Writings (*Norton B 643-9; 526-36*).
- 23 Review for First Exam. **Journals Due. Drama Report Due Date One.**
- 25 **First Exam. Journals Due.**
- 30 Read Shakespeare, from *Shakespeare's Sonnets* (*Norton B 718-28*).
- Oct 2 Read Shakespeare, from *Shakespeare's Sonnets* (*Norton B 729-38*).
- October 5-8 Fall Break
- 9 Read Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*, Acts 1-2 (*Norton B 739-70*).
- 14 Read Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*, Acts 3-5 (*Norton B 771-802*).
- 16 Continue Discussion of *Twelfth Night*. Drama on Film.
- 21 Continue Discussion of *Twelfth Night*. Drama on Film.
- 23 Read Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*, Acts 1-2 (*Norton B 1571-98*).
- 28 Read Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*, Acts 3-5 (*Norton B 1599-1647*). **Drama Report Due Date Two.**
- 30 Continue Discussion of *The Duchess of Malfi*. Drama on Film.
- Nov 4 Continue Discussion of *The Duchess of Malfi*. Drama on Film.
- 6 Browse Selected Poems from Herbert and Herrick (*Norton B 1255-75; 1306-18*).
- 11 Read Milton, *Paradise Lost* Book One (*Norton B 1495-1514*).
- 13 Read Milton, *Paradise Lost* Book Four (*Norton B 1554-75*). **Drama Report Due Date Three.**
- 18 Read Milton, *Paradise Lost* Book Nine (*Norton B 1643-68*).
- 20 Read Behn, *Oroonoko* (*Norton C 139-59*).
- 25 Read Behn, *Oroonoko* (*Norton C 159-86*).
- November 27-30 Thanksgiving Break.
- December 2 Review for Second Exam. **Journals Due.** Last Day of Class.
- Wednesday, Dec 4 @ 12:30 PM. **Final Exam. Journals Due.**

Schedule of Assignments—TR: Section 02 (See Above for MW Schedule)

- August 13 Introduction to the course. Read Bede, "The Story of Caedmon" (*Norton A 30-3*).
- 15 Anglo Saxon Riddles. Read "The Dream of the Rood" and "The Wanderer" (*Norton A 33-7; 118-21*).
- 20 Read *Beowulf*, first 1800 lines (*Norton A 36-80*). **Journal Check.**
- 22 Read Chaucer, *The Miller's Prologue and Tale* (*Norton A 282-98*).
- 27 Read Chaucer, *The Nun's Priest's Tale* (*Norton A 344-58*).
- 29 Read *Everyman* (*Norton A 558-80*).
- Sept 3 Read Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, Scenes 1-6 (*Norton B 679-700*).
- 5 Read Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, Scenes 7-13 (*Norton B 700-15*).
- 10 Continue Discussion of *Doctor Faustus*. Drama on Film.
- 12 Continue Discussion of *Doctor Faustus*. Drama on Film.
- 17 Read Hariot and Raleigh, Selected Writings (*Norton B 643-9; 526-36*).
- 19 Review for First Exam. **Journals Due. Drama Report Due Date One.**
- 24 **First Exam. Journals Due.**
- 26 Read Shakespeare, from *Shakespeare's Sonnets* (*Norton B 718-28*).
- October 1 Read Shakespeare, from *Shakespeare's Sonnets* (*Norton B 729-38*).
- 3 Read Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*, Acts 1-2 (*Norton B 739-70*).
- October 5-8 Fall Break
- 10 Read Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*, Acts 3-5 (*Norton B 771-802*).
- 15 Continue Discussion of *Twelfth Night*. Drama on Film.
- 17 Continue Discussion of *Twelfth Night*. Drama on Film.
- 22 Read Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*, Acts 1-2 (*Norton B 1571-98*).
- 24 Read Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*, Acts 3-5 (*Norton B 1599-1647*). **Drama Report Due Date Two.**
- 29 Continue Discussion of *The Duchess of Malfi*. Drama on Film.
- 31 Continue Discussion of *The Duchess of Malfi*. Drama on Film.
- Nov 5 Browse Selected Poems from Herbert and Herrick (*Norton B 1255-75; 1306-18*).
- 7 Read Milton, *Paradise Lost* Book One (*Norton B 1495-1514*). **Drama Report Due Date Three.**
- 12 Read Milton, *Paradise Lost* Book Four (*Norton B 1554-75*).
- 14 Read Milton, *Paradise Lost* Book Nine (*Norton B 1643-68*).
- 19 Read Behn, *Oroonoko* (*Norton C 139-59*).
- 21 Read Behn, *Oroonoko* (*Norton C 159-86*).
- 26 Review for Second Exam. **Journals Due.** Last Day of Class.
- November 27-30 Thanksgiving Break.
- Thursday, Dec 5 @ 2:45 PM. **Final Exam. Journals Due.**