



**English 2322.002HY**

**British Literature I**

**Fall 2021**

**7:10-8:20, Room 219, COM League City**

**Instructor:** Dr. Elaine Childs (she, they)

**E-mail:** [echilds1@com.edu](mailto:echilds1@com.edu)

**Student Hours:**

Monday	6:40-7:05 COM League City, room 219	8:35-10 AM, Room 129		
Tuesday	6:40-7:05 COM League City, room 221		2:30-3:15 PM <b>via email</b>	
Wednesday	6:40-7:05 COM League City, room 220	8:35 --10 AM Room 129		
Thursday	6:40-7:05 COM League City, room 221	8:35 --10 AM Room 129	2:30-3:15 PM <b>via email</b>	

**\*\*\*If you do not feel comfortable attending in-person student hours but would like to talk to me face-to-face, email me and we can set up a video chat. For face-to-face student hours, I will wear a mask, and I will maintain a six-foot distance from any unmasked student at all times, to protect your safety and mine.**

**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.

**Required Text:** All reading and video assignments are available on Blackboard, so there is no required textbook.

**Optional Text:** *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Major Authors, Volume 1* (9<sup>th</sup> edition) **OR** *Volume A* (eighth edition). Although all course texts may be read online for free, I recommend purchasing or renting a textbook if possible. Many studies have shown that reading traditional books improves memory and analytical thinking. You can often find older versions of Norton anthologies at used bookstores or online for just a few dollars, and older editions often have almost identical content. (The newest edition contains all the required literature **except** for *Pride and Prejudice* and

'Fantomina.') Also, don't forget your local public libraries! Any public library is likely to have *Beowulf*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Much Ado about Nothing*. Let me know if you want to buy or borrow physical books for this class and need help finding them.

**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. Activities and assignments include essays, research, journaling, and an exam.

### **Grade Scale:**

A = 90%-100%  
B = 80%-89.9%  
C = 70% - 79.9%  
D = 60% - 69.9%  
F = 0% - 59.9%

**Grade Distribution:** These are the assignments in the class and how they are weighted:

Essay 1	30%
Essay 2	30%
Reading Journal	10%
Class participation	10%
Final essay exam	20%

If your average is over 90% on the assignments for the first fourteen weeks, the final exam is optional.

**Extra Credit:** The only extra credit offered is 3 points added to your reading-journal average at the if you complete the end-of-semester course evaluation. I do not assign or accept additional extra-credit opportunities. I encourage each of you to do your best on the major assignments.

**Grading Profile Overview:** For each major essay, I use a grading profile to provide you with feedback. The grading profile is not used to determine your grade but to highlight areas where improvement is needed. This grading profile, as well as your number grade, will be returned to you on Blackboard. Please be aware that I reserve the right to forgo the use of the grading profile and assign non-passing grades ("D" or "F") to assignments that 1) do not adhere to minimum criteria (like the length requirement), 2) have severe problems adhering to the conventions of written English (numerous incoherent sentences, comma splices, fused sentences, or lack of basic essay structure), or 3) fail to use or cite sources in MLA format.

If you want more information about why you received a grade, or if you want more personalized advice about how to improve, please email me or visit my student hours, and I'll be happy to explain more!

**Late work policy / makeup policy:** Each major paper is due on Blackboard by 11:59 PM on the due date. If you do not submit your paper by that time, I will drop 10 points from the paper grade, and you will have until 11:59 PM the following day to submit your paper. Papers will not be accepted more than 24 hours late. If you have trouble submitting your paper on Blackboard, you **must** email me your paper by the deadline. Otherwise, the usual lateness penalties will apply. **Reading journals may not be submitted late and may not be made up after the deadline has passed, but I do drop your 2 lowest reading-journal grades at the end of the semester.**

After a grade has been assigned to your paper, you will not be allowed to submit another file, so be sure to give your files unique names, such as EnglishLit1paper2FINAL. That way you can be certain to avoid mistaken submissions.

**Submitting essays:** All essays will be submitted using on Blackboard, and files must be saved as Word or pdf files. No other file format will be accepted! If you have trouble submitting your paper on Blackboard, you must email it to me by the deadline to avoid lateness penalties, but no paper will be graded until it is turned in on Blackboard.

**SafeAssign:** All essays will be checked electronically by the SafeAssign function on Blackboard to help identify quotations and paraphrases that need better integration and to ensure that no paper is identical to another (another student's paper, a website, etc.). You can submit a draft of any paper to SafeAssign to see the report before the due date—this can help you identify information from sources that isn't quoted, paraphrased, or cited correctly.

**Email policy:** I rarely check email after 5PM, but I do my best to respond to email within 24 hours Monday-Friday and usually much more quickly than 24 hours. I often check email on weekends, but not always, so don't hesitate to email me over the weekend, but don't necessarily expect me to get it until Monday morning. I keep my email open during all student hours, but I do prioritize face-to-face students.

Always email me ASAP if you find something wrong in the Blackboard class: a broken link, a missing assignment, a graded assignment that says the due date has passed or that won't allow you to open it, or even a quiz question that you think has a wrong answer!

**Attendance policy:** You may be counted present in this course either by 1) attending the face-to-face class meeting on Monday **OR**, if you do not attend class, by 2) completing activities in the "F2F Replacement" folder in the Blackboard module for the week. That means that face-to-face attendance in this class is always optional for the duration of the semester—if you were exposed to someone with Covid, or if you feel sick, or even if you decide you don't feel safe sitting in a classroom and would rather complete this class from home, you will not be penalized as long as you do the F2F replacement activities every week.

However, you are allowed only **two** unexcused absences, and absences may be excused only for military service and legal religious holidays. Three unexcused absences will result either in being dropped from the class or receiving a grade of FN. You can "attend" online or in person, but you must attend each week.

**\*\*\*My request to you:** I ask that you wear a mask during class, even when you're speaking. Learn

to speak audibly through a mask (a valuable skill), or use the text backchannel. I ask this whether or not you are vaccinated, and I also ask that you become vaccinated if you are able and haven't yet been. If you have concerns about the safety of the vaccine, I'm more than happy to help you find reliable information.

You are of course 100% free to choose your vaccination status and whether you wear a mask. But my concern is that if any of us are exposed to Covid, and we aren't all masked for the duration of every class, we run a huge risk of having to move instruction 100% online, which I don't want, and I assume you don't, since you could have taken this class online and chose face-to-face!! A number of schools in Texas have already had to shut down immediately after opening, and I don't want that for us. I'm tired of teaching online, and I expect you're tired of online classes.

**Course Reading:** Attendance is not just about your presence. It's also about your **preparedness**. You will have a reading assignment to complete before every class. You are responsible for checking the syllabus to be sure you're prepared. When a reading assignment is online, the course schedule will direct you to Blackboard, where you will find either the link or the uploaded document. You are required to have the reading assignment open in front of you for the duration of every class meeting or you may be counted absent or receive a lower participation grade.

**Blackboard Reading Journal:** Every Sunday night by 11:59 PM you are required to post a reading journal on the blackboard discussion forum. Full instructions are on Blackboard. At the beginning of class, I will ask some or all students to read at least one discussion question.

I expect you to put some thought into these journals: don't crank them out at the last minute. However, I will drop your two lowest journal grades at the end of the term.

**Class Participation:** 10% of your final grade will be given for class participation. I expect you to be an active participant in discussions of the literature. You may do this three different ways: responding to classmates' reading-journal questions on Blackboard (full instructions on Blackboard), using your phone or computer to text the in-class backchannel (link on Blackboard), or old-fashioned talking in class.

If I can't **remember** at the end of the semester whether you participated in in-person class, and there is no record of digital participation, your participation grade will be between 0 and 50%. You don't necessarily have to be vocal every single day, but your goal is to contribute to the classroom community and make me remember you! Remember that there is an element of subjectivity here, as there is in real life (for example, you'll be evaluated at work partly based on how effective your supervisor **perceives** you to be). Learn how to respond effectively to that.

**Lateness:** Lateness distracts everyone in the class and causes you to miss important information. Frequent lateness will drastically lower your participation grade, and if you are more than 10 minutes late you may be marked absent.

**Classroom Conduct and Cell phones:** Before class begins, please silence your cell phone. The success of any English course relies heavily on the classroom environment, so I expect your presence, attentiveness, and participation. If you engage in any behavior which I judge to be distracting to others or disruptive of the learning environment, such as loud or frequent whispering, regularly interrupting or “talking over” others, or frequently leaving the room or falling out of your chair, you may be asked to leave. Please be aware that, as a college professor, I can require you to leave my classroom and forbid you to return until you meet with Dr Kris Kimbark, our Dean of Students.

Inattentiveness related to smartphone use, sleeping, using the computer, doing homework for another class, or any other non-distracting activity **will** result in a lower participation grade, and it is rare that an inattentive student passes this class.

Additionally, College of the Mainland requires that students enrolled at COM be familiar with the Standards of Student Conduct, which can be found in the online Student Handbook, <http://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.php>. Any breaches of the Code of Conduct will result in a referral to the Office for Student Conduct and may result in dismissal from this class.

**Speaking, Reading, and Writing Center:** COM’s online tutors are available to help students who would like feedback at any stage of the writing process, and I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this service! However, a tutor will not “fix” your paper for you. You are expected to actively contribute to the learning involved in tutoring sessions. Here is the website: <https://www.com.edu/tutoring/writing-resources>

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	Discussions
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	discussions
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of		Essays

characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.		
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.		Essays
5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature	Critical Thinking (CT) Communication Skills (CS)	Essays

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:** Plagiarism is a serious offense that consists of passing someone else’s work off as your own or of resubmitting an old paper as if it were new and original (so-called “self-plagiarism”). This includes failure to properly cite an outside source, copying a paper off the internet, an excessive amount of outside help from an unauthorized person, like a friend or your mom, or taking someone else’s writing and “changing the words.” The first instance of plagiarism will be reported to judicial affairs and will result in an F for the course.

Academic dishonesty is a more general term that, according to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, “is any act which interferes with evaluation of academic work,” including such seemingly minor acts like citing a source you don’t use in your paper, leaving out an in-text citation, or taking a source’s ideas without acknowledging the source. These acts do not need to be intentional to be dishonest—English 1301 required students to learn how to integrate sources into their own writing honestly and how to cite them correctly. That is why ignorance is not an acceptable defense against charges of plagiarism or dishonesty: all students are responsible for learning and implementing the rules of source integration and documentation that were taught in the prerequisite for this course. Penalties for “minor” acts of dishonesty like those listed above will increase over the course of the semester and, if persistent, will result in failure of the course.

This website has more information about academic dishonesty:  
<https://www.wpi.edu/about/policies/academic-integrity/dishonesty>

**Concerns/Questions Statement:** 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](mailto:banderson@com.edu)

## Tentative Course Outline

Assignments and due dates may be altered with prior notice.

Date	In-class activity	Reading (On Blackboard)	Complete before 11:59 PM on Sunday night
Week 1 August 23- 29	Attend class for course introduction and discussion of the pros and cons of your past experiences with literature <b>OR</b> complete everything in the <b>F2F alternative activities</b> folder in Week 1 on BB	Beowulf, pp 3-59 (through Line 875)	Post your reading-journal entry in the <i>Beowulf</i> forum.
Week 2 August 30- September 5	Attend class for lecture and Beowulf discussion <b>OR</b> complete everything in the <b>F2F alternative activities</b> folder in Week 2 on BB	No reading; watch videos in Week 2 folder	Blackboard assignment
Week 3 September 6 – September 12	No class: Labor Day	“Lanval” by Marie de France	Post your reading-journal entry in the “Lanval” forum
Week 4 September 13-September 19	Attend class for lecture and “Lanval” discussion <b>OR</b> complete everything in the <b>F2F alternative activities</b> folder in Week 4 on BB	“The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale” from Chaucer’s <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>	Post your reading-journal entry in the “Wife of Bath’s Tale” forum
Week 5 September 20 – September 26	Attend class for lecture and <i>Canterbury Tales</i> discussion <b>OR</b> Complete everything in the <b>F2F alternative activities</b> folder in Week 5 on BB	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> through line 1125	Post your reading-journal entry in the <i>Sir Gawain</i> #1 forum.
Week 6 September 27 – October 3	Attend class for lecture and <i>Sir Gawain</i> discussion <b>OR</b> Complete everything in the <b>F2F alternative activities</b> folder in Week 6 on BB	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> to the end	Post your reading-journal entry in the <i>Sir Gawain</i> #2 forum.
Week 7 October 4 – October 10	Attend class for lecture and <i>Sir Gawain</i> discussion <b>OR</b> Complete everything in the <b>F2F alternative activities</b> folder in Week 7 on BB	Watch <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> (1993 film) (link in Blackboard)	<b>Turn in Essay 1</b> Post your reading-journal entry in the <i>Much Ado about Nothing</i> forum.
Week 8 October 11 – October 17	Attend class for lecture and <i>Much Ado about Nothing</i> discussion <b>OR</b> complete everything in the <b>F2F alternative activities</b> folder in Week 8 on BB	Readings TBD by Week 1 survey	Post your reading-journal entry in the Week 8 forum.
Week 9	Attend class for lecture and	Readings TBD by	Post your reading-

October 18 – October 24	discussion <b>OR</b> Complete everything in the <b>F2F alternative activities</b> folder in Week 9 on BB	Week 1 survey	journal entry in the Week 9 forum.
Week 10 October 25 – October 31	Attend class for lecture and discussion <b>OR</b> complete everything in the <b>F2F alternative activities</b> folder in Week 10 on BB	The first half of <i>Oroonoko</i> by Aphra Behn (through the paragraph where Caesar and Clemene meet)	Post your reading-journal entry in the <i>Oroonoko</i> #1 forum.
Week 11 November 1 – November 7	Attend class for lecture and <i>Oroonoko</i> discussion <b>OR</b> complete everything in the <b>F2F alternative activities</b> folder in Week 11 on BB	The rest of <i>Oroonoko</i>	Post your reading-journal entry in the <i>Oroonoko</i> #2 forum.
Week 12 November 8 – November 14	Attend class for lecture and <i>Oroonoko</i> discussion <b>OR</b> complete everything in the <b>F2F alternative activities</b> folder in Week 12 on BB	“Fantomina, or Love in a Maze” by Eliza Haywood	Post your reading-journal entry in the “Fantomina” forum
Week 13 November 15 – November 21	Attend class for lecture and “Fantomina” discussion <b>OR</b> complete everything in the <b>F2F alternative activities</b> folder in Week 13 on BB	Chapters 1-23 in <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	<b>Turn in Essay 2</b> Post your reading-journal entry in the <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> #1 forum
Week 14 November 22 – November 28	No Class <b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>	Chapters 24-42 in <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Post your reading-journal entry in the <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> #2 forum
Week 15 November 29 – December 5	Attend class for lecture and <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> discussion <b>OR</b> complete everything in the <b>F2F alternative activities</b> folder in Week 15 on BB	Chapters 43-61 in <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Post your reading-journal entry in the <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> #3 forum
Week 16 December 6 – December 10	Attend class for <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> discussion <b>OR</b> complete everything in the <b>F2F alternative activities</b> folder in Week 16 on BB		<b>Final exam due by 11:59 PM on Tuesday, December 7</b>

## 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://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf)>. *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.* [https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf)



**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 accommodations is requested to contact Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Counseling Statement:** Any student needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email [counseling@com.edu](mailto:counseling@com.edu) to set up their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 6. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 19. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is December 2.

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

**COVID-19 Statement:** All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland’s Coronavirus Information site at [www.com.edu/coronavirus](http://www.com.edu/coronavirus). In compliance with Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order, face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance when

possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit [com.edu/coronavirus](https://www.com.edu/coronavirus) for future updates.