ENGLISH 2120

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Office Hours: M/W 12:30-2, T 9-12, Th 12-3(other days/times by appointment)
Faculty Page: http://www.westga.edu/english/show_bio.php?emp_id=23583

COURSE DESCRIPTION

“I would read. I would explore.”–Neil Gaiman, The Ocean at the End of the Lane

This course introduces students to representative works of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon age to the twentieth century. In addition to exploring questions of genre, literary periodization, and historical context, we will study principles of strong critical writing.

Course Description and Learning Outcomes: http://www.westga.edu/~engdept/fr/CourseGuid/2120.htm

COURSE MATERIALS, ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

Materials


Assignments

Participation:
Your participation grade is based upon your performance in the class in terms of group work, discussion, and attendance habits. You are expected to demonstrate genuine engagement with the material, actively contribute to discussion topics, show adequate preparation for each class, and respect the ideas of your classmates. You must bring the text under discussion to every class.

Reading Assignments and Quizzes:
Always assemble reading notes as you complete the assignment: names of characters, important events, central ideas, etc. I strongly recommend keeping a separate notebook solely dedicated to this class. Quizzes are comprehensive and fact-based, given at the instructor’s discretion. All quizzes are open note (but not open book).

Process-Based Writing Exercises:
Your research papers for this class will be written over a period of weeks rather than one sleepless night. Expect these assignments to be fairly involved affairs that take you through the process of
writing a thesis-driven, critical essay. Grades will be based on the level of completeness and the degree to which the response follows the directions.

Research Paper:
Your basic task for this paper is to produce a well-written, coherent essay whose central argument is both interesting and significant. The essay will be thesis-driven and argumentative, with the grade determined by the complexity of your central argument, the structure of your paragraphs, the logic of your organization, and the strength of your prose (i.e. your writing). This research paper will also be evaluated in terms of the use of secondary sources and the originality of your scholarship.

Midterm and Final Exams:
Both exams comprehensively cover the material for the first and second half of the semester. The final exam will also include questions asking students to link material from the beginning of the semester to the end, providing an overview of the literary history examined throughout the course.

Grading

Grade Chart: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; Below 60 = F
Any assignment failing to meet minimum requirements can only receive a maximum grade of D.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Quizzes &amp; Process-Based Writing Exercises</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Research Paper</td>
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**COURSEWORK POLICIES**

**Expectations**

Imagine me as your manager for this course. When you are hired, the manager has high expectations for your abilities as well as your professionalism; each time you disappoint your manager, his opinion of your professionalism goes down. As your manager, I expect you to:

- Display a working knowledge of the syllabus
- Attend all classes, arriving on time with relevant materials in hand
- Participate fully and respectfully in class discussions
- Remain attentive and engaged throughout the class period
- Avoid repeating mistakes addressed in feedback
- Submit quality work, complete and on time
- Communicate promptly with me about any concerns

I am only in control over one hundred percent of my own effort. Ultimately, your success depends on how much time, energy, and effort you are willing to put into the class.
Turning in Work

Although course materials are available on D2L, all assignments must be submitted to TurnItIn. There are no waivers for computer, program or user errors. The research paper is the only assignment accepted late, and there are no make-up opportunities for quizzes. The research paper loses one letter grade per 24-hour late period, beginning immediately after the scheduled submission time.

Office Meetings and Discussion of Work

I will never discuss your personal grades in class. However, come to my office and discuss your work as soon as you have any questions; being proactive is the best way to improve your grade! Please prepare specific questions and never ask me to proofread an assignment—that’s your job. Asking clear, precise questions helps you understand your own writing process and therefore makes meetings much more productive and valuable for you. Please note that I will not be able to offer any substantial assistance if you wait until the day before an assignment is due to meet with me. Writing takes time. I want to help you make the grade you desire; I promise that you will receive the grade you earn.

Extra Credit Policy

Extra credit is not available for this course; the final grade reflects your understanding of the coursework.

MLA Documentation Style

All assignments must adhere to strict MLA format in order to meet minimum requirements. Assignments not adhering to MLA format will receive a maximum grade of D.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

The Department of English and Philosophy defines plagiarism as taking personal credit for the words and ideas of others as they are presented in electronic, print, and verbal sources. The Department expects that students will accurately credit sources in all assignments. An equally dishonest practice is fabricating sources or facts; it is another form of misrepresenting the truth. Plagiarism is grounds for failing the course.

The University policies for handling Academic Dishonesty are found in the following documents: The Faculty Handbook, sections 207 and 208.0401 http://www.westga.edu/~vpaa/handrev/ Student Uncatalogue: "Rights and Responsibilities"; Appendix J. http://www.westga.edu/handbook/

Plagiarism always results in an automatic F for the course, regardless of circumstances, reasons, or extent. I will also report the case to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center offers consultation in which tutors question, respond to, offer choices, and encourage revision in student essays. Tutors do not evaluate or prescribe solutions to problematic areas in student essays, and tutors are specifically trained to avoid appropriating the student's work.

The Writing Center: http://www.westga.edu/~writing/
CLASSROOM POLICIES

Attendance

Regular participation in this class is vital to your success. Each student is allotted three (3) absences without penalty. After that, the student’s final grade will be docked as follows:

- Fourth absence: student’s final grade drops one letter (e.g., from “B” to “C”)
- Fifth absence: student’s final grade drops two letters (e.g., from “B” to “D”)
- Sixth absence: student’s final grade drops three letters (e.g., from “A” to “D”)
- Seventh absence: student’s final grade drops four letters (e.g., from “A” to “F”)

Two late arrivals count as one absence. Leaving early applies in the same manner. No distinction exists between excused and unexcused absences, and assignments are still due on the day assigned.

Disruptive Behavior and Electronic Devices

Students will be dismissed from any class meeting at which they exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes—but is not limited to—arriving late for class, allowing cell phones to ring, speaking disrespectfully to the instructor and/or to other students, checking email or surfing the web, and using personal audio or video devices. Laptops and tablets may be used for class-related work only; use for other purposes will result in your dismissal from class. Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and will be applied toward the attendance policy.

For the sake of transparency, my biggest pet peeves are off-task electronic usage, sleeping, and class disruption. Students who exhibit such behaviors will be counted absent. I readily dismiss students who disturb our learning environment; if you are disrespectful to other students or excessively disruptive, we will meet to discuss whether or not you may continue attending the class. Discussion requires attention and thoughtful participation, and most importantly, demands a safe learning environment.

Communication

The official communication method for this class occurs through campus email (MyUWG). You remain responsible for regularly checking your email. In order to guarantee your privacy, I never respond to emails sent from alternate email providers. I rarely check email in the evenings and almost never during weekends; please give me time to respond during professional business hours.

OTHER INFORMATION

Disability and Accessibility Pledge

I pledge to do my best to work with the University to provide all students with equal access to my classes and materials, regardless of special needs, temporary or permanent disability, special needs related to pregnancy, etc. If you have any special learning needs, particularly (but not limited to) needs defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and require specific accommodations, please do not hesitate to make these known to me, either yourself or through Accessibility Services in 123 Row Hall at 770-839-6428. Students with documented special needs may expect accommodation in relation to classroom accessibility, modification of testing, special test administration, etc. This is not only my personal
commitment: it is your right, and it is the law! For more information, please contact Disability Services at the State University of West Georgia.

**Departmental Policy on Severe Weather**

The University of West Georgia is committed to the personal safety of its students, faculty, and staff in the event of severe weather. University policy regarding severe weather and emergency closings is posted at [http://www.westga.edu/police/index_2277.php](http://www.westga.edu/police/index_2277.php) and official announcements about class and/or examination cancellations will be made only by the President and/or the Department of Public Relations. Although it is not possible to develop policy to address every weather-related emergency, these guidelines are intended to provide some general direction about such situations. For immediate severe weather situations, especially when classes are in session, faculty, staff and students are advised to follow the emergency procedures identified below:

1. Direct occupants to remain in the building and to seek shelter immediately on the lowest level of the building in interior rooms (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls.
2. Instruct occupants to not leave the building.
3. Evacuate all offices, rooms or hallways with windows and glass or with exterior walls.
4. Provide assistance to persons with disabilities.
5. Accompany occupants to the nearest designated shelter area in the building.
6. Comply with departmental severe weather policies/procedures.
7. Wait for an “all clear” signal before resuming activity.
8. Occupants will: a) proceed to the nearest designated shelter area in the building by the closest route; b) move quickly but in an orderly manner so that all will arrive safely; c) will not attempt to vacate the premises, drive or seek shelter in cars; d) take a seat in the shelter area; e) remain cooperative with those in charge; and f) wait for an “all clear” signal before resuming activity.

In the event that classes are cancelled or disrupted for less than one calendar week, each professor, at his or her discretion, will make adjustments as needed to cover material missed during those cancelled sessions. This may or may not involve the use of rescheduled or online classes. If the closures exceed a single calendar week, students should contact the Chair of the Department of English and Philosophy at 678-839-6512 or the professor of the class for updated information regarding changes to the schedule in the Department. It is the intention of the Department of English and Philosophy to handle every concern seriously and as effectively as possible.
# Reading and Assignments Schedule

All assignments are due *before class* on the day they appear.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>Class introductions, syllabus</td>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>Heaney: “Digging,” “The Grauballe Man” and “Punishment”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>1/13</td>
<td>Gaiman: <em>The Ocean at the End of the Lane</em></td>
<td>1/15</td>
<td>Discussion continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>1/20</td>
<td>MLK Holiday—Classes Cancelled</td>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>Class viewing and discussion: <em>Doctor Who</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>1/27</td>
<td>Beckett: <em>Waiting for Godot</em></td>
<td>1/29</td>
<td>Discussion continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Larkin: “Church Going” and “High Windows”; Eliot: “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”</td>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>Woolf: <em>A Room of One’s Own</em></td>
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<td><em>Mountain o’ Notes 1</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>2/17</td>
<td>Wollstonecraft: <em>A Vindication of the Rights of Women</em></td>
<td>2/19</td>
<td>Blake: “The Tyger,” and “The Lamb” Discussion on the research paper</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>2/24</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>2/26</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from classes and receive a W</td>
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<td><em>Research Paper Focus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>Behn: <em>Oroonoko, or The Royal Slave</em></td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>Discussion continued</td>
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<td><em>Mountain o’ Notes 2</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>Milton: <em>Paradise Lost</em></td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Discussion continued</td>
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<td><em>Mountain o’ Notes 3</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>Spring Break!</td>
<td>3/19</td>
<td>Spring Break!</td>
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<td><em>Mountain o’ Notes 4</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>3/31</td>
<td><em>Much Ado About Nothing</em></td>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>Discussion continued</td>
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<td><em>Working Works Cited Page</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>Chaucer: “The General Prologue,” Summary of “The Knight’s Tale” and “The Miller’s Prologue and Tale”</td>
<td>4/9</td>
<td>In-class peer review: Bring a hard copy of your full essay to class for peer feedback</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>4/14</td>
<td><em>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</em></td>
<td>4/16</td>
<td><em>Beowulf</em></td>
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<td>Course Evaluations</td>
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<td><em>Research Paper</em> due on TurnItIn by Friday, April 18 at 5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXAMS</td>
<td>4/21</td>
<td>Final Exam 11-1:30</td>
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