ENGL 3345.001  
British Literature of the 19th & 20th Centuries  
Spring 2013

Course: ENGL 3345.001.  TTh 2-3:15.  
Instructor: Dr. Vanessa Jackson.  
Office Hours: TTh 10:00-11:00 & 12:30-2:00; T 3:30-4:30.  Please call me if you need an appointment at other times.  
Office: Faculty Center 286.  
Office Phone: (361) 825 5858.  
E-mail: vanessa.jackson@tamucc.edu

Description of ENGL 3345

ENGL 3345 is a survey course designed to look broadly at literature in Britain during the 19th and 20th centuries. Because of the enormous, continually increasing amount of literature being produced and read during this period, it is impossible to cover all movements, trends, genres, directions, etc. Instead, we will examine one of the important concerns of literature and its writers: the nature and role of imagination. More specifically, we will look at the shifts in the perception and execution of imaginative works portraying the human condition during the 19th century, and then at the major shift that occurred during and as a result of the First World War—a shift that helped mold the subsequent literature of the 20th-century. We will start with Coleridge’s intention to try and bring to life “persons and characters supernatural, or at least romantic . . . to transfer from our inward nature a human interest and a semblance of truth sufficient to procure for these shadows of imagination that willing suspension of disbelief,” which he believed was essential to successful literature. Then we’ll see what happens from there!

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

• correctly identify salient characteristics of British literary movements from the 19th-21st-centuries, such as Romantic, Victorian, Modernist, and Postmodernist;  
• understand the cultural forces that contributed to literature of this period and apply this understanding in written responses to multiple literary texts;  
• evaluate literature during this period in a researched critical essay, using primary and secondary sources and documenting and citing these sources in correct MLA style.
Texts

In order of use:


Course Requirements

- You will be required to keep a reading journal/notebook, which will form part of your final grade at the end. This journal may contain just your own notes and thoughts in it, or it may contain both your own notes and your class notes, or it may be a dialogue journal in which your pre-class notes, your class notes, and post-class notes all “talk” to each other. Your choice entirely. The journal may also include notes and research towards projects. Journals are personal learning tools that should be adapted to fit each of you individually, but the following should be adhered to:
  - The journal may be handwritten or computer-generated, in a notebook or loose-leaf binder.
  - The journal should be kept up consistently, with a minimum of approximately one page per entry.
  - I will expect to see one entry written for every reading assigned during the semester, which will generally mean one entry per class session.
  - Sometimes I will assign a particular prompt or question. I will expect to find these addressed in your journal.
  - Your own notes must clearly demonstrate a personal engagement and grappling with the assigned text(s) before the relevant class period, though of course you may add to these notes afterwards.
  - Your own notes should demonstrate an attempt to search for meaning in depth, as well as just showing what lies on the surface of a work, even if your attempt is off-target. Try to relate what you’re reading to the theme of the course and to the threads we discover as we go long.
• Each entry in the journal must be dated.

I will be evaluating your journal at the end of the semester not on grammar, spelling, neatness, or regurgitation of class discussions, but on its demonstration of steady commitment to the material of the course, fulfillment of the above criteria, and specifically on the following: consistency, personal engagement with the texts, and depth of thought.

• You will also be required to do two, more formal, graded projects, one at mid-term and one at the end of the semester, both of which will be done out of class. One of these may be a creative project, but one must be an academic essay that employs both primary and secondary sources (research!); alternatively, both may be essays.

• You will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned text(s) in small groups and with the class as a whole. I suggest you bring your journals to class to aid these discussions.

• You may miss two classes with no questions asked and no penalties. Unless you can show me a very good excuse, each class missed after that will result in two points being taken off your final grade.

• Any form of plagiarism will result in a course grade of 'F'.

**Grading Policy**

You will be graded on your journal, your mid-term, and your final, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>30% of final grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course grading scale (with absolutely no exceptions whatsoever):

- 100-90 = A
- 89-80 = B
- 79-70 = C
- 69-60 = D
- Below 60 = F
Further University/College Information:

*Notice to Students with Disabilities*: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom, or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**: The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, the student’s assigned faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

***Grade Appeal Process***. As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**** Reminder to English Majors**: As part of the English undergraduate capstone course (ENGL 4351), all English majors are required to submit a portfolio of writings in different discourse genres that they have completed for their college classes. To help you prepare for this assignment, you should keep a copy of all essays, research papers, literary analyses, creative and report writing, etc., so that you will have an ample selection from which to choose when the portfolio comes due.
Syllabus

Week 1
Thurs 24 Jan  Introduction to course.

Week 2
Tues 29 Jan  Introduction to Romanticism and the “theme” of the course.


Week 3
Tues 5 Feb  Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein.*
  Preface, vii-xii
  Introduction to 3rd edition, 169-173
  *Frankenstein,* vol. 1, 7-58.


Week 4
Tues 12 Feb  *Frankenstein,* vol. 3, 103-156.

Thurs 14 Feb  John Keats: “The Eve of St. Agnes.”

Week 5
Tues 19 Feb  Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol.*

Thurs 21 Feb  *A Christmas Carol.*

Week 6
Tues 26 Feb  Christina Rossetti: “Goblin Market.”

Thurs 28 Feb  “Goblin Market.”

Week 7
Tues 5 March  *Journal due*
  Robert Louis Stevenson: *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.*

Thurs 7 March  *Jekyll and Hyde.*
Week 8
Tues 12 March  SPRING BREAK.
Thurs 14 March  SPRING BREAK.

Week 9
Tues 19 March  Workshop on Midterm.
Thurs 21 March  Workshop on Midterm.

Week 10
Tues 26 March  Midterm Due

[From now on, all page #’s refer to the Norton Anthology, 9th ed.]


Thurs 28 March  Heart of Darkness, 1975-end.

Week 11
Tues 2 April  Voices from World War I, 2016-18.
“Peace” (handout).
“Strange Meeting,” 2038.

Thurs 4 April  “Modernist Manifestos,” 2057-2082

Week 12

“Fern Hill,” 2702.
“Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night,” 2703.

Week 13
Tues 16 April  Doris Lessing:  “To Room Nineteen,” 2759-2780.

“Not Waving But Drowning,” 2601.
“The New Age” (handout).

“Talking in Bed,” 2784.
“High Windows,” 2785.
“Sad Steps,” 2786.

Week 14
“If We Must Die,” 2723.

Thurs 25 April  “Nation, Race, and Language,” 2718-2721.
Louise Bennett: “Colonization in Reverse,” 2726.
Ngugi Wa Thiong’o: from “Decolonising the Mind,” 2737-2741.

Week 15
Tues 30 April   Zadie Smith:  “The Waiter’s Wife,” 3058-3068

Thurs 2 May     Journal due
Workshop on Final.

Week 16
Tues 7 May     Workshop on Final.

Final Due IN MY OFFICE by 12:00 on Friday 10th May.