

## English Literature 1800 to Present

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C-111

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Eagle Pass B114

Del Rio 101

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### **Course Description**

English 3310 is a reading and writing intensive survey of the English literature written between 1800 and the present. We will begin reading works written in England between 1780 and 1830, a body of work often referred to as Romanticism. Then we will read works written in what's called the Victorian period. We will spend the last month reading "modern" literature; that is, literature written around the time of World War I and World War II and some recent English literature. We will use the Norton Anthology (see below) and I will supplement that with information that I post under Course Information. Please email me whenever you have questions.

### **Course Objectives**

Students will be able to

- demonstrate knowledge of the English literature written between 1800 and the present;
- demonstrate an understanding of how authors use different elements of literature to convey ideas;
- sharpen critical reading and writing skills by analyzing and interpreting specific literary works from these periods and by using primary sources;
- demonstrate basic knowledge of the social, philosophical, historical, cultural, and political contexts of English literature;
- understand different theoretical approaches to literature;
- continue to demonstrate the writing and documentation skills taught in freshman, sophomore English courses including critical thinking, thesis development, organization of essays, appropriate use of sources and documentation of sources, and observing the conventions of standard English--grammar, usage, mechanics, and punctuation.

### **Course Text**

*The Norton Anthology English Literature*. Ninth Ed. Volume D, E, F

## **Grading**

Commonplace Book – 20%

Essays – 40%

Author Presentation – 10%

Midterm – 15%

Final – 15%

## **Writing Success**

The Writing Centers at each site, Rio Grande College- Southwest Texas Junior College partnerships, provide students with tutoring. Peer tutors help writers by conversing with them, by asking questions to lead writers to develop, deepen, and clarify their ideas, and by showing writers best strategies for editing and proofreading.

## **Course Policies**

### **Scholastic Honesty**

All work submitted must be your own and must be written exclusively for this class; the use of sources must be appropriately, correctly, and consistently documented. Quotations, paraphrases, or summaries that are not documented and the use of papers written by others constitute plagiarism. According to the *Rio Grande College Student Handbook*, “The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials” (p. 39). In English 3310, the penalty for plagiarism is a grade of F for the course.

Three different acts are considered plagiarism: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words” (Hacker, D. (2003). *A Writer’s Reference*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s Press p. 383).

### **Attendance**

If you miss more than three classes you may be dropped from the course.

## **Late Papers/Assignments**

To pass the class you must successfully complete and turn in to me each assignment by the due date. If you fail to turn in any assignments, even one, you may earn an F for the course. Please turn in assignments on time so that I can do my job efficiently. If you turn in a paper after the deadline, I will deduct 10% from that particular grade. *I will not accept any assignments during exam week.* Please keep up with the assignments and the readings because I do not give the grade of "I" for those who fail to complete course requirements.

## **Grade Changes**

You have a fifteen-week semester to earn your grade. If you want to talk to me about your grade during those fifteen weeks, I welcome it. Once the semester is over and I have entered grades into the system, however, I will not consider grade changes unless I, myself, miscalculated. Please do not ask for extra credit or chances to revise after the fifteenth week of class because I will refuse such appeals. You should know that you have the right to appeal your grade. According to the *Sul Ross Rio Grande College Student Handbook*, "if you disagree with a grade you received, you should discuss it with the instructor of the course. If you are not satisfied with results of that discussion, make an appointment to discuss it with the Chair of the Department [in this case, Dr. Sarah Roche]" (17).

## **Proposed Schedule (subject to change depending on class's progress and needs)**

Note: I will not give page numbers; I will go over the readings in class. You should use the Table of Contents or index to find the readings (obviously!)

## **Assignments**

### **The Commonplace Book**

A commonplace book is what a provident poet cannot subsist without, for this proverbial reason, that 'great wits have short memories:' and whereas, on the other hand, poets, being liars by profession, ought to have good memories; to reconcile these, a book of this sort, is in the nature of a supplemental memory, or a record of what occurs remarkable in every day's reading or conversation. There you enter not only your own

original thoughts, (which, a hundred to one, are few and insignificant) but such of other men as you think fit to make your own, by entering them there.

--from "A Letter of Advice to a Young Poet" by Jonathan Swift

The commonplace book is a traditional method of enhancing one's learning and writing through copying great passages and imitating them. In some ways it is like a scrapbook of great writing. In English 3310, you will keep a commonplace electronic file in which you will copy your favorite passages, imitate them, and comment on them. You will complete one entry each week for a total of 15 entries (15 to 30 pages double spaced). You will combine your Commonplace Book into one electronic file and email it to your instructor after each unit: February 12, March 26, and April 30th.

Format: see handout.

### **Author Presentation**

Each student will pick an author and give an electronic presentation on said author. The presentation should last 8-10 minutes. The student is also expected to spend 5 minutes discussing the authors work; this can include TED talks, YouTube videos, reading an excerpt of the author's work, etc.

### **Essays**

The student will write three essays during the semester; an essay for each time period of English literature that we will be discussing. Essays should be approximately 3-4 pages in length and include 3 scholarly sources. All essays should be written using MLA format and utilize proper documentation.

#### Essay # 1 due February 11<sup>th</sup>

Choose one of the major themes of the Romantic Period and discuss how that theme is present in one of the selected readings. Briefly discuss the history of the Romantic Period and how the piece you have selected reflects the movement.

-Or-

Romanticism opened up problems in relation to the place of dreams in the construction of art and the construction of self. What problems does a Romantic author open up related to the place of dreams and imagination in art and the construct of self?

Essay # 2 due March 25<sup>th</sup>

Pick three of *The Importance of Being Earnest's* major characters and write an essay in which you analyze how these three character's characterization contributes to the underlying theme and or themes of the story.

-Or-

Write an essay in which you discuss the different types of conflicts in "The Lady of Shallot". In detail discuss the different types of conflict such as physical, moral, intellectual, or emotional and their place within the story.

Essay # 3 due April 29<sup>th</sup>

*Heart of Darkness* has two men who could be in competition to be the hero of the novella. Discuss whether you believe Marlow or Kurtz to be the true "hero" of the story, and elaborate on the characteristics that you believe a hero should have.

-Or-

How does Stephen Dedalus's struggle to define himself relate to your personally and your struggle to define your role as a Mexican-American living in a border region?

**Midterm Exam**

This exam will be based on the assigned reading and discussions of your questions. It may contain multiple choice questions and a short essay.

**Final Exam**

The final exam will be a three-hour cumulative test of multiple choice and essay questions.

## Schedule

Week 1: January 21

Introductions & Syllabus

The Romantic Period

Week 2: January 28

William Blake: "The Marriage of Heaven & Hell", "Visions of the Daughters of Albion"

Week 3: February 4

William Wordsworth: "The Ruined Cottage"

George Gordon: "She walks in beauty", "Darkness", "So, we'll go no more a roving"

Percy Bysshe Shelley: "To Wordsworth", "Ozymandias", "To Sky-Lark"

Week 4: February 11

John Keats: "When I have fears that I may cease to be", "Ode to a Nightingale", "To Autumn"

Week 5: February 18

The Victorian Age Introduction

Elizabeth Barrett Browning: "The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim's Point", "The Cry of the Children"

Week 6: February 25

Alfred, Lord Tennyson: "The Lady of the Shalott" *Idylls of the King*: The Coming of Arthur & The Passing of Arthur

Week 7: Mar 4

Robert Browning: "My Last Duchess"

Emily Bronte: "I'm happiest when most away"

Mary Elizabeth Coleridge: "The Other Side of a Mirror"

Rudyard Kipling: "The White Man's Burden"

Week 8: Mar 11

Midterm Exam \*\*\*Start reading Wilde\*\*\*

\*\*\***SPRING BREAK**\*\*\*

Week 9: March 25

Oscar Wilde: *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Week 10: April 1

The Twentieth Century and After Introduction

Thomas Hardy: "In Time of 'The Breaking of Nations,'" "The Ruined Maid"

Week 11: April 8

William Butler Yeats: "Sailing to Byzantium," "A Coat," "Easter, 1916," "A Prayer for My Daughter," "The Sorrow of Love"

Week 12: April 15

Joseph Conrad: *Heart of Darkness*

Week 13: April 22

*Apocalypse Now* \*\*\*Start reading Joyce\*\*\*

Week 14: April 29

James Joyce: *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

Week 15: May 6

Wole Soyinka: "Telephone Conversation"

Grace Nichols: "The Fat Black Woman Goes Shopping"

Salman Rushdie: "The Prophet's Hair"

Week 16: May 13

Final Exam