

ENG 231, British Literature I, McNulty– Fall 2017

Instructor: Terence McNulty

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Office Hours: M 1:30-3:30, T 12:30-2, W 10-11, R 12:30-2. Other times by appointment.

Online Office Hours: By appointment via Skype (mcnulty.mxcc on Skype)

Meeting Times: Online

Credit Hours: This course is 3 credit hours.

CRN: 3317

Prerequisites:

Successful completion of English 101 and either English 102 or English 110.

Course Description:

Reading and analysis of major works of British literature from Old English through the 18th century. Focus on literary and historical context, close reading, and interpretation. Researched essays are required.

Required Texts:

Greenblatt, Stephen. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Volume I*, Ninth Edition.

Structure of Course

Our course is 15 weeks long and is broken into 3 units, each of which will span 5 weeks. Each 5 week unit will follow the same rhythm.

- ✓ **Week 1:** Study Week. Review the PowerPoint I've posted for you, take the very easy quiz that's based on that PowerPoint, and begin to read ahead.
- ✓ **Week 2:** Discussion Week. Read the selected material and engage in course discussion about that material. You will have to write your own post by Thursday at 11:59 PM and respond to two peers by Sunday at 11:59 PM.
- ✓ **Week 3:** Discussion Week. Read the selected material and engage in course discussion about that material. You will have to write your own post by Thursday at 11:59 PM and respond to two peers by Sunday at 11:59 PM.
- ✓ **Week 4:** Contemporary Connections Week. Read the enrichment material and draw connections between the work we're reading and our contemporary world.
- ✓ **Week 5:** Essay Week. You will complete a 5ish page essay about the content in the unit and in response to specific prompts.

Please note that during each Week 2, Week 3, and Week 4, you will receive reading notes in the weekly directions posted to BlackBoard. These will be vital to your success each week.

Software Expectations

- For the duration of the course, you should obviously have Internet access and access to word processing software.
- PowerPoints and essay feedback will be provided as .mov files. For this reason, you will also

need access to software that can play .mov files (such as QuickTime, Windows Media Player, or VLC).

Things To Keep In Mind

- You'll be reading a lot – you should be prepared for the joy of reading challenging work.
- **The expected average workload per week is the same as a “ground” class – 9-12 hours per week.**

Grading:

Your grade in this course will be figured by the following formula:

Unit 1 Paper	25%
Unit 2 Paper	25%
Unit 3 Paper	25%
Discussion Boards	20%
Quizzes	5%

Late Work:

- Late papers and discussion boards lose 5 points per day late unless you request an extension before the due date.
- **Late work will not be accepted after 10 days beyond the original due date. At this point, the work is already an “F.”**
- There are no fractional points. If a paper was due at 11:59 and you submit it at 12:01, it's one day late.
- **Late papers/discussion board posts will be graded, but will not receive feedback/comments. This means that late work can not be functionally revised.**
- You may revise papers 1 and 2 as many times as you'd like and I will count the highest grade. Paper 3 may not be revised because it will be handed in at the end of the semester.

Essay Expectations/Grading Scale

Because of the prerequisites on this course, I'm assuming everyone enrolled knows how to write a college level argument (and I'm not going to spend much time teaching or reviewing this skill). I also expect that all enrolled students have a basic facility with literary interpretation (though that skill will continue to develop over the course of this semester).

- **A and B papers are well above average** in critical analysis, style, and mechanics.
- **C papers are average college work**, with grammatical, organizational, or developmental problems that distract from the quality of the essay. C papers may also suffer from insufficient analysis of the texts in question.
- **D or F papers do not** meet the assignment, contain numerous errors, are not logically organized or lack substantial development of their main idea.

Discussion Board Expectations/Grading Scale

Discussion board postings are graded on a scale from A to F. **Discussion board posts are not revisable.**

- Please note that the grade of “A” is reserved for extraordinary work. Simply meeting the criteria for the assignment does not earn you an A.
- If you meet the criteria for the assignment and do average work, you will earn a C.

- Grades of “A” and “B” are reserved for those students who are going above and beyond basic course expectations and who are thus engaging in above average work.
- You will largely be graded on your content and ideas, but the quality of your prose will also impact your grade. I expect clear, focused writing.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Range	Figured As
A	93-100	95
A-	90-92	92
B+	87-89	88
B	83-86	85
B-	80-82	82
C+	77-79	78
C	73-76	75
C-	70-72	72
D+	67-69	68
D	63-66	65
D-	60-62	62
F	Below 60	50

- This scale applies to letter grades earned.
- Number grades earned are entered as the exact number grade earned.

Online Rules:

1. No personal attacks are permitted. If there is a difference of opinion, mature discussion and conflict resolution are expected.
2. If I have to delete your post from a discussion board (for personal attacks, inappropriate language or action, etc.), you will receive an automatic F for that week’s discussion.
3. You are expected to login several times over the course of the week. Logging in once a week for one hour will not lead to success in this course. **The expectation of this course is 9-12 hours per week of work.**

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's words, ideas, or work as your own. The official system policy is available at the link/QR code below.

You must use proper citation. Presenting another person’s ideas or language as your own will result in an F for a paper/speech without the right to revise it. It may also result in an F for the course. Very often students plagiarize because of deadline stress or confusion regarding an assignment. It’s my job to help you if you’re confused. It’s your job to ask for help and to not plagiarize.

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Additional Syllabus Information

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather/emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/



In Order to Succeed in This Course

Please keep in mind that this course is rigorous. It requires you to manage your time well, employ good study skills and keep ahead of assignments.

Remember – I'm willing to work as hard as you're willing to work. Want to revise your work? Good! I'll read it again. Want help narrowing an idea for a paper? Good! That's my job. Let's work together to help you realize your potential as a reader, writer and thinker.

Plan of Study, English 231, McNulty

- ❖ Please note I may change this schedule at any time to match the pace and needs of the class.
- ❖ All readings are in the Norton anthology unless otherwise indicated. We will read several works directly from the web.
- ❖ I may add .mp3 or .mp4 files to the course at any given time (as I find them or as I feel the need to produce them).
- ❖ New work will always appear by 9 AM on Monday morning.

Unit One: Old and Middle English

Week 1 (8/29): Settling into the Course

- **Listen:** Introductory .mp3 file.
- **Read:**
 - ☐ Unit 1 PowerPoint
- **Do:**
 - ☐ Week 1 Quiz (based on the PowerPoint)

Week 2 (9/4)

- **Read:**
 - ☐ *Beowulf* (pp 36-108).
- **Respond:**
 - ☐ Post a response to the “Week 2 Discussion Board” by Thursday at 11:59 PM.
 - ☐ Respond to at least one other student’s post on the “Week 2 Board” by Sunday, Noon.

Week 3 (9/11)

- **Read:**
 - ☐ From *The Canterbury Tales* – **Please try the middle English. Also read the modernized version linked in the directions.**
 - ❖ The General Prologue (243-263) (links for contemporary English)
 - ❖ The Wife of Bath’s Prologue (282-301) (links for contemporary English)
 - ❖ The Miller’s Tale (266-280) (links for contemporary English)
- **Respond:**
 - ☐ Post a response to the “Week 3 Discussion Board” by Thursday at 11:59 PM.
 - ☐ Respond to at least one other student’s post on the “Week 3 Board” by Sunday, Noon.

Week 4 (9/18)

- **Read:**
 - ☐ “Tristan et Ysolde” (133-137)
 - ☐ *Everyman* (507-529)
- **Respond:**
 - ☐ Post a response to the “Week 4 Discussion Board” by Thursday at 11:59 PM.
 - ☐ Respond to at least one other student’s post on the “Week 4 Board” by Sunday, Noon.

Week 5 (9/25)

Paper 1 Due at 11:59 PM on 10/2

Unit 2: 16th Century Drama and Poetry

Week 6 (10/2)

- **Listen:** Introductory .mp3 file.
- **Read:**
 - ☐ Week 6 PowerPoint
- **Do:**
 - ☐ Week 6 Quiz (based on the PowerPoint)

Week 7 (10/9)

- **Read:**
 - ☐ *Hamlet, Acts 1-3* (Link)
- **Respond:**
 - ☐ Post a response to the “Week 7 Discussion Board” by Thursday at 11:59 PM.
 - ☐ Respond to at least one other student’s post on the “Week 7 Board” by Sunday, Noon.

Week 8 (10/16)

- **Read:**
 - ☐ *Hamlet, Acts 4-5* (Link)
 - ☐ Shakespeare Sonnets 1, 18, 19, 29, 60, 71, 87, 94, 106, 116, 130, 147 (begins on 1170).
- **Respond:**
 - ☐ Post a response to the “Week 8 Discussion Board” by Thursday at 11:59 PM.
 - ☐ Respond to at least one other student’s post on the “Week 8 Board” by Sunday, Noon.

Week 9 (10/23)

- **Read:**
 - ☐ From *The Shepheardes Calender*, Edmund Spenser (769-775)
 - ☐ From *Astrophil and Stella*, Sir Phillip Sidney (1084-1101)
- **Respond:**
 - ☐ Post a response to the “Week 9 Discussion Board” by Thursday at 11:59 PM.
 - ☐ Respond to at least one other student’s post on the “Week 9 Board” by Sunday, Noon.

Week 10 (10/30)

Paper 2 Due, 11:59 PM on 11/6.

Unit 3: The Restoration – 17th and 18th Centuries

Week 11 (11/6)

- **Listen:** Introductory .mp3 file.
- **Read:**
 - ☐ Week 6 PowerPoint
- **Do:**
 - ☐ Week 11 Quiz (based on the PowerPoint)

Week 12 (11/13)

➤ Read:

- ☐ from *Paradise Lost*, books 1 and 8 (1945-1964 and 2077-2091)
- ☐ “When I Consider How My Light Is Spent,” Milton (1942)
- ☐ “The Flea” (1373), “A Valediction, Forbidding Mourning” (1385), “Batter My Heart, Three-Personed God ...” (1413)

➤ Respond:

- ☐ Post a response to the “Week 8 Discussion Board” by Thursday at 11:59 PM.
- ☐ Respond to at least one other student’s post on the “Week 8 Board” by Sunday, Noon.

Week 13 (11/20)

➤ Read:

- ☐ from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* by John Locke (2280-2283)
- ☐ from *Leviathan* by Thomas Hobbes (1855-1867)
- ☐ from “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman” by Mary Wollstonecraft (link)

➤ Respond:

- ☐ Post a response to the “Week 8 Discussion Board” by Thursday at 11:59 PM.
- ☐ Respond to at least one other student’s post on the “Week 8 Board” by Sunday, Noon.

Week 14 (11/27)

➤ Read:

- ☐ “Am I Thus Conquered?” by Mary Wroth (1567)
- ☐ “An Essay on Criticism, Part I” by Alexander Pope (2669-2673)
- ☐ “The Lady’s Dressing Room” by Jonathan Swift (2767-2770),
- ☐ “Epistle from Mrs. Yonge to Her Husband” by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (2763-2766)
- ☐ “Easter Wings” by George Herbert (1709)
- ☐ “Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eaton College” by Thomas Gray (3047-3050) and “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” by Thomas Gray (3051-3054).

➤ Respond:

- ☐ Post a response to the “Week 8 Discussion Board” by Thursday at 11:59 PM.
- ☐ Respond to at least one other student’s post on the “Week 8 Board” by Sunday, Noon.

Week 15 and Finals Week (12/4)

Paper 3 Due, 11:59 PM on Tuesday, 12/12.

- ✓ **There is extended time on this assignment because revisions are not permitted. Please use the extended time to share a draft or a portion of a draft!**

Thank you for your hard work this semester. I appreciate your effort and labor, and I hope you feel like you’re a better reader (and a more informed person) for it. Good luck!