

English 211 – Introduction to British Literature I

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Fall 2002
TR 9:30-10:45
302 Haag Hall

Office Hours: 2:00-3:00 TR and by appt

REQUIRED TEXT

Norton Anthology of English Literature, Volume 1, Seventh Edition

COURSE DESCRIPTION

By the end of the semester you should have learned (or at least begun to learn) several things: the general shape of British writing from the Middle Ages to the middle of the eighteenth century; how to think critically about works of literature; how to communicate your critically acquired ideas to others orally and in writing.

English 211 is a survey that spans several centuries, and as such it requires reading a bit from many different historical periods. You should consider this course an introduction to the early history of British literature rather than a comprehensive treatment. I hope that in the future you will decide to return – either on your own or through course selections – to one or more of the periods we will cover this semester, and at that time you can more fully investigate the era of your choice.

GRADING

20%	Midterm Exam	Thursday, October 10
20%	Final Exam	Thursday, December 12, 3:30-5:30p.m.
35%	Papers	See below for dates and percentages
15%	Quizzes	Unannounced dates
10%	Participation	

All papers due at beginning of class. Of the three papers, the highest grade is weighted 15%, and the other two grades are 10% each

Paper 1 Tuesday, October 1

Paper 2 Tuesday, November 5

Paper 3 Tuesday, December 10 – Turn in at 118 Cockefair Hall

REQUIREMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Summary: You are required to finish the readings by the class period in which we are to discuss them, and to be prepared every day to participate actively. Additionally, you will write three papers, take several quizzes, a midterm, and a final examination.

Formal Writing: You will write three papers during the course of this class. Each paper should fulfill its minimum length requirement, have a clear introduction containing an identifiable thesis, coherent organization, and a clear conclusion. Each paper should adhere to Modern Language Association (MLA) citation style. You will be given a handout with advice and helpful information regarding your writing.

Quizzes: At various and unannounced points in the semester, you will take ten minutes or so at the beginning of class to complete a quiz on the readings you have completed.

Exams: You will take a midterm and a final examination. These exams will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions as well as passage identification. The **midterm** will cover everything since the beginning of the class. The **final** will cover everything since the midterm.

Readings: There is a significant amount of reading to be done in this class. Your best approach is to set aside adequate time every day or every other day for reading, rather than to put your reading off until the last minute and then trying to read a great deal all at once. The former sort of reading schedule allows for a better state of mind when reading, and for a better understanding of what is being read. You should take some notes on what you read so that you are prepared for discussion when you come to class.

Participation: Although I will sometimes present historical, biographical, or literary context for the readings, this is not a lecture-driven course. Instead, it is interactive, and I require that each student in class be an alert, thoughtful, careful participant each time the class meets. Apt, intelligent, and helpful participation is assumed as the norm. Exceptionally apt, intelligent, and helpful participation will raise your grade. Low class participation, negative class participation, absences, and tardies will lower your grade. Negative class participation includes making unhelpful or hurtful comments, interrupting or talking while someone else is speaking, or ignoring those who are speaking.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: If you know in advance that you are going to miss class for any reason – medical appointment, religious holiday – let me know. You are responsible for what is covered in class. If you are absent, seek out another student (not me) for an explanation of what was covered that day. There will be no make-up assignments for unexcused absences. UMKC policy is that “[e]xcused absences include absences due to illness of the student, illness of an immediate family member for whom the student must care, death of an immediate family member, religious observance (where the nature of the observance prevents the student from being present during class), representation of UMKC in an official capacity, and other compelling circumstances beyond the student's control. Students seeking an excused absence must provide documentation upon request to substantiate the excuse.”

Format for written assignments: All work done outside of class to be turned in must be typed or produced on a word processor. Your papers should have the following: no cover page; your name, the due date, the course number, and my name on the first page in the upper left-hand corner; one-inch margins all the way around the page; text that is 12 point/10 cpi (type face of Courier or Times New Roman); page numbers on every page; one staple in the upper left-hand corner.

Late papers: I will accept *one paper* late by as much as one class period with no questions asked, but each additional day after the one day of grace will lower your paper's grade by one letter grade. After that one paper, *I will not accept late papers*. You will receive no credit for any additional papers turned in late. Only documented, excused absences will deserve any special consideration. This policy is non-negotiable.

Disabilities: If you have a disability of any kind that will affect your performance in this course, please let me know as soon as possible so that I might work to meet your needs. If you have not done so already, you should consider visiting the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in room 350 of the Administrative Center. 816-235-5696-www.umkc.edu/disability/ - disability@umkc.edu

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to be familiar with the code of student conduct printed on page 513 of the August 2003 *UMKC General Catalog* and available online at <http://www.umkc.edu/umkc/catalog/html/append/policy/0020.html>

In this course, any act of dishonesty on an assignment automatically earns a student a grade of 0 (zero) for that assignment as well as referral to the Student Conduct Committee.

CALENDAR

Each work that we read is preceded by a “head note,” a comparatively short editorial introduction to that work. You are expected to read each head note. You are also expected to read the biographical note about each author we read.

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| R | Aug 22 | Introduction |
| T | Aug 27 | <i>Beowulf</i> , 29-47 |
| R | Aug 29 | <i>Beowulf</i> , 47-64 |
| T | Sep 3 | <i>Beowulf</i> , 64-82 |
| R | Sep 5 | <i>Beowulf</i> , 82-99 |
| T | Sep 10 | Geoffrey Chaucer, <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , 210-235 |
| R | Sep 12 | <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , 235-253 |
| T | Sep 17 | <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , 253-267 |
| R | Sep 19 | <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , 267-281 |
| T | Sep 24 | Workshop on writing |
| R | Sep 26 | William Shakespeare, <i>Sonnets</i> , beginning 1026
Read Sonnets # 1, 3, 12, 15, 18, 35, 71 |
| T | Oct 1 | Shakespeare, <i>Sonnets</i> # 73, 97, 98, 127, 130, 135, 138
Paper 1 due |
| R | Oct 3 | John Donne, beginning 1233
Read “The Flea,” “The Good-Morrow,” “Song (‘Go and catch a falling star’), “Love’s Alchemy,” “The Bait,” “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning,” “Elegy 19. To His Mistress Going to Bed” |
| T | Oct 8 | Donne, “Holy Sonnets”
Read # 1, 5, 7, 10, 13, 14, 19 |
| R | Oct 10 | Midterm Exam |

- T Oct 15 Christopher Marlowe, *The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus*, 990-1001
- R Oct 17 *The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus*, 1001-1013
- T Oct 22 *The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus*, 1013-1025
- R Oct 24 John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, 1815-1826
- T Oct 29 *Paradise Lost*, 1826-1836
- R Oct 31 *Paradise Lost*, 1836-1847
- T Nov 5 *Paradise Lost*, 1847-1858
Paper 2 due
- R Nov 7 Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*, 2165-2190
- T Nov 12 *Oroonoko*, 2190-2215
- R Nov 14 Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, 2329-2365
- T Nov 19 *Gulliver's Travels*, 2365-2401
- R Nov 21 *Gulliver's Travels*, 2401-2437
- T Nov 26 *Gulliver's Travels*, 2437-2473
- R No class: Thanksgiving
- T Dec 3 "Debating Women: Arguments in Verse": 2584-2592
- R Dec 5 "Debating Women...": 2592-2605
- T Dec 10 No class, but **Paper 3 due** at my office: 118 Cockefair Hall
- R Dec 12 **Final Exam – 3:30-5:30 pm – 302 Haag Hall**