

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
ENGLISH 3310: English Literature from 1800 to the Present

Instructor: Mark Underwood

Spring 2021

Contact Information

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Office Hours: Since we are meeting virtually, all office hours will also be virtual. I will be happy to schedule a Zoom meeting with you for discussion of readings, assignments, scheduling, etc. I'm not opposed to meeting with individuals in person, if we decide that would be beneficial and we can maintain safety standards.

Course Description

English 3310 is a reading- and writing- intensive survey of English literature written between the late 18th Century and the present. We will divide the course material into three chronological segments: the Romantic Period (1785 – 1832); The Victorian Period (1830 – 1901); and the Modern/Contemporary “Period” (The Twentieth Century to the present).

We will read a number of short poetry and prose pieces and one novel, in the Contemporary section.

I will provide background and critical material on Blackboard, and I will encourage students to do so as well. More about that as we meet and discuss the material.

Course Outcomes

- To read a variety of English literature (poetry, short stories, and novels) from authors between the Romantic and Modern period;
- To understand the themes and concepts that are characteristic of English literature of the late 18th, the 19th, and the 20th centuries, and to be able to identify them in literary works;
- To analyze aspects of selected works through discussion and critical thinking and writing;
- To understand the “placement” of selected works in their respective literary period, through discussion, and critical thinking and writing.

English Program Outcomes

Students will be able to

- demonstrate knowledge of the English literature written between (1785) 1800 and the present;
- construct essays that demonstrate clear topic/thesis, development, organization, and appropriate language;
- produce research projects that employ and integrate a variety of academic sources which are correctly documented;
- analyze literary works to develop ideas relevant to culture and relationships in personal and civic experiences;
- 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 and 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 Texts

Our primary text is an Open Educational Resource: *British Literature II: Romantic Era to the Twentieth Century and Beyond (2018)*. "English Open Textbooks 16." Edited by Bonnie J. Robinson. <https://oer.galileo.usg.edu/english-textbooks>

The novel, which you will either need to purchase or find online, is:

Offshore by Penelope Fitzgerald

Grading – Each student’s final class average will comprise the following:

2 analytical papers using MLA documentation – **Essay average counts for 30% of the final average**

2 exams based upon the literary periods covered (Romantic and Victorian) – **Test average counts for 20% of the final average**

1 oral presentation – **counts for 5% of the final average**

Classroom participation and discussion posts/ interaction – **count for 15% of final average**

Reading Quizzes – **Quiz average counts for 10% of the final average.** These are pre-discussion quizzes on Blackboard to encourage reading.

Final Exam – **counts for 20% of the final average.** This will be an open-book, open-note test made up of 4-5 short answer items.

90-100=A

80-89=B

70-79=C

60-69=D

00-59=F

Standard arithmetical rounding rules apply to the averages above.

Course Policies

A. Late Work - Generally, I will not accept late work unless you let me know AHEAD OF TIME why something needs to arrive late. Please understand that you will have to present me with valid reasons for the delay. In the event you cannot make arrangements ahead of time, such as in the case of illness or accident, you and I will discuss the situation and come to an agreement. Such circumstances **MUST** involve events **BEYOND YOUR CONTROL**. Please note that our coming to an agreement is not necessarily the same thing as my accepting late work. We might agree that the work will not be accepted. I will record a grade of Zero (0) for any late work not accepted.

B. Make-up Work - No reading quiz may be made up; no exceptions (NOPE, not even for that reason). I will drop your lowest quiz grade before calculating your semester grade. An essay or a test may be made up under the conditions described in section "A" above.

C. Revisions - You may revise one (1) essay after I have graded the paper and returned it to you. Revisions must be turned-in to me by **ONE WEEK FROM THE DAY YOU RECEIVE THE GRADED ORIGINAL**. After the one-week deadline has passed, you may not revise a given paper. I will help you decide which essay to revise if you want my help. **THE ORIGINAL ESSAY MUST ACCOMPANY THE REVISION OR I WILL NOT GRADE THE REVISION**. If the revision receives a higher grade than the original, the grade replaces the original grade. If the revision receives a lower grade, you get to keep the original grade.

D. Academic Dishonesty - The main temptation, if any exists, to cheat in this course involves **PLAGIARISM**.

Plagiarism is the accidental or deliberate use of someone else's **WORDS** and/or **IDEAS** without acknowledging they are not yours. Plagiarism is, therefore, stealing.

A first instance of plagiarism will result in a Zero (0) grade for the assignment. A second instance will result in my dropping you from the course and reporting you for disciplinary action.

Attendance

I will record attendance at every class meeting, and I expect you (and me) to attend all meetings. However, legitimate circumstances occur which may keep you (or me) from class. Let's please communicate with each other if/when such circumstances arise. A student's consistent absence from class will compromise his/her ability to succeed in this course.

Grade Changes

- You have a fifteen-week semester to earn your grade. Please talk to me about your grade during those fifteen weeks. Once the semester is over and I have entered grades into the system, however, I will not consider grade changes unless I miscalculated somehow or made a data-entry error. No "extra credit" opportunities are available for this course.
- You have the right to appeal your semester grade in a course. 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" (17).

ADA Statement

SRSU Rio Grande College is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Disability Services Coordinator assists students with disabilities in gaining opportunities for full participation in programs, services and activities. The Disability Services Coordinator is the Director of Student Services, available at 830-758-5006 in Eagle Pass, Texas.