Catalog name: British Literature Honors Survey
Office: TLC 2238  lmiller@westga.edu  Phone x94891
Office Hours: TuTh 8:45-9:15; 11:00-12:00; 2-3:00 (and by appointment…Wednesdays are easier for me)
Meeting times/location: 12:30-1:50 PM, TuThu, Pafford 309 (my other class meets from 9:30-10:50)

Students with a 3.2 GPA or higher may request permission to enroll. Call the Honors College at 678-839-6636 or email sholland@westga.edu for permission to register. May count for credit in Core Area C.

Description: This course will survey British literary history from Beowulf to the present day. We will read essential canonical texts, including works by Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton, as well as the major genres of English literature: poetry, drama, and prose fiction. We will proceed chronologically, but in order to connect this vast literary terrain, we will focus on four themes that will surface at intervals. We will trace the evolution of the English epic, interrogate changing definitions of authorship across centuries, explore the varying opportunities for women in British literature, and evaluate the connections between literature and history. By the end of the course, students will have a comprehensive understanding of the broad range of English literature, as well as greater familiarity with the tools of literary interpretation.

Course Goals
Students will develop the ability to recognize and identify significant achievements in British literature.
Students will understand the relevant social, historical, and aesthetic contexts of these literary works.
Students will appreciate the implications of theoretical and critical approaches to such literature.
Students will develop enhanced cultural awareness and analytical skills.
Students will demonstrate their command of academic English and of the tenets of sound composition by means of thesis-driven analytical prose.

Program Goals
Oral and written communication will be characterized by clarity, critical analysis, logic, coherence, persuasion, precision, and rhetorical awareness (Core Curriculum learning outcomes I)
Cultural and Social Perspectives: Cultural and social perspective will be characterized by cultural awareness and an understanding of the complexity and dynamic nature of social/political/economic systems; human and institutional behavior, values, and belief systems; historical and spatial relationship; and, flexibility, open-mindedness, and tolerance. (Core Curriculum learning outcomes III)
Aesthetic Perspective: Aesthetic perspective will be characterized by critical appreciation of and ability to make informed aesthetic judgments about the arts of various cultures as media for human expression (Core Curriculum learning outcomes V)

This course fulfills the Area C.2 requirement in the core for all students.
Area C (Humanities/Arts) Learning Outcomes:
1. To develop the ability to recognize and identify achievements in literary, fine and performing arts;
2. To have an appreciation of the nature and achievements of the arts and humanities; and
3. To develop the ability to apply, understand, and appreciate the application of aesthetics criteria to "real world circumstances.
   • This course fulfills an Area F requirement for English majors (all tracks) in the core.
   • This course fulfills one of the core-level language arts requirements for Middle Grades Education majors.
   • This course contributes to the program goal of equipping students with a foundation in literary history and the issues surrounding literary study in contemporary culture.
   • This course broadens students’ desire and ability to take pleasure in their encounter with literature.

Now that you know what this course will do for you, list some things you hope to learn or improve upon in the space below:

The following texts are required for this class (They are packaged together in the bookstore at a discount by Broadview Press):
The Broadview Anthology of British Literature (BABL), Concise SECOND Edition
   Volume A – Medieval, Renaissance, Restoration/18th Century 978-1-55481-048-2
Student Responsibilities
Your main responsibilities are to come to class prepared, participate in discussions, turn in your assignments on time, and do as well as you can on the assignments. Assignments will be graded according to the English department’s grading guidelines (available on the department website). Students customarily need to do at least two or three hours of work for each hour of class meeting time. Try to budget your time accordingly, and please see me in my office hours if you are struggling with the readings or workload. Please check in with CourseDen regularly to find materials that will help you with the course and the assignments. *If you are a student with a documented disability, please see me so that we can discuss accommodations.

Handouts for all assignments will be distributed in class and on CourseDen.

Attendance policy
• You are required to attend and participate in each session of this class.
• You will have three free absence days for life events, illness, and emergencies. You can miss these three sessions for any reason at all. If you miss a class, you are still responsible for the work during that class. If you miss only one class, but it is on an exam or presentation day, you will receive a zero for that assignment.

• If you miss more than three class sessions, your overall grade for the class will be reduced by one letter grade for each two additional class sessions missed. For example, if you earn a B in the class and you have missed five classes, your B will be reduced to a C. If you are having problems with attendance, please see me.

• If you are late or absent, get notes from another classmate. Most of the important announcements happen during the first ten minutes of class. Excessive lateness will also result in a deduction from the overall course grade. Look at your schedule and make sure you have enough time to get from class to class, work to class, etc.

• Write down the contact information for at least one student in the class here:

Class atmosphere and guidelines
• You must do all of the required reading before coming to class so that you will understand our discussions. I will institute reading quizzes if not enough students are doing the reading.
• Be respectful of your classmates in class discussions.
• Take notes in class, even if you think you’ll remember what is said.
• Silence all phones and laptops before class. No texting or social media in class. If there is an emergency and you must take a call or send a text, sit by the door and leave quickly and quietly to do so. If it’s not worth getting up and leaving the classroom, then it can wait until class ends.

University policies that apply to all courses may be found at the following link:
http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf
You must familiarize yourself with these policies. They concern plagiarism/the honor code, the Americans with Disabilities Act, our credit hour policy, and some information regarding workload expectations for college-level classes.

Class assignments
Analytical essay 1 (4 pages) 20%
Analytical essay 2 (6 pages) 25%
Midterm 15%
Final exam, 20%
In-class presentation, 10%
Creative project, 10%

Citation Style and Formatting: We will use MLA style and formatting on all essays for this class. If you ever have any questions about how to cite a source, please see me.

Recycled papers: no paper previously submitted for any course—even if you wrote it—will be accepted for course credit. If you would like to build on something you’ve worked on previously, bring your old paper by my office, and we’ll arrange for you to develop another aspect of your topic.

Late work will be penalized 5 points for each day that it is late. Late includes everything following the last minute of class. So, a paper due on a Monday and turned in on a Wednesday loses ten points. A paper due
on a Monday and turned in an hour after class ends will lose 5 points.

**Schedule of Class Assignments and Readings (subject to change per instructor)**
The readings listed next to a particular date are DUE on that date. Some days we will have a couple of short poems; other days we will read longer selections in order to cover material. To prepare yourself for the vagaries of the reading load, flip through the readings for each class in advance so that you don't get surprised by a lot of reading the night before class.

**August**
8/26 Syllabus and Introductions
8/28 Due: read *Beowulf*, first half (pp 62-87).

**September**
9/2 Due: read *Beowulf*, second half (pp 87-110).
9/4 Due: read *Canterbury Tales*, General Prologue (236-251) and Miller's Tale (285-297)
9/9 Due: read *Canterbury Tales*, Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale (298-319)
9/11 Due: read *King Lear*, Act 1 (20-54)
9/16 Due: read *King Lear*, Acts 2 and 3 (54-110)
9/18 Due: read *King Lear*, Acts 4 and 5 (110-187)
9/23 Due: read John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (Books 1 and 4... pp 918-932 and 951-964)

9/30 Due: Bring printed draft of Analytical Essay #1 for in-class peer review. The draft must be at least three pages in length. Attendance counts double on this day.

**October**
10/2 Midterm in class.
10/7 Analytical Essay #1 (4 pages) due in class. In-class activity. Bring books.
10/9 Due: read Jonathan Swift, “Description of a City Shower” (1257-1258) and “The Lady’s Dressing Room” (1260-1262)
10/14, Read Mary Wortley Montagu, “The Reasons that Induced Dr S” (1426-1427) and Eliza Haywood, “Fantomina” (1432-1437)
10/16. Due: read Alexander Pope, “Eloisa to Abelard,” (1401-1405) This is our last class using Volume A.

**November**
11/4 Due: Read James Joyce, “The Dead” (1244-1265)
11/11 Due: Philip Larkin, “Aubade,” (1433), Ted Hughes, “Pike,” (1435-1436), Stevie Smith, “Pretty” (1374)
11/13 Due: read Samuel Beckett, biographical info and “Krapp’s Last Tape,” (1388-1394). If it's tough to read, there are several performances of the play on YouTube.
11/18 Due: read Angela Carter, “The Bloody Chamber,” (1469-1490), Eavan Boland, “Night Feed” (1526) and “Against Love Poetry” (1533)
11/20 Due: Linton Kwesi Johnson, “Inglan is a Bitch” (1599), Moniza Alvi, “As If,” (1600-1601), and Pico Iyer, “The Terminal Check” (1601-1603).

**December**
12/4 Review for final exam in class.

Final exam Thursday, Dec. 11, 11:00-1:30 pm