



ENGL 2322.307C3
British Literature I
Fall 2025
Monday – Friday, 7:15AM-2:50PM (varies by class period)

Instructor Information:

Name: Cheri Null Kirkland, M.A.

Email: cnull@com.edu

Phone: (409) 502-4531

Student hours (Office hours): By appointment (in-person or virtual)

Required textbooks/materials:

All readings are available in the “Readings & Resources” module in D2L/BrightSpace

- Free online writing lab at [Purdue University OWL](#)

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.

Course requirements:

You are expected to complete all reading assignments prior to class. There will be two analytical essays, short paper responses and a final exam. I reserve the right to give reading quizzes as needed throughout the semester.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Grading for the course is as follows:

Analytical Essay #1	20%
Analytical Essay #2	20%
Reading Quizzes	20%
Discussion Responses	20%
Final Exam	20%

Total:	100%
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Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:

Late Work/Make-up Policy: Deadlines are posted on the course syllabus and assignment sheets given in class. Assignments must be turned in to Brightspace by the beginning of class on the due date. A printed copy of the essay also needs to be turned in to me in class on the due date. Essays turned in the next day will receive a deduction of 20 points and each day thereafter up to three days. Papers turned in beyond this point will not be accepted unless special arrangements are made prior to the due date.

Extra Credit Policy: This is a college course and extra credit is not likely to be given. The only opportunity for extra credit will be at the end of the course for filling out the course evaluation.

Attendance Policy:

You are expected to be prepared and in class ready to fully participate. Class discussion and group activities are components of your success in this course. Excessive unexcused absences (6+) will result in a failing grade.

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)	Reading Quizzes, Discussion Responses
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, and religious contexts of different literary periods.	Personal Responsibility (PR)	Analytical Essay
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Analytical Essay, Discussion Responses
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Analytical Essay, Discussion Responses
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)	Analytical Essay, Presentation

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 the appropriate discipline action.

Humanities Department Policy Statement on 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 assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive **a grade of zero** and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action. Ignorance will not be an acceptable defense; all students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the rules of documentation.

Avoiding Plagiarism: Research material must be cited both in the document and on a Work Cited Page. (MLA documentation style applies to all College of the Mainland English, humanities, philosophy, or speech classes). Remember to document when:

- ✓ Evidence is quoted directly from a source.
- ✓ Ideas from another source are paraphrased or summarized.
- ✓ Facts (i.e. statistics) or visual material from other sources must be documented.

Helpful Resources to Avoid Plagiarism:

✓ Purdue Owl: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

✓ <https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/student-conduct-brochure.pdf>

The COM Speaking and Writing Center

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, COM Humanities Department Chair, 409-933-8186.

Course outline:

Date	Class Topics	Due Dates (Wednesdays)
Week 1: 08/18	Course Introduction; Analytical Paper; Anglo-Saxons and the Middle Ages; Beowulf	<i>Discussion Responses due on Friday 08/22 by 11:59PM in BrightSpace</i>
Week 2: 08/25	Anglo-Saxons and the Middle Ages; Beowulf	Reading Quiz in BrightSpace due on Friday 08/29 by 11:59PM
Week 3: 09/01	Middle Ages, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight	<i>Discussion Responses due on Friday 09/05 by 11:59PM in BrightSpace</i>
Week 4: 09/08	Sir Gawain and the Green Knight	Reading Quiz in BrightSpace due on Friday 09/12 by 11:59PM in BrightSpace.
Week 5: 09/15	Canterbury Tales Introduction; "The Wife of Bath's Tale" & "The Pardoner's Tale"	<i>Discussion Responses due on Friday 09/19 by 11:59PM in BrightSpace.</i>

Week 6: 09/22	Marlow, Dr. Faustus	<i>Discussion Responses due on Fri. 09/26 by 11:59PM.</i>
Week 7: 09/29	Marlow, Dr. Faustus	Analytical Essay #1 due on Sunday 10/05 by 11:59PM.
Week 8: 10/06	Shakespeare, Othello	<i>Discussion Responses due on Fri. 10/10 by 11:59PM.</i>
Week 9: 10/13	Shakespeare, Othello	<i>Discussion Responses due on Fri. 10/17 by 11:59PM.</i>
Week 10: 10/20	Milton, Paradise Lost	<i>Discussion Responses due on Fri. 10/24 by 11:59PM.</i>
Week 11: 10/27	Milton, Paradise Lost	<i>Discussion Responses due on Fri. 10/31 by 11:59PM.</i>
Week 12: 11/03	Swift, Gulliver's Travels	<i>Discussion Responses due on Fri. 11/07 by 11:59PM.</i>
Week 13: 11/10	Swift, Gulliver's Travels	Analytical Essay #2 due on Sunday 11/16 by 11:59PM.
Week 14: 11/17	Swift, Gulliver's Travels	<i>Discussion Responses due on Fri. 21 by 11:59PM.</i>
Week 15: 11/24	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	
Week 16: 12/01	Final Exam	Semester Final Exam on 12/01 <i>COM Grades due by 10:00AM on 12/05</i>

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](#). *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 5. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 28.

F_N Grading: The F_N grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F_N 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 F_N grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F_N 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.

***DISCLAIMER:** Information is subject to change dependent on the instructor, who will make reasonable attempts to give advance notification to students.