

# ENGL 203

# Ages of British Literature

HH 210

M/W 3:00 to 4:15 p.m.

Spring 2022

Dr. Robert C. Hanna

HH 223

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**Note #1: This syllabus may be modified by the professor, as circumstances warrant. Students will be advised should any such modifications be made.**

**Note #2: Course averages calculated by Gradebook's software are unofficial and are for general information purposes only. Actual and final calculations are made manually, including grade adjustments for lack of participation, unexcused absences, and not meeting absence notification requirements.**

**Note #3: (Recording and Privacy) In this class, software will be used to record live class sessions. As a student in this class, your participation may be recorded. These recordings will be made available only to students enrolled in the class. The intent of the recordings is to assist those who cannot attend the live session or to serve as a resource for those who would like to review content presented during the current semester in which the recording is made. You may not download, share, replicate, or publish the recording, in whole or in part, or use the recording for any other purpose without the written approval of the instructor. Recordings are for personal academic use only, where personal academic use is restricted to the personal study use of the individual. Any violations to this policy must be reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs and may result in disciplinary action, including expulsion from the college. All recordings that contain identifiable student information will be deleted by the end of the course. If you have any concerns about being recorded during class, please discuss your options with your instructor or express your concerns to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.**

**Note #4: (Students with Disabilities) The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) require that “no qualified person shall, solely by reason of disability, be denied access to, be excluded from participation in, or the benefits of services, programs or activities or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance.” If you have a disability, or feel you are in need of accommodations, please contact Kristi Ringen in the Academic Resource Center ([kringen@blc.edu](mailto:kringen@blc.edu)), 507-344-7730).**

## Course Description

This course begins with Old English literature, with an emphasis on *Beowulf*, and continues with Middle English literature, with an emphasis on *The Canterbury Tales* by Chaucer. Students are also introduced to the Arthurian legend, as well as its French counterparts. Modern English literature concludes with the Victorian age.

This course meets the Common General Education Core Requirement for Literature. It also meets one of the elective requirements for English majors.

## Required Literature (Titles *must* be edition and ISBN indicated.)

*Beowulf*

Translated by Seamus Heaney

W. W. Norton

978-0-393-32097-8

*Sense and Sensibility*

Jane Austen

Dover Publications

0-486-29049-2

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Translated by J. R. R. Tolkien

Ballantine Books

978-0-345-27760-2

*The Importance of Being Earnest*

Oscar Wilde

Dover Publications

978-0-468-26478-3

## Course Objectives

1. Students demonstrate basic cultural literacy of the eras, genres, and historical events pertinent to particular course content, and can identify correctly allusions, excerpts from particular works, and works written by key authors, as well as exhibit a foundational knowledge of literary terminology. [English Department]
2. Students are able to adjust their use of . . . written language to communicate effectively. [English Department]
3. Students are able to comprehend and create written . . . texts. [English Department]
4. Students recognize that the historic Christian faith professes that God the Holy Trinity is the source of all knowledge and truth, and that His wisdom is most clearly revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. [BLC]
5. Students demonstrate intellectual, creative, and problem-solving skills. [BLC]
6. Students demonstrate an understanding of personal and public responsibility. [BLC]
7. Students develop habits of thinking that apply to a fulfilling life of learning. [BLC]
8. Students demonstrate the ability to close and critically read a text. [BLC]
9. Students demonstrate an understanding of ideas from different cultures and time periods. [BLC]
10. Students demonstrate the ability to identify a diversity in perspective, ideology, and religion. [BLC]

## Course Requirements

### I. Reading Assignments

Students are expected to complete each reading assignment in advance of its class presentation.

### II. Quizzes

In order to encourage the completion of each reading assignment in advance of its class presentation, a quiz is given on each reading assignment. Should a student miss a quiz, a makeup quiz will be provided during the student's final exam.

### III. Writing Assignments

A. Each student will write an original analysis of *Beowulf* in terms of its content, structure, use of literary techniques, tone, predominant theme, and inclusion of both Christian and pagan beliefs. The analysis paper is graded based on instructions given in class **and** meeting the due date specified on the syllabus. After the analysis paper has been graded, students are **not** permitted to revise it for a higher grade.

B. Each student will be assigned a biblical plot to expand and retell in the medieval English style of a mystery play. The original drama is graded based on instructions given in class **and** meeting the due date specified on the syllabus. After the original drama has been graded, students are **not** permitted to revise it for a higher grade.

C. Each student will be assigned one page of *Beowulf* to revise and rewrite in the French poetic style of the epic *The Song of Roland*. The page will be taken from Seamus Heaney's translation of *Beowulf*, a required textbook for this course. The revision of *Beowulf* paper necessitates the use of a thesaurus and is graded based on instructions given in class **and** meeting the due date specified on the syllabus. After the revision of *Beowulf* paper has been graded, students are **not** permitted to revise it for a higher grade.

### IV. Attendance and Participation

Physical classroom attendance in this course is required, as is participation. Students should note that even excused absences prevent participation. Students who do not satisfactorily participate in class on a voluntary basis as a result of not being in class should expect to receive a lowered final course grade. **Students who cannot attend class as scheduled are advised to enroll in this course in a semester when full participation is achievable.**

Students who miss class **for any reason** are **required** to contact the professor by e-mail **on the same day as the missed class meeting**. The nature of the absence must be provided. The professor will reply to all such messages, as proof of receipt. Messages from anyone other than the student who has missed class will **not** be accepted. Students who do not contact the professor by e-mail on the same day as the missed class meeting should expect to receive a lowered final course grade.

## V. Link to Zoom Meetings

Students **do *not* have permission** to use the link to join live Zoom meetings. Zoom meetings are held for recording purposes only. Students who join live Zoom meetings without advance authorization from the professor are designated as “Absent—Not Excused” and should expect to receive a lowered final course grade.

Bethany Lutheran College restricts Zoom meetings to (1) students living in foreign countries, (2) students designated by the College as having Covid, and (3) students designated by the College as in quarantine. The link is found under “Bookmarks” on the MyBLC page for the course.

## Evaluation of Students

- 20% Quizzes
- 20% Original Analysis of *Beowulf* Paper
- 20% Original Drama
- 20% Revision of *Beowulf* Paper
- 20% Final Exam

## Grading Scale

A=94 to 100; A minus=90 to 93; B plus=87 to 89; B=83 to 86; B minus=80 to 82; C plus=77 to 79; C=73 to 76; C minus=70 to 72; D plus=67 to 69; D=63 to 66; D minus=60 to 62; F=below 60.

## Academic Honesty

All course requirements apply to each student, individually. Accordingly, academic honesty means meeting every course requirement on one’s own, without assistance from anyone else. Any first violation of academic honesty results in no credit granted for the course requirement. The College administration is then so notified in writing. Any second violation of academic honesty results in a failing grade for the entire course. Again, the College administration is then so notified in writing.

*Specific violations of academic honesty include, but are not limited to, turning in someone else’s written work as one’s own; plagiarism; giving or receiving aid on homework, writing assignments, and examinations; and submitting false or misleading documents, including e-mail messages.*

## Topics Schedule (graded assignments are in bold type)

JAN 10	Introduction to Course
JAN 12	<i>Exeter Book</i>
JAN 19	“The Husband’s Message”
JAN 24	Western Epics
JAN 26	<i>Beowulf</i> Manuscript <i>Beowulf</i> [textbook]
JAN 31	<b>Quiz on <i>Beowulf</i></b> Original Analysis of <i>Beowulf</i> Assigned <i>Beowulf</i> [textbook]
FEB 02	British Authors of King Arthur Stories
FEB 07	<b>Quiz on <i>Le Morte D’Arthur</i></b>
FEB 09	Dark Age England
FEB 14	<b>Quiz on <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i></b> <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> [textbook]
FEB 16	Geoffrey Chaucer
FEB 23	<b>Original Analysis of <i>Beowulf</i> Paper Due</b> <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>
FEB 28	Continuation of previous class meeting
MAR 02	<i>Mankind</i>
MAR 14	Original Drama Assigned Edmund Spenser
MAR 16	Continuation of previous class meeting
MAR 21	William Shakespeare
MAR 23	<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>
MAR 28	Continuation of previous class meeting History of Theaters in England

MAR 30	<b>Quiz on Characters in <i>The Rivals</i></b>
APR 04	<i>The Rivals</i>
APR 06	<b>Original Drama Due</b> Revision of <i>Beowulf</i> Paper Assigned Continuation of previous class meeting
APR 11	Jane Austen
APR 13	<b>Quiz on <i>Sense and Sensibility</i></b>
APR 20	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i> [textbook]
APR 25	Continuation of previous class meeting
APR 27	<b>Revision of <i>Beowulf</i> Paper Due</b> Continuation of previous class meeting
MAY 02	<b>Quiz on Characters in <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i></b> <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> [textbook]
MAY 04	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> [textbook]

**Note: The Final Exam is *not* given early. Students who do not take the Final Exam when scheduled by the College may arrange a later makeup date.**