



ENGL 2322.102&692 H2

British Literature I

Fall 2025

LRC 257

TTH 2:00-3:20

Instructor Information:

Dr. Bernie Smiley, bsmiley@com.edu, 409-933-8356

Student hours and location: Library Mezzanine M-03- 2nd Floor Library M 003- TTH 11:00-2:00 & 3:30-4. Also available by request for other times/days.

Required Textbook: Everything for this class is online.

Course Description: This course is a survey of the development of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the Seventeenth 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.

Course requirements:

There will be a research assignment. There will be at least one oral presentation. In addition, you will be required to read every night and participate in class EVERY DAY.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula (methods of evaluation to be employed to include a variety of means to evaluate student performance):

Make-Up Policy: There is no make-up policy as I do not accept late work.

Determination of Course Grade:

Tests (2) 60%

Presentations/Paper 30%

Participation 10%

Grading Scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89.9%

C = 70% -79.9%

D = 60% - 69.9%

F = 0% - 59.9%

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 (SR)	Midterm Essay Exam
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.	Personal Responsibility (PR)	Research Project
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.		Research Project
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Oral Presentation
5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.	Communication Skills (CS)	Research Project

Tentative and Highly Flexible Syllabus

10/14 Discussion of Syllabus and Research Project & Introduction of Class/Anglo Saxon Lecture
 10/16 Beowulf- a discussion of the themes of cross culture Anglo Saxon and Christianity
 10/21 Beowulf/Film-Traditional death and honor in Anglo Saxon Lit
 10/23 Medieval Period Talk-Begin Ballads and Canterbury Tales
 10/28 Gawain and the Green Knight-Social groups in the Middle Ages
 10/30 Canterbury Tales/Ballads
 11/4 Geoffrey of Monmouth
 11/6 Handout-Le Morte D'Arthur. Chivalric code- discussion of the history and lit of King Arthur.
 11/11 Midterm
 11/13 B. Johnson, J. Donne, G. Herbert-Handout
 11/18 Henry V- The individual as relates to the Renaissance age.
 11/20 Henry V- Renaissance thought and the rise of Shakespeare
 11/24 Henry V -Film
 12/2- Henry V film

12/4 Final exam

Library Days will be inserted in the schedule as they are deemed necessary by the professor.

Attendance Policy: You may miss 2 days. The class is fast and missing class puts your ability to successfully complete the course in jeopardy. If you miss more than 2, I reserve the right to drop you.

Class Procedures and Policies:

Attendance Policy: You will be required to sign in every day.

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 only permitted to withdraw six times during their college career by State law.

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate discipline action.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else’s words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, using someone else’s words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a **grade of zero** and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate discipline action.

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 Brian Anderson –Department Chair of Humanities at banderson@com.edu or 409-933-8186.

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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.