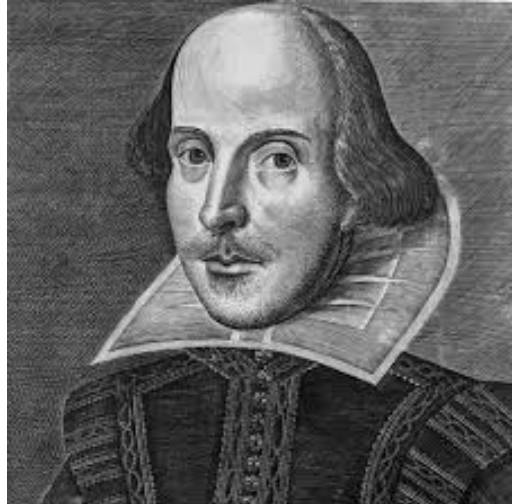


## ENG 2301 – British Literature

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### Course Description

From the catalogue: *A study of the literature of Great Britain, emphasizing the works of major writers such as Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, the Romantic poets, the Victorian poets, and the major novelists.*

In this course, we will read a range of British literature from its Anglo-Saxon beginnings through the present day. We will pay attention to the ways in which these literary texts engaged with (and contributed to) their own historical contexts: political, social, intellectual, and religious. We will consider different styles and genres, asking how the type of writing helps to constitute particular works. By the end of this course, you will have begun to build a foundation on which to base your future reading of British literature, as well as the American and Anglophone (and World) literatures written in conversation with British works. What is more, we will engage with the texts on their own terms, asking how they can illuminate aspects of our own lives, distant as they may seem.

In particular, we will be tracing authors' treatment of **love** and **wisdom** in these imaginative and poetic texts as the centuries unfold. How are competing kinds of love—such as romantic love and agape—demonstrated, considered, or challenged? How do authors both define and illustrate wisdom? Students will participate in group work and write essays exploring how treatment of these virtues shifts over time and what remains the same.

Besides earning points for daily attendance, participation and quizzes, students will write four exams and memorize 26-28 lines of poetry.

### Required Texts

Greenblatt, Stephen et al., eds. *Norton Anthology of English Literature, The Major Authors*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed., vols. 1 and 2. New York: Norton, 2012. ISBN 978-0393603118.  
Austen, Jane. *The Annotated Persuasion*. Anchor Books, 2010. ISBN 978-0-307-39078-3.  
Shakespeare, William. *Twelfth Night*. Broadview Press, 2010. ISBN 978-1554810369.

**Reading Schedule** (subject to change; check for updated assignments if you miss class)

*The Middle Ages to the Renaissance (-ca. 1660)*

Aug. 26 Welcome and introductions

Aug. 28 *Dream of the Rood*

Aug. 30 Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales* General Prologue

Sept. 2 \*\*Labor Day – No Class\*\*

Sept. 4 Chaucer, Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale

Sept. 6 Chaucer, Pardoner's Prologue and Tale

Sept. 9 Sir Philip Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella*, 1, 20, 71, 108.

Sept. 11 Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*, Act 1

Sept. 13 *Twelfth Night*, Act 2

Sept. 16 *Twelfth Night*, Act 3

Sept. 18 *Twelfth Night*, Act 4

Sept. 20 *Twelfth Night*, Act 5

Sept. 23 Donne, "Flea," "The Sun Rising," "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning," "Holy Sonnet #10," "Holy Sonnet #14," "Good Friday, 1613"

Sept. 25 George Herbert, "The Altar," "Redemption," "Prayer (1)," "Jordan (1)," "The Windows," "The Collar"; "Love (II)"

Sept. 27 Henry Vaughan, "The World," "And Do They So?"; Andrew Marvell, "Horatian Ode"; Richard Lovelace, "To Lucasta"

Sept. 30 **Memorization 1 Due**; Exam Review

Oct. 2 **Exam 1: The Middle Ages to the Renaissance**

*The Restoration and Eighteenth Century (1660-1815)*

Oct. 4 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1

Oct. 7 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 2, Argument, lines 629-1055

Oct. 9 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 4

Oct. 11 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 9

Oct. 14 Jonathan Swift, "A Modest Proposal"

Oct. 16 Alexander Pope, "The Rape of the Lock"

Oct. 18 William Wordsworth, "I Wandered Lonely," "My Heart Leaps Up"; Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"

Oct. 21 Percy Shelley, "Ode to the West Wind"; John Keats, "When I have Fears," "Ode to a Nightingale," "Ode on a Grecian Urn"; Byron, "She Walks in Beauty"

Oct. 23 Aristotle, from *Nicomachean Ethics*; "Preface" to *Lyrical Ballads*

**Oct. 25 \*\*Fall Break – No Class\*\***

Oct. 28 Austen, *Persuasion*, pp. 2-119

Oct. 30 Austen, *Persuasion*, pp. 120-241

Nov. 1 Austen, *Persuasion*, pp. 242-362

Nov. 4 Austen, *Persuasion*, pp. 363-483

**Nov. 6 Exam 2: The Restoration and Eighteenth Century**

*The Nineteenth Century to the Present*

Nov. 8 Elizabeth Barrett Browning, from *Sonnets from the Portuguese*; Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess"

Nov. 11 Robert Browning, "The Bishop Orders his Tomb," "Fra Lippo Lippi"

Nov. 13 Alfred, Lord Tennyson, from *In Memoriam*: Prologue, 54-56, 96

Nov. 15 Tennyson, cont.; Matthew Arnold, "Dover Beach"

Nov. 18 Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"

Nov. 20 Gerard Manley Hopkins, "As Kingfishers Catch Fire"; "God's Grandeur," "Pied Beauty," "Carrion Comfort"

Nov. 22 W.B. Yeats, "The Second Coming"; W.H. Auden, "Musée des Beaux Arts"

Nov. 25 T. S. Eliot, "Prufrock," from *Four Quartets*

Nov. 27-Dec. 1 **\*\*Thanksgiving Break\*\***

Dec. 2 Woolf, from *A Room of One's Own*

Dec. 4 from *Monty Python's Flying Circus*

Dec. 6 **Memorization 2 Due**; Exam Review

**Dec. 9 Exam 3: The Nineteenth Century to the Present**

**Final Exam: Thursday, December 12, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

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**Memorization Options**

You may either memorize the invocation to *Paradise Lost* (26 lines, by Oct. 14) or any two of the following sonnets (14 lines each, respectively by Oct. 4 and Dec. 6):

Sidney

Sonnet 70 ("My muse may well")

Sonnet 71 ("Who may in fairest")

Shakespeare

Sonnet 116 ("Let me not to the")

Sonnet 130 ("My mistress' eyes")

Donne

Sonnet 10 ("Death, be not proud")

Sonnet 14 ("Batter my heart")

Herbert

"Prayer (1)"

Milton

Sonnet 7 ("How soon hath time")

Sonnet 19 ("When I consider")

Keats

"On First Looking into Chapman's"

"When I Have Fears"

Hopkins

"God's Grandeur"

"Carrion Comfort"

Barrett Browning

From *Sonnets from the Portuguese*

(any appearing in the anthology)