Course Description

This course introduces students to British literature from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. While the reading selections represent a broad range of literary forms and genres, we will focus on a group of themes and how they change through different periods and cultural contexts. Specifically, these themes include women and gender roles, British self- and national identity, imperialism, and religious and political consciousness. By reading British literature through these lenses, we will see continuities and divergences, common concerns and radical differences. We will also seek an understanding of the way self-expression interacts with historical and cultural contexts to produce what we think of as “literature.”

Please note that in order to take this course you must have taken E306 (or its equivalent) and completed 27 hours of course work. If you have any questions about your eligibility for the course, see the Head of Lower Division English or the Undergraduate Advisor.

Unique Number: 34400-45
Meeting Time: TTH 11-12:30
Meeting Place: WCH 1.120
George S. Christian
Office: Calhoun 6
Office Hours; MWF 10-11 or by appointment
Email: gschristian@mail.utexas.edu

Course Requirements:

- **Weekly reading.** Reading assignments for each class are given in the detailed syllabus below. Please come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that class period.

- **Regular participation in discussion sessions.** Active participation in the weekly discussion sessions is an important part of the final grade in the class (see below). While we will engage in some discussion during the large lecture, the discussion sections are vital to understanding the texts and doing well on the exams, so plan to take full advantage of them.

- **Exams.** There will be two exams roughly 1/3 and 2/3 of the way through the semester. The exams will include some objective questions, short passages for identification and discussion, and short essays.

- **Quizzes.** There may be periodic short quizzes during the semester to make sure everyone is keeping up with the reading. Quiz grades will be part of the overall participation grade.

- **Final exam.** There will be a final exam given on the date indicated in the general university schedule. The final will follow the pattern of the two exams given during the semester.

- **Mandatory attendance.** Attendance is mandatory, both for the lecture and discussion sections. If you must miss a class, please let me or your teaching assistant know in advance, if possible. You will still be responsible for the reading and getting notes from another student on what you missed. If you must miss an exam, you may not take it at a later date unless you have made arrangements to do so before the date on which the test is given. Missed quizzes may not be made up.
Books:

Course packet (available at Jenn’s Copying & Binding, 2200 Guadalupe)


Grading

- Class participation (attendance, reading, discussion, quizzes) 25%
- Exams (25% each) 50%
- Final exam 25%

Note: Plus/minus grading will not be used in this course.

Accommodations

Students who require special accommodations should notify me at the beginning of the semester (or as soon as possible), and such accommodations will be made. Students requesting special accommodations should obtain a letter from the Services of Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office. To ensure that the most appropriate accommodations can be provided, students should contact the SSD office at 471-6259 or 471-4641.

Introduction (January 19)

I. Myths of Origin (January 21, 26 28)

- January 21: Geoffrey of Monmouth, from *The History of the Kings of Britain*; Wace, *Le Roman de Brut*; Layamon, *Brut*; Marie de France, *Lanval*
- January 26: Sir Thomas Malory, from *Morte Darthur*

II. Medieval Visions (February 2, 4, 9)

- February 2: William Langland, from *The Vision of Piers Plowman*
- February 4: Julian Norwich, from *A Book of Showings to the Anchoress Julian of Norwich*; Margery Kempe, from *The Book of Margery Kempe*
- February 9: Sir Thomas More, from *Utopia*
III. Elizabethan Ambitions (February 11, 16, 18)

- February 11: Edmund Spenser, from *The Faerie Queen*; Queen Elizabeth, “The Doubt of Future Foes”; Speech to the Troops at Tilbury; “On Monsieur’s Departure”
- February 16: William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
- February 18: *The Tempest*

EXAM 1 (February 23)

IV. Puritan Epics (February 25, March 2, 4)

- February 25: John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1
- March 2: John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book IX (with audio text)
- March 4: John Bunyan, from *A Pilgrim’s Progress*

V. Monarchy, Church, State, Empire (March 9, 11, 23)

- March 9: Richard Hooker, from *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*; Thomas Hobbes, from *Leviathan*; Sir Robert Filmer, from *Observations Concerning the Original of Government*; John Locke, from *Two Treatises on Government*
- March 11: Aphra Behn, from *Oroonoko*

Spring Break (March 15-20)

- March 23: Jonathan Swift, from *Gulliver’s Travels*

VI. Whig Liberties? (March 25, 30, April 1)

- April 1: William Blake, *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*; *Visions of the Daughters of Albion*; And did those feet
April 6: EXAM II

VII. Revolutionaries and Reactionaries (April 8, 13, 15)

- April 8: Richard Price, from *A Discourse on the Love of Our Country*; Edmund Burke, from *Reflections on the Revolution in France*; Mary Wollstonecraft, from *A Vindication of the Rights of Man; A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (Introduction); Felicia Dorothea Hemans, *England’s Dead; Casabianca; The Homes of England*
- April 13: William Wordsworth, from *The Prelude*
- April 15: Thomas Carlyle, from *The French Revolution; Past and Present*

VIII. Victorian Twilights (April 20, 22, 27)

- April 20: Elizabeth Barrett Browning, from *Aurora Leigh*; Christina Rossetti, *Goblin Market*
- April 22: Alfred, Lord Tennyson, from *Idylls of the King; Ulysses*
- April 27: Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

IX. Empire’s Fall (April 29, May 4, 6)

- April 29: Rudyard Kipling, *The Man Who Would Be King*
- May 6: Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own*

EXAM III (Finals period)

The University of Texas Honor Code:

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

University Electronic Mail Notification Policy:

(Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students)

All students should become familiar with the University’s official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student’s responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is
recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at:

In this course e-mail will be used as a means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class work and assignments. Note: if you are an employee of the University, your e-mail address in Blackboard is your employee address.

Use of Blackboard in Classes:

This course uses Blackboard, a Web-based course management system in which a password-protected site is created for each course. (Student enrollments in each course are updated each evening.) Blackboard can be used to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to take online quizzes and surveys.

You will be responsible for checking the Blackboard course site regularly for class work and announcements. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions. Notification of these disruptions will be posted on the Blackboard login page. Scheduled downtimes are not an excuse for late work. However, if there is an unscheduled downtime for a significant period of time, I will make an adjustment if it occurs close to the due date.

Blackboard is available at http://course.utexas.edu. Support is provided by the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400 Monday through Friday 8 am to 6 pm, so plan accordingly.