English 5306 **THE BRITISH NOVEL** **Fall 2016**

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Course Description: This course will trace the development of the British novel from the eighteenth century to the present. Representative novels will be read to illustrate differences in content as well as in narrative forms and techniques. Historical, cultural, and critical materials pertaining to the novels will be assigned.

Course Objectives:

- To identify characteristics of the British novel of the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries
- To analyze narrative techniques and strategies employed by novelists over the span of three centuries
- To understand social, economic, historical, and political contexts in which British novels have been written
- To discern the influence of movements such as Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Modernism, and Postmodernism on the development of the British novel
- To conduct graduate level research and produce a graduate research paper

Assignments and Methods of Evaluation: Students must do reading assignments by the dates specified on the Assignments page. Assignments will include blog posts, short written assignments, a research paper, a midterm, and a final.

Grades will be determined according to these percentages:

Blog posts (7)	105 points
Short assignments (6)	435 points
Midterm (essay exam)	150 points
Research paper	160 points
Final (essay exam)	150 points

Point and grade correlation:

A=900-1000
B=800-899
C=700-799
D=600-699
F= 599 and below

Topic choices for the research paper are open: the paper can be historical, comparative, analytical, or pedagogical. However, you must deal with authors and works we are reading for this class. I will discuss your topics with you give you plenty of opportunities for revising and focusing your topic to create the best possible paper. The final paper should be twelve to fifteen

pages long, should use a variety of recent sources--probably six to ten--, and should follow current (2016) MLA guidelines for documentation and form.

Course Policies:

- Students are expected to check their Sul Ross e-mail and the course announcements page regularly and use the Sul Ross e-mail address when corresponding with the instructor.
- Students are expected to complete assignments by due dates. Late work will be penalized for each day it is late. Online exams must be taken at the times they are scheduled unless there is a documentable emergency or technical difficulty.
- Accessing the course and submitting assignments in a timely fashion are requirements. Students who do not turn in three successive assignments will be eligible to be dropped.
- Students are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Procedures for filing a student complaint are also included in the student handbook.
- Students in online courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For Blackboard assistance, contact Sandy Bogus at 432-837-8523 (sbogus@sulross.edu) or Rusty Klein at 432-837-8595 (rklein@sulross.edu).
- Students with disabilities will be accommodated but must first contact Counseling and Accessibility Services (mschwartze@sulross.edu or 432-837-8691).

Required Texts: Required books are listed below; use whatever edition you like except for *Emma*:

History, background, and introduction:
The Cambridge Introduction to the Novel, Cambridge University Press, 2011

The Eighteenth-Century Novel:
Henry Fielding, *Joseph Andrews and Shamela*, Oxford University Press (We are reading *Joseph Andrews* only, so if you find an edition without *Shamela*, that will work!)

The Novel of Manners (late eighteenth/early nineteenth century):
Jane Austen, *Emma*, Bedford / St. Martin's *Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism*, edited by Alistair Duckworth, 2002 This edition is required!

The Victorian Novel (mid-nineteenth century):
Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*, Penguin Classics (or any edition)

The Modernist Novel (early twentieth century):
Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich (or any edition)

The Postmodernist Novel (mid-twentieth century):
John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, Back Bay Books (or any edition)

The Contemporary Novel:
Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*, Vintage, 2001 (or any edition)

Assignments for Eng. 5306—The British Novel (online)

Introduction

Click on the above link for details on the first background reading assignment.

Aug. 27: Blog post due

The Eighteenth-Century Novel

Click on the above link for details on this assignment.

Aug. 29-Sept. 10: Joseph Andrews and Shamela--Henry Fielding

Sept. 3: Blog post due Film Option 1 Sept. 10: Reading Questions due

The Novel of Manners or Regency Novel

Click on the above link for details on this assignment.

Sept. 12-24: Emma--Jane Austen

Sept. 17: Blog post due Film Option 2 Sept. 24: Article Summary due

The Victorian Novel: Bleak House

Click on the above link for details on this assignment.

Sept. 26-Oct. 12: Bleak House--Charles Dickens

Oct. 1: Blog post due Film Option 3 Oct. 12: Reading questions due

Midterm Exam

Oct. 14-15: An essay exam over the first three novels in the course will be made available on Oct. 14 and must be turned in by midnight Oct. 15.

The Modernist Novel

Click on the above link for details on this assignment.

Oct. 17-29: To the Lighthouse--Virginia Woolf

Oct. 22: Blog post due Film Option 4 Oct. 29: Database research assignment due

The Postmodernist Novel

Click on the above link for details on this assignment.

Oct. 31-Nov. 12: The French Lieutenant's Woman--John Fowles

Nov. 5: Blog post due Film Option 5 Nov. 12: Reading questions due

The Contemporary Novel

Click on the above link for details on this assignment.

Nov. 14-26: White Teeth--Zadie Smith

Nov. 19: Blog post due

Film Review

Guidelines for writing a review of a film adaptation of a novel: 5306 Film Adaptation of a Novel.docx

Write the review on ONE of the five recommended films and submit it through the "Film Review" link above. The film review should be two to three double-spaced pages long.

Of course, you may view as many of the films as you like! Links are provided to most of the films so you can view them in their entirety on Vimeo or YouTube. If you prefer and if you want to avoid the advertisements that often interrupt the YouTube films, you can usually obtain them from Netflix, Hulu, or a vendor such as amazon.com. If you are in Alpine, the films are available through the library or from me. The only film I have not linked is Bleak House, but there are several different versions of it which you can obtain yourself through one of the sources I just listed.

All film reviews are due by November 26 (by midnight) . Go ahead and submit the review when you read the novel and view the film if you plan to complete this assignment early in the semester.

Research Paper

Click on the above link for details on this assignment.

Dec. 4: The research paper is due by midnight.

Final Exam

Dec. 6-7: An essay exam over the last three novels in the course will be made available on Dec. 6 and must be turned in by noon Dec.7.