

**ENGLISH 2323:
BRITISH LITERATURE FROM ROMANTICS TO THE PRESENT
SPRING 2013**

Sec. 201: M W F 10:30 – 11:20 in Bullock Hall 104

Instructor: Dr. Paul J. Niemeyer, Assistant Professor of English

Office Hours: M, W, 1:45–3:15; T 12:30-3:30, and by appointment, in Pellegrino 312-E.

Contacts: During *regular office hours* **only** I can be reached at 326-2645. Otherwise, e-mail me through the ANGEL site or directly at **pniemeyer@tamiu.edu** (I check e-mail several times a day).

Text (available at the bookstore)

Stephen Greenblatt, Gen. Ed. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vols. D, E, F.* 9th ed. New York and London: Norton, 2012. ISBN #978-0-393-91301-9

- ▶ *If you have an **earlier** edition, you will not have some of the readings we will cover in this class. You are strongly encouraged to get the ninth edition.*

You are also required to have a TAMIU email address and access to a computer (the ANGEL site is our main means of communication); and you are strongly urged to have access to a style manual, such as Diana Hacker's *Pocket Style Manual*.

Course Description

English 2323 is the second-semester component of the British Literature survey (the first semester, however, isn't a prerequisite), which covers the most popular, influential, significant, and representative poetry and prose from the Romantic era to our own age. **During this semester we will be reading and discussing these works as well as considering the social and literary movements that helped bring them into being.** Ideally, this course will not be just a "sampler" of the literature of the past two centuries, but an examination of unique times, places, and peoples.

In keeping with the policies set for Sophomore-level survey courses, this class deals in part with writing; therefore, you will compose three short essays (described below, under *Course Assignments*) that are designed to introduce and strengthen skills in writing about literature. You are always welcome and encouraged to discuss your ideas and essay topics with me. You are also encouraged to attend the study sessions that will be scheduled by our Supplemental Instruction (SI) liaison.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs): Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. identify major and minor works in the various periods by title and author;
2. analyze the cultural, social, and historical aspects of British Literature from the Romantic era to the present;
3. perform close readings of the various texts;
4. make connections between literary periods, writers, writings, and themes; and
5. compose texts that effectively address purpose, style, and content. (This includes: clear focus, structurally unified development of ideas, appropriate rhetorical style and visual

style, correct use of Standard American Academic English (SAAE), and appropriate and ethical use of primary and secondary sources.)

Core-Curriculum Objectives (CCOs):

1. **Critical Thinking Skills:** includes creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. (SLOs # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
2. **Communication Skills:** includes effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. (SLOs # 2, 3, 5)
3. **Personal Responsibility:** includes the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making. (SLOs # 2, 4, 5)
4. **Social Responsibility:** includes intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. (SLOs # 1, 2, 4, 5)

Daily Class Meetings

Monday and Wednesday classes will primarily be “lecture” sessions. You are to come in to these classes having read the assigned materials for the day; and I will provide context, interpretations, analyses, etc. You are always welcome to ask questions and to make comments; but, because it’s difficult to cover a lot of material in a 50-minute session, discussion will have to be somewhat limited.

Friday classes, however, will be dedicated to discussion on the MW readings. These are the days for lengthy, complicated questions and nuanced debates, often in small-group format; so come ready to talk. Fridays will also be “business” days, when assignments will be given, explained, and collected, when quizzes will be sprung (but I reserve the right to quiz you on a M or W if it seems you need it; *see below*), and when the midterm will be held. Needless to say, if a reading doesn’t get covered in the Wednesday class, it will be carried over to Friday.

Course Assignments

During the semester there will be some quizzes (number to be determined), three short essays (all ranging from 2-4 pages), one midterm, and one final exam. The quizzes will usually be given on Fridays and will be on the assigned readings for the week and on recent discussions; however, *I may spring a quiz upon you on a Monday or Wednesday*, so make sure you keep up with the readings and classroom discussions. Essay #1 (750 words) will be a personal interpretation of an assigned work or works in which you use your own argumentative skills to examine a problem presented by a literary text or texts. Essay #2 (750 words) requires you to research the background of an assigned work, such as the historical circumstances relating to its composition, cultural or social movements the authors was responding to, or contributions to a wider debate (national or international) the author was trying to make. Essay #3 (2100 words) requires you to apply research to a primary literary text of your choosing in order to argue what you believe the work has to say to society either in its own time or in ours, or to show its relation to artwork or to theatrical or cinematic performance. *All three essays must be uploaded to the **TurnItIn** site, which you can access through the class ANGEL page.* The midterm will be an in-class essay and the final will consist of general knowledge questions as well as an essay component; both the midterm and final exam essays will require you to write on the works and ideas discussed

throughout the semester. All assignments must be completed: failure to do so will result in a failing grade for the course. Late assignments will be lowered one letter grade for every day the assignment is late, unless you have made prior arrangements to turn in a late assignment. Due dates are shown on the class calendar.

► *Extra credit* work must be **contracted** (usually in relation to honors credit) with me at the **beginning** of the semester. Otherwise, **I do not give extra credit work**. Your grade is YOUR responsibility: do not coast through the semester and then expect me to pull you up at the last minute. Take an active role **now** in your grades.

Assignments and Grade Percentages:

Quizzes (total)	5 %
Essay #1: Personal Interpretation	15 %
Essay #2: Research	15 %
Essay #3: Documented Argument	20 %
Midterm	15 %
Final	25 %
Miscellaneous (Participation, In-class work, etc.)	5 %

Please note: Essays will be graded on the following criteria: **focus; organization and development; style and sentence structure; grammar and mechanics; and (except for Essay #1) research**. I grade on a five-point scale, so that 100=A, 95=A-, 90=B+, etc. Final course grades will be distributed as follows: 90% and up=A; 80% and up=B; 70% and up=C; 60% and up=D; anything below 60%=F.

Course Policies

Participation: Again, Monday and Wednesday classes will be mainly lectures; still, ask questions, make comments on what you read, and bring your ideas and opinions to the class. I believe that the best way to appreciate a poem, story, or essay is to discuss it.

Attendance: Your presence and participation can affect your final grade in the course (in terms of borderline grade cases), so attendance is mandatory. Five absences will result in a warning; six will result in your receiving an **F** in the course. If an absence is unavoidable, please contact me before class meets.

Plagiarism: Cheating includes any attempt to defraud, deceive, or mislead the instructor in arriving at an honest grade assessment. Plagiarism is a form of cheating that involves presenting as one's own ideas the ideas or work of another. Violation of the cheating/ plagiarism policy is taken very seriously; it will result in your receiving an **F** for the course, and the matter will be referred to the Executive Director of Student Life for possible disciplinary action. (For further information, see *COAS and University Policies*, attached below.)

Remember that whenever you borrow an idea, or a phrase, sentence, or paragraph from an outside source without giving credit to that source, you have plagiarized. Plagiarism also includes:

1. Turning in an essay or other work that is not your own.
2. Having someone else do your editing for you. If a friend, family member, Writing Center employee, or anyone else “fixes” your writing, then the work is not your own, and you have stolen. If you work hard throughout the semester on the aspects of your writing that you need to improve, you will discover that you can indeed learn to control your writing yourself. Please feel free to see me in my office if you’d like to discuss your writing and to have me *critique* (but not edit) your drafts. Once again, take advantage of the Writing Center (information below) and of the opportunities afforded by our Supplemental Instruction (SI) personnel.

Important Resources:

Disability Services and Student Counseling: 326-2230; USC 138

Writing Center: 326-2283 or 326-2884; writingcenter@tamiu.edu; Cowart 203

Policies of the College of Arts and Sciences

Classroom Behavior

The College of Arts and Sciences encourages classroom discussion and academic debate as an essential intellectual activity. It is essential that students learn to express and defend their beliefs, but it is also essential that they learn to listen and respond respectfully to others whose beliefs they may not share. The College will always tolerate diverse, unorthodox, and unpopular points of view, but it will not tolerate condescending or insulting remarks. When students verbally abuse or ridicule and intimidate others whose views they do not agree with, they subvert the free exchange of ideas that should characterize a university classroom. If their actions are deemed by the professor to be disruptive, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include being involuntarily withdrawn from the class.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s work as your own. **1)** When you borrow someone else’s facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words, you must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism. **2)** When you also borrow someone else’s words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism. **3)** When you present someone else’s paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own, you have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2010, sixth edition of the *Manual of The American Psychological Association* (APA):

Plagiarism: Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. *Each* time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text.

The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the Discussion section of someone else’s article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications. (pp. 15-16)

Consult the Writing Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the *Manual of the APA* or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* for guidance on proper documentation. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

Penalties for Plagiarism: Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a "zero" for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of "F" (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse.

Caution: Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that "it was only a draft" will not be accepted.

Caution: Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.

Penalties for Cheating: Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a "zero" for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an "F" in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an "F" in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a "W."

Student Right of Appeal: Faculty will notify students immediately via the student's TAMIU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member's charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 5 business days of the faculty member's e-mail message to the student. The *Student Handbook* provides details.

UConnect, TAMIU E-Mail, and Dusty Alert

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMIU's UConnect Portal and TAMIU E-mail are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty – not the U.S. Mail and not other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check UConnect and their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or UConnect message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to sign-up for *Dusty Alert* (see www.tamtu.edu). *Dusty Alert* is an instant cell phone text- messaging system allowing the university to communicate immediately with you if there is an on-campus emergency, something of immediate danger to you, or a campus closing.

Copyright Restrictions

The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to \$100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment.

Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

Incompletes

Students who are unable to complete a course should withdraw from the course before the final date for withdrawal and receive a "W." To qualify for an "incomplete" and thus have the opportunity to complete the course at a later date, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must have completed 90% of the course work assigned before the final date for withdrawing from a course with a "W", and the student must be passing the course;
2. The student cannot complete the course because an accident, an illness, or a traumatic personal or family event occurred after the final date for withdrawal from a course;
3. The student must sign an "Incomplete Grade Contract" and secure signatures of approval from the professor and the college dean.
4. The student must agree to complete the missing course work before the end of the next long semester; failure to meet this deadline will cause the "I" to automatically be converted to a "F"; extensions to this deadline may be granted by the dean of the college.

This is the general policy regarding the circumstances under which an "incomplete" may be granted, but under exceptional circumstances, a student may receive an incomplete who does not meet all of the criteria above if the faculty member, department chair, and dean recommend it.

Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course

It is the responsibility of the STUDENT to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course without getting the approval of their department chair and dean.

Independent Study Course

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

Grade Changes & Appeals

Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error or an error in recording a grade, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the *Student Handbook* and the *Faculty Handbook*.

Final Examination

Final Examination must be comprehensive and must contain a written component. The written component should comprise at least 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.

Important Dates:

Last Day to Drop without Record: **Wednesday, February 6**

Last Day to Drop a Course or to Withdraw from the College: **Thursday, April 18**

Last Class Day: **Tuesday, May 7**

Final Examination: **Wednesday, May 15. 201: 8:00 a.m.; 202: 11:00 a.m. (subject to change)**

Finally, if you have questions or problems at any time during the semester, or if you'd simply like to talk, please feel free to see me during office hours or to contact me.

Enjoy the course!

CLASS CALENDAR

Disclaimer: As Robert Burns reminds us, the best-laid plans often just wind up in the crapper—and that's true of class calendars as well. If changes need to be made, you will be informed ahead of time, either in class or via messages on ANGEL.

WEEK ONE. Introduction to the course and overview. "Pre-Romantics:" Barbault.

WEEK TWO. "Pre-Romantics:" Blake, Burns.

WEEK THREE. Early Romantics: Wollstonecraft, Wordsworth.

► **Personal Interpretation Essay due.**

WEEK FOUR. Early Romantics: Coleridge; Later Romantics: Byron, Shelley.

WEEK FIVE. Later Romantics: Clare, Hemans, Keats.

WEEK SIX. Start of the Victorian era: Barrett Browning, Tennyson.

▶ **Midterm exam.**

WEEK SEVEN. Early Victorians: Browning, Arnold.

WEEK EIGHT. Mid-Victorians: Pre-Raphaelites: Hopkins, D. G. Rossetti, C. Rossetti,

▶ **Research Essay due.**

WEEK NINE. Late Victorians: Wilde, Kipling, Dowson, Hardy's fiction.

WEEK TEN. Early Modernism: Hardy's poetry, Houseman; World War I poetry.

WEEK ELEVEN. Modernism: Yeats, Joyce.

WEEK TWELVE. Modernism: Lawrence, Woolf, Eliot.

▶ **Documented argument essay due.**

WEEK THIRTEEN. Mid-20th Century: Rhys, Smith, Orwell, Auden, Thomas.

WEEK FOURTEEN. Late 20th Century: Larkin, Gunn, Heaney, Muldoon.

WEEK FIFTEEN. The Present Day: Kureishi, Duffy.

WEEK SIXTEEN. **Final exam.**