

English 3351: British Literature from the Nineteenth Century to the Present

Adam McCune

E-mail: adam_mccune@baylor.edu

Regular office hours: MWF 8:30-11:45 am (near Starbucks in Moody Library) and by appointment

Paper presentation meetings: by appointment in Draper 246 suite (meeting room or office 12)

Course Description

This course surveys British literature from the French Revolution to the present day, spanning Romantic, Victorian, Modernist, and contemporary literature. These texts have been selected for their engagement with and impact on cultural movements, for their beauty, and to show the variety of major British literary works. Gaining an appreciation for the styles, voices, and subjects of British literary history during these two centuries is the central goal of this course.

Required Texts

The Broadview Anthology of British Literature. Concise edition, 2nd edition. Volume B.
978-1554811335

Jane Austen. *Northanger Abbey*. Ed. Claire Grogan. 2nd ed. Broadview, 2002.
978-1-55111-479-8

Charles Dickens. *A Christmas Carol*. Ed. Richard Kelly. Broadview, 2003.
978-1551114767

Tom Stoppard. *Arcadia*. Faber & Faber, 1994.
978-0571169344

Evaluation:

Papers	40% (20% + 20%)
Exams (midterm & final)	40% (20% + 20%)
Recitation	5%
Participation	15%

Grading Scale:

A = 93-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D + = 67-69	F = 0-59
A- = 90-92	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 60-66	
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72		

Papers

You will submit two **6-8 page papers**. The first must be an **essay**; the second may either be an **essay** or a **mimetic response**.

Essays should be works of literary analysis on a topic of your choosing. If you would like suggestions, see me for possible essay topics. You must include a "Works Cited" page. Follow the *MLA Handbook* for all formatting and editorial matters.

Mimetic responses should be creative projects that imitate and respond to two different literary works, and should include an explanatory rationale.

Exams

There will be two exams, which will test knowledge of the literary texts and also of contextual or interpretive material covered in class. The midterm exam will cover the first half of the course, and the final exam will primarily cover the second half, but will also require knowledge of connections between nineteenth-century and twentieth-century works.

Recitation

As part of the long tradition of internalizing literature through memorization and recitation, each of you will memorize and recite (to your instructor in an individual meeting) all or a portion of one or two works assigned in this course. The length requirements are as follows:

14-28 lines of poetry (for example, “Ozymandias” or “Jabberwocky” or part of a longer poem)

or

100-150 words of prose (for example, a speech from *Arcadia* or *Northanger Abbey*, or a pithy essay passage)

or

8-13 lines of poetry and 45-75 words of prose

You will provide a printed copy of your excerpts, including the works’ titles, for your instructor to check your recitation against. Your recitation will be evaluated on its verbal accuracy. The deadline is near the end of the course, but you are encouraged to make an appointment to recite earlier in the semester.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes, and absences will affect the participation grade. Additionally, in keeping with the College of Arts and Sciences and English Department’s attendance policy, any student who misses more than 25% of class sessions (for MWF classes, more than 10 class sessions) will fail automatically.

Participation Standards

Fulfilling the following requirements will earn a student the full 15 points for participation. Each instance of a failure to fulfill any one of the following expectations will (after three free passes) lower the student’s participation grade by one point, **thus lowering the final grade by one percentage point**.

- Students will show respect for the course, the instructor, themselves, their classmates, and opinions that may differ from their own.
- It is necessary for students to regularly attend every class. Legitimate reasons to miss class include required University-sponsored activities, illness, and a death in the family.
- Class will begin at the designated time; therefore, students need to arrive on time to every class. Students who are tardy (later than five minutes) more than three times will have each subsequent tardy counted as an absence.
- Students are expected to complete all assigned reading for every class.
- Students are expected to bring the text of the assigned reading with them to class in order to refer to it in discussion. When the text is provided online, students should bring a printout.
- Students are expected to participate in discussion, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of their classmates, as a way to better understand literary works, and to prepare for graded assignments.

Participating in discussion may include (when the instructor assigns it) the preparation of discussion questions in advance and helping to direct the discussion using those questions.

- Part of participating in class activities means refraining from non-related activities, such as texting, checking email or Facebook, carrying on extraneous conversations, doing work for other classes, etc.
- To minimize distraction, please turn off all electronic devices, except laptops, before class begins. If you have a compelling reason, you may ask in advance for special permission to use another electronic device for note-taking, etc.