



**English 2322 301 H1
British Literature I
Fall 2025
MW 7:10-8:30**

Instructor Information:

Name Gwendolynn Barbee-Yow
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Office Phone (409) 933-8776

Student hours and location:

Office hours Monday 9:30-11:00, Tuesday 9:30-11:00, Wednesday 9:30-11:00, and Thursday 9:30-12:30
Location LRC 246a

Required Textbook/Materials:

All of our reading materials will be provided for free and will be accessed through Brightspace.

Course Description:

A survey of the development of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the Eighteenth Century. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical, linguistic, and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from a diverse group of authors and traditions. Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 with a grade of "C" or better.

The past can seem like a distant and unreal place to us. It can be easy to overlook that the people of the past were much the same as the people around us now. Underneath the changes in language and clothing, we can see their passion for communities, legends, and the rights of humans and animals. We can watch as they try to understand the world around them through religion, science, philosophy, and art. Whether they've been dead for two hundred or a thousand years, they cared about much of the same things we care about now. We'll begin this course with a text that is over a thousand years old and work our way through time up to the end of the 18th century. As we read these texts, we'll observe changes in language, thought, and politics, as well as the development of genres of writing and storytelling.

Course requirements:

This is a hybrid course, which means we will meet in person twice a week, with students completing the remaining work for that week online. The online work will be comprised of readings, thinking pieces, exams, and assignment submissions. Students will need access to a computer and internet connection outside of class for the online portion of the course.

This is a literature class, and so there will be a lot of reading. Twice a week, students will complete a ‘thinking piece’ – a low stakes, informal writing assignment that asks students to consider and critically exam the text. Additionally, there will be two formal assignments. The first will be an essay on a course text of the student’s choosing. The second will be an open, non-essay project, also on a course text of the student’s choosing. At some point during the semester, each student will complete a five-minute presentation. Lastly, there will be a midterm and final exam that will have to parts to it. The first part will be a closed-book oral exam, and the second part will be an open-book exam completed online.

Classroom discussion should be polite, professional, and on topic. Feedback should be constructive and mindful of the person who will read it.

Come to class prepared with paper and a pencil/pen.

Grading:

Participation:	15%
Thinking Pieces:	15%
Midterm Exam:	15%
Essay:	15%
Project:	15%
Presentation:	10%
Final Exam:	15%

The Essay, Project, Presentation, and Exams will be graded using rubrics that I have written. Students will have access to these rubrics ahead of assignment and exam dates and will be able to see their rubric scores after the paper, project, or exam has been graded.

The participation grade will be based on thoughtful contributions to class discussions and group discussions, as well as the two exam outlines written in class. This grade encompasses both in person and online discussions.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:

Work should be submitted by the due date and in the form listed on assignment sheets. Work submitted after the due date will decrease five points for every day that it is late. No late work will be accepted after the last Thursday of the semester.

Thinking Pieces and presentations will not be accepted late.

Extra credit may be earned once during the semester by attending (in person or online) an event of educational or professional value at the college and submitting a half-page report on your experience to the Extra Credit assignment on Brightspace.

Attendance Policy:

You are expected to be on time and in attendance. Three or more absences may result in a failing grade.

Excessive tardiness will impact your participation grade.

Excessive use of electronics for purposes other than will result in a five-point deduction from your participation grade for every infraction. No warning will be given.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.	Social Responsibility	Exams
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.	Social Responsibility, Critical Thinking	Thinking Pieces, Essay, Project
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.	Personal Responsibility, Communication Skills	Thinking Pieces
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.	Communication Skills	Thinking Pieces

5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.	Communication Skills, Critical Thinking	Essay, Project
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Academic Dishonesty:

Scholastic dishonesty and plagiarism are defined in the student handbook. Plagiarism (failure to acknowledge or cite sources of ideas and/or works, representing another's work as your own, etc.) will not be tolerated in this class. It can result in a failing grade for the assignment, the course, and in the most extreme cases, it will be reported to COM. If you are unsure whether something may be considered plagiarism, please contact me.

Additionally, AI tools will not be allowed in this class. The goals of this course are aimed at what you, the student, think and would like to communicate about a text (including *how* you communicate your thoughts), and so assignments must be completed by you, the student. Any use of AI tools will be considered a violation of academic integrity, and will result in an automatic failing grade for that assignment, and potentially reported to COM.

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT POLICY STATEMENT: PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. To plagiarize is to steal the words or ideas of another and pass them off as one's own. Two forms of plagiarism are common. In the first form, the writer incorporates published or otherwise recorded material without properly acknowledging its sources. In the second form, the writer submits work actually done by someone else. (The student who allows his/her work to be used by others is also guilty.) Any student who plagiarizes will receive a grade of "0" on his/her plagiarized work and may, as a result, receive a failing grade in the course. Ignorance will not be an acceptable defense: all students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the rules of documentation.

Violation of the Plagiarism Policy may result in a referral to the College of the Mainland Judicial Coordinator or further disciplinary actions as stated in the current Student Handbook.

"Source" may refer to published works (including material available from electronic/computer networks or databases), electronically broadcast programs, films, recordings, interviews, speeches, or lectures.

1. You must document when you quote directly from another source.
2. You must document when you paraphrase words from another source.

3. You must document when you summarize ideas from another source.
4. You must document when you use facts (statistics in a chart or graph, for example) or visual material from another source

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact the Humanities Department Chair Brian Anderson at 409.933.8186 or banderson@com.edu

The GCIC Academic Symposium: COM's GCIC Academic Symposium is an opportunity for students to showcase their best academic/course/program-related and creative projects. To learn more about this spring event, visit: <https://www.com.edu/symposium/> Participation in the symposium helps develop your professional skills, widens your professional networks, and should be noted on your resume. This year, the symposium is Friday, April 10, 2026. The abstract submission deadline is Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026, at 11:59pm.

Badelynge Review: Here at College of the Mainland we have The Badelynge Review, a literary journal of student work that is curated, edited, and designed entirely by COM students! Joining the journal is a great opportunity for you to gain experience in editing and publishing. If you are interested in joining the journal staff as a Reader (read submissions to help with the selection process), an Editor (work with a few of the selected authors to edit their work for publication), or a Reviewer (evaluate the credibility and accuracy of research used in accepted papers), please reach out to Professor Gwendolynn Barbee-Yow at gbarbee@com.edu.

Land Acknowledgement: It is important that we recognize that we are holding this class on the traditional lands of the Akokisa tribe, which did not survive the genocide of native peoples, and the Karankawas clans who have again taken up stewardship of the Gulf Coast as they revive their language and culture, all still without state or federal recognition.

Course outline:

Day	Reading	Assignment Due
8/18	Syllabus	
8/20	The Battle of Maldon translation with original Old English	Thinking Piece due
8/25	Canterbury Tales; General Prologue "Peasant's Revolt"	Thinking Piece due
8/27	Canterbury Tales; Wife of Bath's Tale	Thinking Piece due
9/1	The Spoils of Annwn "Arthurian Legend"	Thinking Piece due
9/3	Sir Gawain and the Green Knight	Thinking Piece due
9/8	The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus	Essay due

9/10	Much Ado About Nothing; Acts I-III	Thinking Piece due
9/15	Much Ado About Nothing; Acts IV&V	Thinking Piece due
9/17	Paradise Lost; Books I & II	Thinking Piece due Midterm Exam
9/22	Paradise Lost; Books IX & X	Thinking Piece due
9/24	Oroonoko	Thinking Piece due
9/29	A Modest Proposal	Thinking Piece due
10/1	The Mouse's Petition	Project due
10/6	The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, chapters 1&2, 7&8	Thinking Piece due
10/8	The Marriage of Heaven and Hell	Thinking Piece Final Exam

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook <https://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodation is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and

consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.