

Chaminade University
English 315-90 British Literature: The Romantics to the Present
Fall Evening (October 6 – December 18, 2014)

Meeting Times: always already right now

Instructor: Dr. Brooke Carlson

Office location: Henry Hall 206 C

Office hours: T/Th 10 am – 12 pm; and by appointment

Location: the world wide web

Email: brooke.carlson@chaminade.edu

Office phone: 739-7439

Note: This course uses a site called “Edwebs Moodle,” rather than eCollege. Students interested in taking the course must create an account in the system and enter the class using an enrollment key.

Syllabus

“Pipe a song about a Lamb”;

So I piped with merry cheer;

“Piper pipe that song again”-

So I piped, he wept to hear.

-William Blake

For I have known them all already, known them all-

Have known the evenings, mornings, afternoons,

I have measured out my life with coffee spoons...

-T.S. Eliot

Course Description

A survey of British poetry from the Romantic Period to the present, this class provides students with a basic introduction to a variety of poets and writers spanning the past two hundred years of development. Our goal is to engage with the primary texts, flesh out some of the historical, cultural, and aesthetic contexts, and augment our greater understanding of literary movements and theory. In sampling such a broad swatch of literature, we will cover all sorts of different genres. Moreover, while some authors will be familiar to you and perhaps even read, others will be foreign and new.

Although our objective is primary text engagement, we will be asking questions about the periods, so as to better understand how these movements came about, what they are doing, and how they work. This means, in short, that we want to be able to define the Romantic Era, the Victorian Period, Modernism and the Post-Modern, and explain how specific writers represent their respective eras. The literary epochs that precede us include the following: The Classical Period, The Medieval Period, The Renaissance or Early Modern Period, and The Enlightenment. Again, of interest to us, is the work of the last two hundred plus years: The Romantic Period (1785-1830), The Victorian Period (1830-1901), Modernity (1914 to the present), and The Post-Modern (1941 to the future).

Student Learning Outcomes

- *to improve the critical reading and writing skills developed in EN 101 and EN 102
- *to demonstrate familiarity with the elements of fiction and the literary terms used to discuss them
- *to read and analyze literary works using the elements of fiction
- *to define various literary critical approaches and use them to analyze literary texts
- *to situate literary texts within their historical contexts
- *to define, identify, and articulate major movements, and periods in British literature; including significant authors, texts, and concepts
- *to define various critical approaches and apply them to given texts
- *to write unified, coherent, well-developed essays about literary works
- *to demonstrate the ability to conduct library research on literary texts and related secondary sources, culminating in the successful completion of a research-based literary essay using MLA style
- *to educate for formation in faith; provide for an integral quality education; educate in family spirit; educate for service, justice, and peace; and, educate for adaptation and change¹

Text

Abrams, M. H., ed. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. 8th Edition. Vol. 2.
New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2006.

Student Responsibilities

This is an online workshop class, and thus will involve reading, writing, presenting, discussing, editing, and revising your own writing. You are expected to check our Moodle site regularly, to complete all readings and writing assignments on time, and to contribute regularly online. An important part of the workshop process is discussing and critiquing your own, and your peers' work.

Your two Short Essays are to be digitized, double-spaced, in New Times Roman, 12-point font, with one-inch margins on all sides, following the MLA format. The proper heading will be single-spaced and aligned left, including: your name, English 102-90 Carlson, the date, and the assignment number. Your own creative title should appear one line below your heading, centered. On the second and all subsequent pages, you should place your last name and the page number in the upper right hand corner. Papers should be uploaded onto Moodle as word documents.

Every week, I will provide writing tasks requiring you to read, think, write and post on our Moodle page. In addition to your own posts, I would like students to generate discussion through the regular commenting on each other's posts. To be clear, you need to comment on three posts per week. The deadline for your weekly Reading Response, Presentations, and Responses to your peers is every Sunday, at 11:59 pm. You may, however, submit your work at any time during the week.

¹ These descriptors are taken from the "Characteristics of Marianist Universities," available online.

Attending class online means not only a digital presence, and responding in a timely fashion, but also being prepared and participating every day. Late posts and failure to post (more than three times), will negatively impact upon your grade.

Please be aware that I am only allowed to respond to emails that are sent from your official Chaminade email account. This is University policy.

Course Requirements

Your course grade is dependent upon: your contribution to class; the quality of your presentation, participation, and writing; your improvement; and your effort. I am looking for progress in your work.

Homework and Presentations*	25%
Short Essay (Two)**	25%
Article Review:	25%
Final Exam	25%

You must complete all assignments to be eligible for a passing grade in the course.

*Homework and Presentations: this aspect of the course involves writing formal and informal responses to the readings assigned for each class. Formal responses will include Reading Responses and responses to Reading Questions, due weekly. Informal responses will include responding to the post your peers write.

**Throughout the semester, you will produce two, three to five page, claim-driven essays, analyzing the literature we are reading. Papers will be documented accurately using MLA format.

90 – 100% A work demonstrates outstanding scholarship, a claim-driven argument, fresh and exciting analysis, and clear, cogent, and persuasive prose.

80-89% B work responds clearly and effectively to the prompt with a claim, as well as organized and supported analysis, using reader-based prose, with very little syntactical disruption or breakdown of the analytical voice.

70-79% C work offers evidence of global construction, although it may require more sentence level revision. A claim or argument is evident, albeit not insightful or persuasive. Textual evidence and support tend to be poorly presented, with analysis that fails to connect examples to topics and points.

60-69% D work is insufficient in a number of ways, often being more summary than analysis, and clearly in need of revision. Syntax and grammar mistakes make comprehension difficult.

0-59% F work fails to respond critically at the collegiate level. Failures of syntax and grammar, as well a lack of critical thought and focus, render comprehension unlikely, if not impossible.

Final grading will follow the traditional scale:

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

Below 60% = F/NC

All written work must be your *own* work, your own ideas expressed in your own words. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged and inappropriate use of the ideas or words of another writer. Students who plagiarize will earn an F on the paper. A second act of plagiarism will earn the student an F in the course. Guidelines for plagiarism are in the General Catalog (online).

Late papers, without instructor approval, will be graded on a credit/no-credit basis, and will therefore affect your final grade. If you have a genuine commitment or an unforeseen problem that conflicts with the course, please contact me immediately so we can make reasonable allowances.

	dates and assignments may change
Week One	Introduction
10/6	<u>The Romantic Period (1785-1830)</u>
	Anna Letitia Barbauld
	Charlotte Smith
	Mary Robinson
Week Two	William Blake

10/13	William Wordsworth Samuel Taylor Coleridge	
Week Three 10/20	George Gordon, Lord Byron Percy Bysshe Shelley John Keats Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley	Assignment One
Week Four 10/27	<u>The Victorian Age (1830-1901)</u> Alfred Lord Tennyson Robert Browning Elizabeth Barrett Browning	
Week Five 11/3	Emily Bronte Matthew Arnold George Meredith Christina Rossetti Charles Darwin	
Week Six 11/10	<u>Modernity and the Post-Modern</u> T. E. Hulme Ezra Pound H.D. Thomas Eliot	Article Review
Week Seven 11/ 17	William Butler Yeats Thomas Hardy Virginia Woolf James Joyce	
Week Eight 11/24	Dylan Thomas Claude McKay Joseph Conrad	
Week Nine 12/1	Chinua Achebe J.M. Coetzee Salman Rushdie	Assignment Two
Week Ten 12/8	Salman Rushdie	

Final Exam is due by December 20th, 2014