

English 212: British Literature (Romantics to Present)
Tu/Th 3:30-4:45 pm, CCC 321

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Office: Collins Classroom Center 427

Office Hours: Tu 5:00-5:30 p.m., Th 2:00-3:00 p.m., and via Zoom by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

English 212 surveys British literature from approximately 1785 until recent years. You will read exemplary texts in all major genres to explore the richness and diversity of this literary tradition. The course combines lectures, in-class discussions, and Canvas activities. You will study literary forms and concepts but also pay attention to how literature reflects and influences cultural issues, such as industrialization, class, religion, science, gender, sexuality, imperialism, wars, and more.

REQUIRED READINGS (rental in the Campus Bookstore):

- Greenblatt (ed.), *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: Volumes D-F*, 10th edition.
- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (ideally, obtain the cheap edition available in Campus Store)
- Required readings/viewings include all materials posted in Canvas or distributed in class.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- **Readings:** Some texts you will read may seem strange or difficult. Do open yourself to them. Let them wash over you. Think how – old and odd as they may be – they still speak to us today. Don't tell yourself you "can't get it" because you were "never good at English." That's a cop-out. If you read patiently and attentively, you will "get" something from any text. Then, lectures and class discussions will help you understand it more fully. All students can learn and do well in this course unless they choose not to try.
- **Attentiveness:** Do try to make the most of the time you spend in class. In readings and lectures, look for what interests and pleases you. Share your thoughts and ask questions. Make sure you're learning because that's why you are in class. Don't allow yourself to be distracted or bored. Turn your phone off because it's not your friend when you're in class.
- **Studying:** Do think of studying for the tests as an ongoing weekly activity. Your prep for each test should last 5 weeks, not 5 hours. Don't skip readings or classes because falling behind is a risk and making up is never easy. If you must miss a class, review the missed content in Canvas as soon as you can. Then, if you still have questions, come to see me.
- **Communication:** Do your best to understand requirements, expectations, and guidelines. Always refer to the syllabus first because it contains answers to most questions. You may also ask questions in class or by email, but don't expect immediate answers to emails and don't ask "What did I miss?" I will respond to emails within 12-24 hours (excluding weekends) but never after 5:30 pm. You can find the answer to "What did I miss?" in Canvas, where I will post my PowerPoint notes and other materials after each class.

REQUIREMENTS & GRADING POLICY:

Daily Work Grade (Attendance & Canvas Activities)	250 points
Test 1: Romantic Literature	250 points
Test 2: Victorian Literature	250 points
Test 3: Twentieth-Century Literature	250 points

A = 940-1000 points	C = 740-769 points
A- = 900-939 points	C- = 700-739 points
B+ = 870-899 points	D+ = 670-699 points
B = 840-869 points	D = 640-669 points
B- = 800-839 points	D- = 610-639
C+ = 770-799 points	F = 0-609 points

To pass the course, you must:

- Earn at least 610 points. That is almost impossible if you miss one of the tests.
- Miss no more than 6 class meetings, except in the case of prolonged illness.
- Avoid being inactive in Canvas for more than 3 weeks during the semester.

This does *not* mean that there are no penalties for the first six absences or weeks of inactivity. They are explained below. This information merely defines what will cause failing the course.

DAILY WORK GRADE (Attendance & Canvas Activities):

A = 230-240 points	B = 202-210 points	C = 178-186 points	D = 154-162 points
A- = 220-229 points	B- = 194-201 points	C- = 171-177 points	D- + 146-153 points
B+ = 211-219 points	C+ = 187-193 points	D+ = 163-170 points	F = 0-145 points

All students will automatically receive 10 welcome points to bring the DWG total to 250.

Attendance: You can earn 6 points every week by being present in class – in body *and* in mind! Students who doze off, repeatedly check their phones, or appear inattentive in other ways will receive fewer, if any, points for that day. **Please turn off all electronic devices** unless you use them only for taking notes. Texting, emailing, or Web browsing in class is not allowed because it will distract you and others from class activities. This is an easy way to **earn up to 90 points**. Absences will mean not only losing points, but also having a harder time studying for the tests.

Canvas Activities: There will be 1-2 simple Canvas assignments each week worth 5-10 points: reading quizzes, worksheets, discussion posts, or short written responses. That will amount to approximately 50 points per unit and **150 points for the semester**.

Extra points for in-class participation: I will not force anyone to contribute to class discussion, but I certainly encourage it. At my discretion, I will award **up to 15 extra points** to the students who make a strong effort to participate. Keep in mind: you do not need to have brilliant ideas; any relevant thought or question is valuable. Step outside of your comfort zone and speak up!

If you miss more than 6 class sessions or 2 weeks of Canvas activities, you'll fail the course. I might excuse 1-2 absences for documented medical reasons or official university business.

If you do miss class, you will find all PowerPoint notes, handouts, and assignments in Canvas. You should ask a classmate to see their notes. Then you could email me if you have questions.

Email will work only for simple and quick information. For a substantial conversation about the readings, assignments, or other activities, come to my office hours or set up a Zoom meeting.

TESTS

The tests will consist of multiple-choice questions (including identification of quoted passages), short-response questions, and mini essays. They will be closed-book, taken in class, and based on the readings, the lectures, and class discussions. So, attend regularly, participate, and take notes.

There will be specific instructions for each test. Test 1 will focus on Romantic literature, Test 2 on Victorian literature, and Test 3 on twentieth-century literature. Each test is scheduled for a particular date, and you may not take it on a different day, unless I pre-approve it.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES (GEP: Humanities)

- Read closely, think critically, and write effectively about texts or cultural artifacts that reflect on perennial questions concerning the human condition (such as the search for truth and meaning, the confrontation with suffering and mortality, or the struggle for justice, equality, and human dignity).
- Investigate and thoughtfully respond to a variety of ideas, beliefs or values held by persons in situations other than one's own.
- Identify and analyze how culturally specific beliefs, values, and events shape literary works, as well as how literary works impact the culture in which they are produced.
- Identify and describe various literary concepts and approaches to the study of literature.

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS:

Being a Pointer entails certain rights and responsibilities. You should be familiar with UWSP policies regarding student conduct: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>.

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct are serious violations. Read about academic integrity: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/AcademicIntegrityBrochure.pdf>
If unsure whether certain actions are appropriate or not, please feel free to talk to me about it.

You have the right to be free from physical or verbal harassment: Bullying is unacceptable. Be aware of the policies regarding sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and bias-based hateful behavior. You can report it at <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Bias-Hate-Incident.aspx>.

Students with documented disabilities have a right to appropriate accommodations. If you are in that situation, please contact UWSP Disability Resource Center to complete necessary paperwork: drc@uwsp.edu or visit <https://www.uwsp.edu/disability-resource-center>.

The classroom should be a safe space for all students, which requires appropriate classroom conduct. Showing respect for every individual – regardless of their age, sex, race, ethnicity, religious or political opinions, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other forms of difference – is essential for everyone's success and wellbeing. Treat others as you would like to be treated!

Copyright Note: All lecture materials and recordings are protected intellectual property. Students may use them only for the purpose of participating in this course. Copying or sharing lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting them on the internet or selling them to commercial entities is illegal copyright infringement and a violation of UWSP policies. The English Department policy is that students may not make audio, video, or photographic recordings of lectures or other class activities without written permission from the instructor.

READING SCHEDULE: UNIT 1 – ROMANTIC LITERATURE

Reading assignments listed here are tentative. The most up-to-date info will always be in Canvas. Please log in there often to make sure you know what to read and do each week.

All readings must be completed before the assigned date. Quizzes and discussions may be based on any reading(s) assigned for that week. Literary texts matter the most, but biographical and editorial notes are also highly recommended. **Please always bring the book to class.**

Week 1: Romantic Reaction to the Enlightenment Philosophy and Neoclassicism

1/23 Introduction to the course

1/25 William Blake – You don't have to read in advance but bring the book to class!

Week 2: Romantic Politics and Poetics: Revolution and Literary Innovation

1/30 William Blake continued (I will tell you in class & in Canvas which poems to read.)

2/1 William Wordsworth, "Michael" (331-341)

Week 3: Romantic Themes & Forms: Nature and the Ode

2/6 William Wordsworth, "Ode: Intimations of Immortality" (346-352)

2/8 Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Ode to the West Wind" (806-808)

John Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale" (977-979)

2/13 **Practice Test**

Weeks 4-6: Romantic Individualism and Gothic Fiction

2/15 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, through Chapter IV

2/20 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, through Chapter VIII

2/22 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, through Chapter XVII

2/27 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, through the end

2/29 **Test 1**

You will receive schedules for Units 2 and 3 later in the semester.

Test 2 is tentatively scheduled for April 4.

Test 3 will be our final exam, scheduled by the university for May 13 at 2:45 PM.