

**ENG 2307E.001      Major British Authors**

Lecture:                      Mon. 2:30-4:30 (UC 142)  
Tutorials:                    Tuesdays and Wednesdays

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Office hours: Mon. 1:00-2:30, Tues. 2:00-3:30

**Course Description:**

This course will trace some of the major developments in British literature from its oldest texts to contemporary fiction. Despite the massive scope of the course (some 1500 years) the goal here will not be to cover a massive amount of text. Rather, we will seek to understand selected pieces both as individual works and as parts of an evolving literary tradition. At the same time, we will explore the multitude of ways scholarship has approached British literature by reading and discussing excellent (and not so excellent) critical studies.

To these ends we will read pieces chronologically, which will give us a chance to discuss the representative of their age and genre, but also simply because they are examples of the English language at its finest. Some readers will be drawn to the representation of the heroic in *Beowulf*, some will immerse themselves in the contemplation of the aesthetic in *Kubla Kahn* and some will be

### Class schedule

Read all assigned texts before class and *bring the book(s) and printouts with you*. We will be reading and talking about specific passages from the texts. All primary readings (except a few handouts, Synge and Welsh) are from the three Norton volumes. Secondary sources are available from online databases or the *Othello* volume (pages given). Heed the page numbers assigned. Most of the secondary material is available online and part of the point of these readings is to ensure that you know how to find such material. Either save a copy to your laptop/tablet or print it out and bring it with you.

Thurs Sept. 4 First day of classes: Tutorials will NOT meet this week.

Mon. Sept. 8 **Introduction to Old English**  
 Read: *DR -6D[RQWHUDWXUH)*  
*7KH'UHDPRIWKH5RRG' -36)*  
 Tutorials Read: *7KH'UHDPRIWKH5RRG'*

Mon. Sept. 15 Read: *Beowulf* (36-88)  
 Tutorials Continuing with *Beowulf*

Mon. Sept. 22 Read: *Beowulf* (88-110)  
 Tutorials Read: Tolkien, J.R.R. *%HRXOI7KH0RQWHUVDQWKH&ULWdHVe*  
 abridged version at:  
<http://teacherweb.com/NJ/DeptfordTownshipHighSchool/MrMosiondz/Tolkien-Beowulf-the-Monsters-amp-the-Critics.pdf>  
 This immensely influential piece was first published in *Proceedings of the British Academy* 22 (1936): 245

- Mon. Oct. 27 **Early Modern (or, The Renaissance?)**  
 Read: 7KH6L[WHHQK&HQXU\ -' -55)  
 Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene* (766-8, 775-843)  
 Tutorials Read: 6SHQHU\OHWWHUJTE80Q
- Mon. Nov. 3 Read: Spenser, *The Faerie Queene* (843-934)  
 'X5RFKHU5LFKDUG-8\WKXU\LIW\$LVWRWOH\ODJQLFHEHDQ  
 6SHQHU\DOHJRU\$WXGRI\DHULH4XHHQ\ Modern  
*Philology* 82 (1984): 185-90.  
 Tutorials Finish up with Spenser
- Mon. Nov. 10 Read: Shakespeare, *Othello* I-III (3-76)  
 Tutorials Read: XQHU:8 Othello DQ&RORXUDQ3UHMxGLNHQ on volume,  
 248-62).
- Mon. Nov. 17 Read: Shakespeare, *Othello* VI-V (76-117)  
 %RRVH/QD(2WKHOOR\DNHUFKLHILQNorton volume, 262-75).  
 Tutorials Read: Finish with *Othello*
- Mon. Nov. 24 Read: 0DUORZHURDQ/HDQHU' 1106-26)  
 Tutorials Read: 0LOOV-RKQK&RXUWVKLS5LWXDORI\HURDQ/HDQHU\ish  
*Literary Renaissance* 2 (1972): 298-306.
- Mon. Dec. 1 Read: Marlowe, 7KH3DVVLRQWH6KHSKHUGWR\EV\RYH'  
 5DOHLJK7KH1PSK\5HSOWRWKH6KHSKHUG' -5)  
 'RQ7KH%DLW' 1384  
 Tutorials Read: Hamilton, Lynn. 8Q\7KH%DLW\ .' *Explicator* 46.3 (1988): 11-13.  
**Wed. Dec. 3 Paper 2 due**
- EXAM PERIOD: :(:21\9(0,' -TERM EXAM
- Mon. Jan. 5 **The Eighteenth Century**  
 Read: 7KH5HVWRUDWLRQQWKH(LJKWHHQK&HQ2005)  
 Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko* (2307-9, 2313-2358)  
 Tutorials Read: Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative* (3033-43)
- Mon. Jan.12 Read: Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko* ILQVKLWLIRXKDYH\  
 )LJOHRZF\WJJKWIBSHFWBOHRIDQJOHGNLQJ\$KD  
 HKQ\ Oroonoko and narration through theater.' *New Literary History*  
 39 (2008): 321-334.  
 Tutorials Finish up *Oroonoko*.  
**QUIZ 1 (on Marlow, Raleigh or Donne)**
- Mon. Jan. 19 Read: 8H[DQHU3RSH?ORLVDWREHODUG' -9, 2705-13)  
 7KRPDVUD\OHJ\ULWWHQQ&RXQ\U&XUFKDUG' -4)  
 Tutorials Read: (GJHFRPEH5RGQ\6WHQ\7KH\HURLF0HQ\DO-RXUQ\$RWHRQ  
 D7RSRV' ANQ: *A Quarterly Journal of Short Articles* 16.1 (2003): 24-  
 7.

- Mon. Jan. 26      **Romantics (not the big three)**  
 Read: 5REHUW%XUQ7RD0RXVH7RD/RXVH%OG/DQ 6HDQ  
 7DP26KDOYHU' -7, 171-9)
- Tutorials      Read: 0DF/DLH6ODQXUQ78VHRI3DURGLQDP26KDOYHU' .'  
*Criticism* 1 (1959): 308-316.
- Mon. Feb. 2      Read: S. T. & ROHULGRPHRIWKHEHLH0DULHU'437-9, 443-59).  
 Tutorials      Read: 3XEOD.DKQ' -62)
- Mon. Feb. 9      **Victorians**  
 Read: Dante Gabriel Rossetti, 7KH%OHVVHG'DPRJHO06LVWHU76OHHS'  
 (1471-8)  
 Christina Rossetti, everything *except* "Goblin Market" (1489-96, 1508-12)  
**QUIZ 2 (Coleridge, a Rossetti, or Morris)**
- Tutorials      Read: :LOOLDPORUULV7KH'HIHQHRIKHQYHUH' -22)
- Mon. Feb. 16      Conference week  
 Tutorials      Conference week
- Mon. Feb. 23      Read: Kipling7KH0DQR:RXOG%H.LQ -



'RFXPHQDWLRQKDOOEHVXEPLWWHGDVRRQVSRVVLEOHWRWKH2ILFHRIWKH'HDQIWKHVWXGHQ  
of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being