



ENGL 2620

Division: Humanities

Department: English

Course: ENGL 2620

Title: Masterpieces of British Literature

Catalog Description:

The class studies the outstanding compositions and the main currents of British literature from the Romantic era to the present.

General Education Requirements: Humanities

Semesters Offered: Spring

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Justification:

A lower division survey of British literature is standard at most colleges and universities. This course will transfer as General Education, elective, or major credit. It fulfills General Education credit within the Humanities category (HU) and major requirements for English majors.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will know the major authors and works of nineteenth and twentieth century British literature in chronological order.

Students will be able to discuss major themes of nineteenth and twentieth century British literature.

Students will believe that changes have occurred in British literature due to social changes, and that these changes impact our use of the English language.

Students will feel an appreciation for the influence of British literature on mainstream values of United States culture.

Students will know major authors and their works with sufficient understanding to continue in major courses at Snow or four-year institutions.

Content:

A selection of major literary works of British Literature from the Romantic, Victorian, and Modern eras, including poetry, fiction, drama, essays and criticism, including:

- Excerpts from *Reflections on the French Revolution*, "A Vindication of the Rights of Man" and "The Rights of Woman"
- Selected poetry of the Romantic era, focusing on Burns and Blake
- Selected poetry/criticism of Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats, Shelley and Byron
- Selections from the writings of Mill, including his autobiography
- Selections from the poetry of Tennyson, the Brownings, the Rossettis, and Hopkins
- A work of fiction chosen by the instructor, but a work by an author such as Dickens, Shelley, Austen, Conrad, or Hardy would be appropriate
- Selected poetry and/or fiction of Hardy
- A play, possibly by Wilde or Shaw
- Select poetry by Yeats
- Fiction by Joyce
- Select poetry by Auden, Thomas or Larkin

General Education Outcomes:

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Students read a variety of primary texts and are quizzed on their basic content. Discussion questions are designed to elicit constructive and critical responses (e.g., Why do you suppose the writer decided to use the form of an ode to get his or her point across?)

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

Each student will write at least two essays that demonstrate the validity of a thesis. Each essay will be returned with suggestions for improving the student's writing skills.

5) Apply a cultural and historical awareness to a variety of phenomena.

Quizzes, essays, examinations and class discussions will all ask students to consider the readings in light of the evolution of the English language to meet the social challenges of the times. In other words, "Ode on the West Wind" can be read as an effort to craft a language that will provide words to help explain new information about trade winds and barometric pressure.

9) Respond with informed sensitivity to an artistic work or experience.

Each student will read the literature of the period for its artistic merit. For instance, he or she will appreciate its use of language as it appears in poetry, fiction, essays, etc., and he or she will employ aesthetic language such as "technical qualities," "ode," "lyric" to express an appreciation. Also, the students will study some works of art, architecture, and music so they can appreciate the literature in an appropriate historical and cultural context.

Key Performance Indicators:

Percentages are approximate:

8-10 quizzes (10%)

3 examinations (including the final) (45%)

2 (800-1000 words) essays (45%)

1 oral presentation (required, in place of a quiz)

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

A current edition of an anthology of British Literature, such as Longman's.

Optimum Class Size: 20

Maximum Class Size: 40

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Melanie Jenkins, MA, Associate Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the English Department:

Melanie Jenkins, MA, Associate Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Humanities Division:

Sheryl James Bodrero, PhD, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)