



ENGLISH 2301E (570)
British Literature (Survey)
Fall/Winter 2026 - 2027

Instructor: Jason Hoult
Email: jhoult2@uwo.ca

Course Information

Mode of Instruction: In-person

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.

Antirequisite(s): None.

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

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 enrol 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 prerequisites.

English 2301E British Literature (Survey)

2026-27

Course Instructor: Jason Hoult
Email: jhoult2@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Online (TBA), or by appointment. Please feel free and welcome to email me to schedule a time to meet outside of office hours.

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

Mode of Instruction: In-person

On bokes and on lerninge he it spent,
And bisily gan [i.e., began, did] for the soules preye
Of hem that yaf him wherwith to scoleye [i.e., study as a scholar]
Of studie took he most cure and most hede.
Noght o word spake he more than was neede,
And that was seyde in forme and reverence,
And short and quyke and full of hy sentence;
Souninge [i.e., (re)sounding] in moral vertu was his speche,
And gladly wolde he lerne, and gladly teche.

—Chaucer, “General Prologue” in the *Canterbury Tales* (300-308).

Course Objectives

This course seeks to engage students in a focused discussion of the assigned reading. Students are asked to contribute to the discussion each week by raising passages, problems, issues, and questions with which they are grappling. What this requires is that students come prepared to discuss the text, having already made an attempt to think through some of the challenges that it presents on their own.

Through these discussions, the course aims to amplify our capacity to think and to read critically. The course also aims to provide students with an understanding of the intellectual and literary developments that shape the story of British literature, from its ancient past to the twentieth century. Regular attendance is important in order to get a sense of the accumulative nature of this

development. What is most important in English 2301 is that we construct a context in which each of us feels encouraged to test our own ideas and to learn with and alongside one another.

Learning Outcomes

Students who accept the task of thoughtfully engaging with the reading material and who successfully complete all of the course assignments can expect to emerge from the course with:

- an understanding of a number of themes, ideas, devices, genres, and literary forms associated with the study of British literature;
- an understanding of the values that support and that are supported by literary analysis;
- the capacity, on the basis of these values, to call into question uncritical assumptions and opinions within an author's or character's point of view;
- the ability to identify different points of view that structure or shape the argument of the text;
- the ability to identify instances in which an author speaks from a point of view that is not their own in order to test the assumptions and opinions that a reader brings to the text; and
- the capacity to engage with a text on the basis of its own values, images, and critical distinctions by using them to put pressure on difficult passages and, thereby, to put pressure on any simple, literal reading of the text.

Required Texts (and other required readings)

The following *required texts* are available for purchase from the university bookstore. Used copies are also widely available for purchase online.

Beowulf: A New Verse Translation (Bilingual Edition), translated by Seamus Heaney, published by W. W. Norton, 2001 (ISBN: 9780393320978) – \$21.95

Four Revenge Tragedies, ed. by Katharine Eisaman Maus (includes *The Spanish Tragedy* by Thomas Kyd), published by Oxford Paperbacks, 2008 (ISBN: 0199540535) – \$14.50

Hamlet by William Shakespeare, edited by Sylvan Barnet, Signet Classics published by New American Library, Penguin Group (ISBN: 9780451526922) – \$8.99

Silas Marner by George Eliot, published by Sea Wolf Press, 2021 (ISBN: 9781956221480) – \$13.99

To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf, published by Harcourt, Inc., 1981 (ISBN: 0151907366) – \$12.50

All other required reading material will be posted on the OWL Brightspace course website.

Course Assignments and Assessment

Assignment	Description	Due date & Percentage of Final Grade
In-class test (1)	There will be two parts to this test. Part 1 will ask you to provide your understanding of key concepts, structures, ideas, and themes covered over the first several weeks of the Fall term. Part 2 will ask you to provide an analysis of a key passage discussed in class. The test will be <i>open-book</i>.	Date: Wednesday, October 21 (Part 1) and Friday, October 23 (Part 2) Percentage: 20%
Fall essay	For this assignment, you will be asked to select two passages (from an assigned list) and to write an essay in which you analyze the key ideas, themes, structures, images, and points of view found in the passages as well as in the texts from which they are taken (approx. 2500 words).	Due: By the end of the day on December 9 (11:59pm) Percentage: 25%
In-class test (2)	There will be two parts to this test. Part 1 will ask you to provide your understanding of key concepts, structures, ideas, and themes covered over the latter half of the Fall term and over the first several weeks of the Winter term. Part 2 will ask you to provide an analysis of a key passage discussed in class. The test will be <i>open-book</i>.	Date: Wednesday, February 24 (Part 1) and Friday, February 26 (Part 2) Percentage: 20%
Final essay (due during the exam period)	For your final exam, you will be asked to select two passages (from an assigned list) and to write an essay in which you analyze the key ideas, themes, structures, images, and points of view found in the passages as well as in the texts from which they are taken (approx. 2500 words).	Due: By the end of the day on April 19 (11:59pm). Percentage: 35%

Course Schedule

Week 1	September 9 & 11 Wednesday: During our first class, we will discuss the syllabus in detail. Friday: For our second class, we will begin discussing <i>Beowulf</i> and ancient literature.
Week 2	September 16 & 18: <i>Beowulf</i> Wednesday: <i>Beowulf</i> Friday: <i>Beowulf</i> (cont'd)
Week 3	September 23 & 25: Chaucer Wednesday: <i>Canterbury Tales</i> , "General Prologue" Friday: "The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale"
Week 4	September 30 & October 1: Chaucer Wednesday: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. No class. Friday: "The Clerk's Prologue and Tale"
Week 5	October 7 & 9: <i>Everyman</i> Wednesday: <i>Everyman</i> Friday: <i>Everyman</i> (cont'd)
Week 6	October 10 – 18 FALL READING WEEK <i>No class.</i>
Week 7	October 21 & 23 This week will involve an in-class, open-book test. Wednesday: Test, Part 1 (terms and concepts) Friday: Test, Part 2 (passage analysis)
Week 8	October 28 & 30: Thomas Kyd Wednesday: <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i> Friday: <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i> (cont'd)
Week 9	November 4 & 6: Shakespeare Wednesday: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 1 Friday: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 2
Week 10	November 11 & 13: Shakespeare Wednesday: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 3 Friday: <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 4

- Week 11 November 18 & 20: Shakespeare
 Wednesday: *Hamlet*, Act 5
 Friday: “Sonnet 116”
- Week 12 November 25 & 27: Metaphysical Poets: Donne & Herbert
 Wednesday: Donne, “The Good-Morrow,” “The Ecstasy,” “Love’s Growth,” and
 “A Valediction of the Book”
 Friday: Herbert, “The Altar” and “Love (I, II, and III)”
- Week 13 December 2 & 4: Donne
 Wednesday: Donne, “Death, Be Not Proud,” and “Hymn to God My God, in My
 Sickness”
 Friday: Donne, “A Funeral Elegy”
- Week 14 December 9: Thomas Carew & Review
 Wednesday: Carew, “An Elegy upon the Death of the Dean of Paul’s, Dr. John
 Donne” and review of the course material.

First essay assignment (“Fall essay”) due on Tuesday, December 8. Please submit
 your assignment to the appropriate Dropbox on the course website.

Winter Break

- Week 15 January 6 & 8: M. H. Abrams
 Wednesday: “The Fourth Dimension of a Poem”
 Friday: “The Fourth Dimension of a Poem” (cont’d)
- Week 16 January 13 & 15: Jonathan Swift
 Wednesday: “A Modest Proposal”
 Friday: “Meditation Upon a Broomstick”
- Week 17 January 20 & 22: Romantic Poetry
 Wednesday: Please read the excerpts from Wordsworth’s Prefaces and Essays
 (posted on the course website)
 Friday: Please read the short selection from Blake’s poems (course website)
- Week 18 January 27 & 29: Romantic Poets
 Wednesday: Please read the selection of poems posted on the course website
 Friday: Selection cont’d
- Week 19 February 3 & 5: Tennyson
 Wednesday: *In Memoriam* (short selection of sections)
 Friday: *In Memoriam* (cont’d)

- Week 20 February 10 & 12: Tennyson
 Wednesday: *Enoch Arden*
 Friday: *Enoch Arden* (cont'd)
- Week 22 February 13 – 21 WINTER READING WEEK
 No class.
- Week 22 February 24 & 26
 This week will involve an in-class, open-book test.
- Wednesday: Test, Part 1 (terms and concepts)
 Friday: Test, Part 2 (passage analysis)
- Week 23 March 3 & 5: George Eliot
 Wednesday: *Silas Marner*, Chs. 1 – 9
 Friday: *Silas Marner* (cont'd)
- Week 24 March 10 & 12: George Eliot
 Wednesday: *Silas Marner*, Ch. 10 – “Conclusion”
 Friday: *Silas Marner* (cont'd)
- Week 25 March 17 & 19: Virginia Woolf
 Wednesday: *To the Lighthouse*, “The Window”
 Friday: *To the Lighthouse* (cont'd)
- Week 26 March 24 & 26: Virginia Woolf
 Wednesday: *To the Lighthouse*, “Time Passes” and “The Lighthouse”
 Friday: *To the Lighthouse* (cont'd)
- Week 27 March 31 & April 2: T.S. Eliot
 Wednesday: *Four Quartets*, “Burnt Norton” (1)
 Friday: *Four Quartets*, “East Coker” (2)
- Week 28 April 7 & 9: T.S. Eliot
 Wednesday: *Four Quartets*, “The Dry Salvages” (3)
 Friday: *Four Quartets*, “Little Gidding” (4)
- The final essay (“Final Essay”) will be due on **Monday, April 19th** (during the exam period). Please submit your essay to the appropriate Dropbox on the course website.

Important Dates

- Wednesday, October 21 – Test 1, Part 1 (terms and concepts)
 Friday, October 23 – Test 1, Part 2 (passage analysis)

Tuesday, December 8 – First essay due by the end of the day (11:59pm)
Wednesday, February 24 – Test 2, Part 1 (terms and concepts)
Wednesday, February 26 – Test 2, Part 2 (passage analysis)
Monday, April 19 – Final essay due by the end of the day (11:59pm)

Please note, Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

OWL Course Website

The Course Outline, assignments, and some of the reading materials will be posted on the OWL course website. Students will also be able to submit essay assignments using the Dropbox feature. Announcements regarding the course will be posted on the course homepage (urgent announcements, including cancellation of class for any reason, will be emailed directly to students as well as posted to the course website).

Policy on Missed or Late Work

Students who are unable to submit their assignment by the due date must contact the Course Instructor (Jason Hoult) prior to the deadline. Students will then arrange, in conversation with their instructor, for an alternative due date to be set. Assignments that are submitted after the initial due date for which students have not arranged an alternative will be penalized 2% for each day that the assignment is late (to a total of 20%).

Students who miss an in-class test (due to illness, etc.) will be required to complete a make-up test at another time, arranged in conversation with the course instructor. For students who are unable to attend the make-up test, arrangements will be made with the Exam Office to host a make-up assessment. Please note that, as of this year, students will be charged \$45.00 for each make-up assessment booked with the Exam Office.

AI Policy

Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, co-pilot, translation tools, and grammar-checking tools) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

Electronic Device Policy

Students are encouraged to use only the electronic devices (e.g., laptops) that they need in order to make notes or to engage with the course's reading material. Students not using devices for these purposes will be asked to stop and/or to put away the device.

Correspondence

Please feel free and welcome to be in contact with me (the Course Instructor) by email at any time. I shall be responding to emails at various times throughout each day (before 4:00PM). If, however, your request, question, or idea entails a larger discussion, I may write to arrange a meeting during office hours or at another time that works for both of us.

**KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2026-27**

1. Academic Accommodations (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](#).

2. Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students must be approved to write a makeup exam or for an extension of the assignment deadline. If you need to miss an exam or the deadline for the assignment, please follow these instructions.

There are two ways to seek academic consideration:

(i) Academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate grounds), they should contact the Academic Advising Office. As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration.

For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is the appropriate documentation. The SMC is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

- King's students: The Academic Advising Office website is located in DLH 104. The Academic Advising website is <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>.
- If your home faculty is Huron or at Western, please submit your documentation to your faculty's academic counselling office.
- Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

You may submit requests for academic consideration through the **Student Absence Portal**, linked on this website: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>

(ii) Academic consideration through an undocumented absence

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per half-course (0.5) weight.

- Note that instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline to confirm this assessment.
- If instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs. (For example, if students need to submit X of Y assignments, this flexibility already provides consideration.)
- Undocumented absences can not be used as the basis for academic consideration for December or April exams.

For further information on the academic consideration policy, please see https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

c) Absences from Final Exams

If you miss the Final Exam, **contact your Academic Advising Office** 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 (i.e., you are scheduled to write 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](#)).

d) Religious Accommodations

Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and their 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.

3. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:
<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/accessibility-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

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

Western’s Mental Health Services site provides a complete list of options on how to obtain help: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/academics/academic-supports/>

4. Statement on Gender-Based Sexual Violence

King's and Western are committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: [Mental Health and Wellness at King's](#).

You can reach supports at King's 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 (health@uwo.ca) or by calling 519-661-3568. Additional support services can be found <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/support/index.html>

5. 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://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/campus/Kings_Code_of_Student_Conduct.pdf

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.

6. 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 https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.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 you instructor to check which tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in each course.** Note that although some courses may permit the use of such tools, it does not mean use of such tools 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.