

Murray State University

Revised 7/28/15

DEPARTMENT: ENGLISH AND PHILOSOPHY

COURSE PREFIX: ENG

COURSE NUMBER: 303

CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. **TITLE:** British Literature to 1760

II. **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES:** A study of the development of British literature from the Old English through the Early Modern English periods, with emphasis on key texts, figures, genres, and trends, including critical approaches.  
**Prerequisite(s):** ENG 105 or 150 or the equivalent, and ENG 221 or permission of instructor.

III. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The main objective of this course is to familiarize students with a considerable body of English literature dating from roughly 1000 to 1760 C.E., as well as to acquaint students with a large number of literary genres, forms, and theories prevalent in these periods. As such, the reading list is ample, and at times, quite demanding. Although I would certainly prefer to leave no work unexplored, my treatment of the material must (by necessity) vary from detailed engagements with certain works to more superficial commentary on others. Thus the emphasis of this course is on achieving breadth rather than depth; the advantage of such an emphasis is that it will expose students to a lot of material from which they can choose texts for more detailed investigation in their papers and exams. This approach may cause occasional frustration in students (and in the Instructor), but the advantage of this course is that it helps students become conversant with a large number of canonical works.

IV. **CONTENT OUTLINE:**

The course is organized chronologically, beginning with the Old English Period and ending with the late English Augustan era. The reading list is composed primarily of poetic works from a variety of sub-genres (epic, romance, satire, lyric, pastoral, mock-epic, etc.); however, the course includes one Shakespearean drama and a number of prose narratives as well. In addition to studying matters of genre, form, style, rhetorical devices, etc., students are required to study major historical events relevant to the development of early English literature.

V. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Students are expected to complete all reading and written assignments satisfactorily in order to pass this course. Students are expected to have read and considered the materials thoughtfully ON THE DAYS DESIGNATED on the Assignment Schedule below, and should be prepared to discuss the readings on the days they are assigned. Work in class will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion, with an emphasis on the latter. Therefore, regular attendance and thorough preparation of the assigned readings is VITAL if students wish to do well in the course.

**VI. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/ OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:**

There is the possibility that members of this class will have an opportunity to travel to Staunton, VA to participate in The American Shakespeare Center's "Little Academe" program, Oct. 17-19 to see *The Comedy of Errors* and *Macbeth*. This trip would be **voluntary** and would have no effect on your final grade in the class. More information will be forthcoming.

**VII. TEXT(S) AND RESOURCES:**

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Greenblatt et. al., eds. Vol. 1. Eighth edition. W.W. Norton, 2006

The class will make frequent use of Canvas, so make sure you know how to access it and utilize it effectively.

**VIII. EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES:**

Final grades for this course will be based on the following criteria: the quality and improvement of all written and course-related assignments, the quality and quantity of preparation and participation as demonstrated in class, the scores on the midterm and final exams, and the attendance record. All essays **MUST** conform to the MLA formatting style for citations, Title Page, and Works Cited Page (see MLA Handbook available at Waterfield Library, MLA.org, or the rules for MLA formatting and citation listed on Purdue's OWL website: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>). Essays that do not conform to MLA guidelines will be returned for correction. Essays must be typed in size 12 Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and stapled.

Requests for extensions on essays must be submitted at least one full day before the assignment is due; no extensions will be granted on the day the assignment is due. Students may receive only **ONE** extension during the semester, and essays granted an extension must be turned in at the next class meeting. **NO** extensions will be granted on essay three, and **all** essays **must be submitted by 5 PM via Canvas**. All essays must be saved as Word docs (doc & docx). All essays will be vetted through the TURNITIN program, and so, make sure you cite all material that is not original in order to avoid plagiarism. No makeup midterms will be scheduled except for absences required for events representing the university (documentation of said event is required), and **ALL** students must take the final exam as scheduled, **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

**Assignments and Percentages:**

- A.** Three essays analyzing a work (or works) of poetry or prose from the course reading list. Essay One. In Essay Two, students are **REQUIRED** to engage with **TWO** outside secondary critical sources related to the text under scrutiny. In Essay Three, students are **REQUIRED** to engage with at least **THREE** outside secondary critical sources related to the text(s) under scrutiny. Remember: all essays must be turned in via Canvas. **Failure to complete ALL three essays satisfactorily and ON TIME can result in a failing mark for the course.**

- B. Two exams: the Midterm consisting of identification and essays questions, will cover *Beowulf* through Mary Wroth. The Final Exam will cover George Herbert through William Cowper.
- C. Attendance, Participation, and QEP assignments: Students are required to write FOUR one-page, single-spaced responses during the semester in which they pose Five Questions to the text under scrutiny, offer one Explanatory answer, and write a brief Position statement related to their questions and answers. These assignments are unscheduled.

**IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Students are expected to adhere to the MSU Attendance Policy outlined in the current *MSU Bulletin*.

**X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

**Violations of Academic Honesty include:**

**Cheating** - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

**Fabrication and Falsification** - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

**Multiple Submission** - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

**Plagiarism** - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Instructors should outline their expectations that may go beyond the scope of this policy at the beginning of each course and identify such expectations and restrictions in the course syllabus. When an instructor receives evidence, either directly or indirectly, of academic dishonesty, he or she should investigate the instance. The faculty member should then take appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

**If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.**

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if Substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy elements related to the individual disciplines.

A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

## **XI. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

### Policy Statement

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access, 103 Wells Hall, (270) 809-3155 (voice), (270) 809-3361 (TDD).

### Students with Disabilities

Students requiring special assistance due to a disability should visit the Office of Student Disability Services immediately for assistance with accommodations. For more information, students should contact the Office of Student Disability Services, 423 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071. 270-809-2018 (voice) 270-809-5889 (TDD).