



English 2301E (570)
2025/26
British Literature Survey

Course Information:

Calendar Description: This course investigates the changing forms of literature produced in the British Isles from the Middle Ages to the present. It addresses key movements and styles through careful analysis of both major authors, such as Shakespeare, Austen, Woolf, or Yeats, and some less well-known yet engaging figures.

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 10 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

Anti-requisite(s): The former English 2307E.

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight: 1.00 **Breadth:** Category B.
Subject Code: ENGLISH

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary pre-requisites.

ENGLISH 2301 E: Survey of British Literature

Professor: Dr. Jeremy Colangelo

Professor Email: jcolang2@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Online (date/time TBA); see course website for Zoom URL

Calendar Description

This course investigates the changing forms of literature produced in the British Isles from the Middle Ages to the present. It addresses key movements and styles through careful analysis of both major authors and some less well-known yet engaging figures.

Prerequisites At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1000-1999, or permission of the Department

Learning Outcomes

Students who attend this course will acquire:

- A basic understanding of the history of British literature from its earliest days to the recent past
- The ability to identify key periods of literary history and what defines them
- Increased ability in critical thinking, persuasive writing, and close reading
- A sense of how major works influence and affect each other across time

AI Policy

I reserve the right to assign a grade of ZERO to any assignment found to have incorporated any text derived from an LLM AI or similar technology. The purpose of the assignments in this course is to train your thinking and research skills, to challenge you so that you can grow. Using an AI to write your paper, then, is sort of like paying someone else to go to the gym for you and then wondering why you never get any stronger. Don't use them.

At the very least, you should understand that a major benefit of receiving a humanities education is that you develop your ability to think on your own without having to rely on a computer (and the giant company that owns the computer) to do it for you. Even if I can't stop you from using AI, you should still avoid using it anyway, since it defeats the purpose of doing any of this work.

Text List

All texts will be available at the bookstore.

- *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Concise Edition, Vol. A* (first semester) \$85.65
- *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Concise Edition, Vol. B* (second semester) \$85.65
- William Shakespeare, *MacBeth* (edited by Mowat and Werstine) \$12.99
- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (edited by MacDonald and Scherf) \$15.85
- Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (edited by Richard Nemesvari) \$19.75
- Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea* (edited by Judith L Raiskin) \$18.99
- Tom Stoppard, *Arcadia* \$27.50

Grades and Evaluation

All assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. on the Friday of the week specified, except group presentations which are given during the Wednesday class of the week specified

First Semester

- Close reading assignment (Week 3) – 15%
- Group presentation (Weeks 4-12) – 10%
- Comparative reading (Week 12) – 20%

Second Semester

- Group presentation (Weeks 15-24) – 10%
- Essay proposal (Week 16) – 15%
- Final essay (Week 24) – 30%

Assignment Descriptions

Close Reading Assignment: Students will be given several passages from *Beowulf* to choose from. They will select ONE (1) of those passages and then write a **500-700 word** close reading of that passage. The close reading needs to describe what the text is saying and how the text is saying it, backed up with quotes and paraphrases from the text in question. Note that the reading must focus *exclusively* on the passage provided: the point of this assignment is to help you develop your ability to parse meaning out of a passage of literature.

Group Presentations: In groups of TWO (2) or THREE (3) to be selected at the start of the course, students are to deliver a **ten to fifteen minute presentation** comparing the work from a given week to one of the works from a previous week. They will deliver one presentation per semester, and can only compare the text(s) for their week to work from the same semester (so if you are presenting on James Joyce in semester two, you can compare him to *Frankenstein* but not *Fantomina*). These presentations will be delivered at the start of the Wednesday class of the week designated.

Comparative Reading: Students are to choose any TWO (2) texts from the first semester other than *Beowulf*. They are to choose one of several questions on a list that will be provided, or they may come up with their own question with professor approval. They are to write an essay of **600-800 words** comparing the two texts they selected according to the question they chose. No outside sources are necessary.

Essay Proposal: Students will write a **400-500 word** summary of the essay they plan to write for their final paper. This proposal must include a clear thesis statement which has been set apart from the rest of the text, either by bolding or underlining it, and must also describe how you plan to argue for this thesis. Finally, the proposal must include three MLA citations for peer-reviewed sources which are relevant to the argument and which have been published in the preceding ten years (i.e. during 2015 or after). These citations are not included as part of the word count.

Final Essay: Students are to write a **1,000-1,200 word essay that includes a thesis statement and at least three citations of peer-reviewed sources**. The argument need not be the same as the one you pitch in your essay proposal. It should compare any two texts that we read in the previous year, at least one of which must be from the second semester.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

This course presumes that students will complete all assigned readings prior to the start of the relevant class. All assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. on the Friday of the specified week. Texts that can be found in the anthology are indicated with their page range.

WEEK 1 (Sept. 8-12)

- Monday: *Beowulf*
- Wednesday: *Beowulf* continued

WEEK 2 (Sept. 15-19)

- Monday: Marie de France, “Lanval” and “Bisclavret”; Middle English lyrics “Sumer is icumen in,” “Bring us in good ale”
- Wednesday: Above continued

WEEK 3 (Sept 22-26)

- Monday: Geoffrey Chaucer, “General Prologue” and “The Miller’s Prologue and Tale”
- Wednesday: Chaucer continued
- Assignments Due: Close reading assignment

WEEK 4 (Sept. 29-Oct. 3)

- Monday: John Donne, “The Flea” and Holy Sonnet 10 (“Death be not proud”)
- Wednesday: William Shakespeare, Sonnet 18 (“Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”) and Sonnet 20 (“A woman’s face with nature’s own hand painted”)
- Assignments Due: Group presentations begin

WEEK 5 (Oct. 6-10)

- Monday: William Shakespeare, *MacBeth*
- Wednesday: *MacBeth* continued

WEEK 6 (Oct. 13-17)

- Monday: Class closed for Thanksgiving
- Wednesday: *MacBeth* continued

WEEK 7 (Oct. 20-24)

- Monday: John Milton, *Paradise Lost* Book 1
- Wednesday: Book 1 continued

WEEK 8 (Oct. 27-31)

- Monday: John Milton, *Paradise Lost* Book 9
- Wednesday: Book 9 continued

Reading Week! Go read!

WEEK 9 (Nov. 10-14)

- Monday: Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko: or, The Royal Slave. A True History*

- Wednesday: *Oroonoko* continued

WEEK 10 (Nov. 17-21)

- Monday: John Swift, *A Modest Proposal*
- Wednesday: John Swift, “The Lady’s Dressing Room” and “Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift”

WEEK 11 (Nov. 24-28)

- Monday: Alexander Pope, “from *An Essay on Criticism*” and “The Rape of the Lock: An Heroi-Comical Poem in Five Cantos”
- Wednesday: Alexander Pope continued

WEEK 12 (Dec. 1-5)

- Monday: Eliza Haywood, *Fantomina: or, Love in a Maze*
- Wednesday: Haywood continued
- Assignments Due: Comparative reading

NEW-YEAR’S BREAK

WEEK 13 (Jan. 5-9)

- Monday: William Wordsworth, “Lines Written a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey,” “Ode [Intimations of Immortality],” “Surprised by Joy”
- Wednesday: Wordsworth continued

WEEK 14 (Jan 12-16)

- Monday: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*
- Wednesday: *Frankenstein* continued

WEEK 15 (Jan 19-23)

- Monday: *Frankenstein* continued
- Wednesday: *Frankenstein* continued
- Assignments Due: Group presentations begin

WEEK 16 (Jan 26-30)

- Monday: Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “The Lady of Shalott,” “Ulysses,” “The Charge of the Light Brigade”
- Wednesday: Tennyson continued
- Assignments Due: Essay proposal

WEEK 17 (Feb. 2-6)

- Monday: Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
- Wednesday: *Jane Eyre* continued

WEEK 18 (Feb. 9-13)

- Monday: *Jane Eyre* continued

- Wednesday: *Jane Eyre* continued

Reading Week

WEEK 19 (Feb. 23-27)

- Monday: Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- Wednesday: Wilde continued

WEEK 20 (March 2-6)

- Monday: William Butler Yeats, “No Second Troy,” “Easter 1916,” “Leda and the Swan,” “The Second Coming”
- Wednesday: Yeats continued

WEEK 21 (March 9-13)

- Monday: James Joyce, “Araby,” “The Dead”
- Wednesday: Joyce continued

WEEK 22 (March 16-20)

- Monday: Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- Wednesday: Rhys continued

WEEK 23 (March 23-27)

- Monday: Rhys continued
- Wednesday: Tom Stoppard, *Arcadia*

WEEK 24 (March 30 – April 3)

- Monday: Stoppard continued
- Wednesday: Stoppard continued
- Assignments Due: Final essay

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality_Reports - TurnItIn.html.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.