

*English 262/002: "The Empire and its Fragments: British Literature from the*



*Eighteenth Century to the Present" [British Literature Survey II, 1800 to the present].*

*Instructor:* Sreya Chatterjee

*Office:* G-05, Colson Hall –D,

*Office hours:* MWF (12:30 - 1:30 P.M. and by appointment).

*Contact information:* email – [schatte2@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:schatte2@mix.wvu.edu) (It is preferred that students make an appointment with the instructor for meetings related to missed classes, examinations or outside-the-schedule Conferences).

*Class will meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:30 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. in Room 320 at Clark Hall-D.*

*English 262 /British Literature II, 1800 TO THE PRESENT / fulfills G&C Objectives 3 and 5. The G&C Objective 3, "The Past and its Traditions" requires students to apply knowledge, methods and principles of enquiry to understanding the past and G&C Objective 5 "Artistic Expression" requires students to apply methods and principles of critical inquiry to the analysis of Literary or artistic expression.*

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*Course Description:* British Literature from the eighteenth century onwards presents a literary plethora born out of the battle between tradition and modernity, scientific discoveries a spirit of experimentation in art and well as its increasing commoditization by the march of industrial capitalism. As we navigate the whirlwind journey across three centuries of high British Literature and culture, we will come across myriad images of the Empire that mirrors its many cracks and fissures, and yet the spirit of English life, flowing through London's very veins, presents a subject matter, so rich in its diversity and ephemeral dynamism as to baffle any modern reader. The British Literature texts included in this survey offer the multimodal and fraught relationship of Empire to the buzzing life of the "metropole" which is perceived and represented variously and imaginatively by different writers at different times. Therefore, each text will have to be treated individually both as historical documents and "cultural artefacts" while being particularly attentive to the stylistic features, formal innovations and thematic ingenuities that make them particularly representative of their times.

***Required Texts:***

1. ***The Norton Anthology of English Literature Volume D, E, F*** Ed. Stephen Greenblatt. 9<sup>th</sup> Edition (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2012). Print.  
**ISBN13: 978-0-393-91254-8**
2. ***Mary Shelley's Frankenstein***. Ed.J. Paul Hunter. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2012).Print.  
**ISBN 13: 978-0393927931**
3. A ***Notebook*** for taking running notes in class.

***A Note on the course structure:*** The key texts and texts assigned for secondary reading have been carefully selected to represent the history, politics and culture of British literature. Your knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of each period will be crucial to your interpretation of the texts. Hence you are strongly encouraged to be prepared for each class by reading the assigned text/s. This class is part lecture oriented and mostly discussion based, which means you will have to be prepared to participate regularly in discussions. The discussion sessions will comprise of one-to-one conversations with the instructor as well as group discussion sessions where you will be required to be part of a discussion group. Your active participation in these sessions will cover a part of your grade.

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***Class Participation:*** participating in class discussions will be a very important aspect of the way this course is designed. Class participation includes bringing the required text to class every day, and being prepared to both pose and answer questions relevant to the subject being discussed or taught. Students will be expected to do the assigned reading for each day and must be prepared to contribute to class discussions voluntarily as well as when specifically called upon to do so by the instructor. Remaining quiet throughout class will be taken as a sign of the students disinterest and will reflect negatively on the student's overall performance. If any student has a disability which might prevent them from actively participating in class discussions, they must speak to the instructor prior to class.

***Grading criteria for Class Participation:***

***A*** – Comes to class regularly and on time and is prepared for class in general. Actively engages and participates in class discussions and debates and contributes constructively to these discussions. Comes prepared with the required text, shows enthusiasm in learning new concepts and has interest in the course material.

***B***- Comes to class regularly and on time and is prepared for class in general. Actively engages and participates in class discussions and debates and contributes constructively to these

discussions. Makes at least one substantive contribution in each class, pays careful attention to the course material and teaching.

*C-* Comes to class regularly and on time and has the required texts for class. Class participation is limited but constructive. General level of preparation with the course material is below average. Occasionally detracts from the class discussion through the use of cellphones and/or other electronic devices.

*D-* Does not meet the attendance criteria, is frequently late or absent. General level of preparation with the course material is poor. Displays lack of interest in the course material and engages in disruptive or distracting behavior including frequent side conversations and persistently uses cellphones or other electronic devices in class.

*F-* Does not show up for classes, has missed a substantial number of quizzes or major examinations, class participation is almost nil, sleeps in class, or displays lack of interest in the course material and engages in disruptive or distracting behavior including frequent side conversations and persistently uses cellphones or other electronic devices in class.

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*Coursework: In British Literature II, the examinations and overall evaluation is divided into the following 5 categories-*

*a. Quizzes and Free Writes:* Quizzes and Free Writes assigned in class will cover the material assigned for reading. Quizzes will be unannounced and will be given at the beginning of class. The instructor will distribute a sheet of paper with objective type questions from the assigned text to which students have to respond briefly and concisely. Students must write their responses in complete sentences clearly answering the question in order to receive full credit. **Please note that missed Quizzes and Free Writes cannot be re-taken under any circumstances.** This is a class policy and will hold true for all students, irrespective of the circumstances under which they missed the schedule of work. Please keep all quiz sheets for the finals. Students will have to be able to turn in any 5 of these quizzes for a final review.

*b. Discussion Questions and Critical Observations:* for every class individually, students must bring in at least one discussion question and one critical observation about the assigned text. The instructor may call upon any student to read out their discussion question or observations for the day and at least **three** selected discussion questions and observations will be taken up to direct the class discussion of the day. Please keep all discussion questions and observations for a final evaluation.

*c. Midterm Examination:* There will be two examinations, one at Midterm and one during the Finals week. For the Midterm examination students will have to answer 5 objective type questions, and, do a critical close reading of an assigned text. This examination will be given in

*class. Please note that attendance is mandatory for this examination and in order to be fair to the class, it will not be re-scheduled for any individual student. Students who are absent for the Midterm examination will lose 25% of their final grade.*

***d. Final Examinations:** There will be a take-home final examination at the end of the semester in which students will have to answer 2 essay type questions, out of a list of 4. These questions will cover a wide range of texts covered in class. Each answer will be 4 types pages, double-spaced in 12 Times font so the students will turn in a total of 8 pages of writing for the examination. All Examination answers must be turned in on the assigned due date. Late submissions will not be accepted. Along with their final examinations students will turn in 5 quiz sheets and 5 discussion question/observation sheets for a final evaluation review. All of this material will have to be turned in a large catalog envelope (approximate size: 5.75x8.75in inches). These are easily available in any standard stationary store. Please DO NOT submit in binders or folders. Students who fail to turn in their final examination packets will automatically fail the class.*

***Grading and Evaluation breakdown:***

*a. Quizzes and Free Writes – 10% [2 points each, 2x5=10]*

*b. Class Participation- 5%*

*c. Discussion Questions and Critical Observations – 10% [2 points each, 2x5=10]*

*d. Midterm Examination – 25% [10% for Objective type answers + 15% for the critical close reading]*

*e. Final Examinations – 40% [20% for each answer]*

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***In Class Conduct:** Since this is a discussion based class, I would encourage students to regularly participate in class discussions. However, negative participation, in the form of side conversations with peers during class or the use of cell phones or laptops is strictly discouraged. Students are requested to mindful of the*

***If you need to use a laptop, you will need to speak to me on the very first day of class and obtain permission to do so.***

***Special Needs:** If you have a learning disability or other special need that may impact your performance in this class, please talk with me about your concerns at the start of the semester. WVU's Disability Services is a support system designed to assist you make the most of your educational experience. I will work with those in this resource and with you to ensure that you complete this class successfully.*

*Office of Student Life: This office can assist students who encounter difficulties during the semester. The office specializes in troubleshooting and problem solving. Located in 116 Elizabeth Moore Hall, their main telephone number is (304) 293-5611.*

*Social Justice Statement: I take my responsibilities as an English 102 instructor very seriously and am committed to providing a classroom space dedicated to open communication and mutual respect. I welcome suggestions to help meet this commitment.*

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## **DETAILED SCHEDULE OF WORK**

### **Week 1(January 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>)**

*Background and History of British Literature* [Required Text: *The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol D*].

**Wednesday** – General introductions and syllabus overview, discussion of class policies and procedures, overview of the course work and evaluation criteria. [Class is dismissed early].

**Friday** – Sample Quiz on the syllabus followed by a general survey of British Literature up to the 1800’s, discussion of major historical, political and social developments and changes. Discussion of the Norton Front Material (pages 5-20)

**Reading for next Monday:** “The Revolution Controversy and the ‘Spirit of the Age’” (pages 183-184) and extract from “A Discourse on the Love of our Country” by Richard Price (page 184-187) from *Norton Anthology* Vol. D. [The French Revolution provides an important background to understanding the political nomenclature on which the Romantic period worked out its literary masterpieces with writers like Blake, Wordsworth and Shelley].

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### **Week 2 (January 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>)**

#### **UNIT I – *Romantic Poetry***

**Monday** – Introduction to **William Blake** (1757 – 1827), lecture on Blake’s “The four Zoas” [from the Norton Anthology, pages 112 – 116].



**Wednesday** – A brief background on Blake’s *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, “Introduction” from the *Songs of Innocence* (page 118), and “The Lamb”.

**Homework for Friday** – please read Blake’s “The Lamb” and “The Tyger” for class discussion.

**Friday** – Discussion of Blake’s “The Tyger” followed by a comparative study of “The Tyger” and “The Lamb” as stages in Blake’s “The Four Zoas”.



**Week 3 (January 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>)**

**Monday** – MLK Day [No Class]

**Wednesday** – Introduction to **William Wordsworth** (1770 -1850) from the *Norton Anthology* Vol. D (pages 270 – 272), followed by a reading of Wordsworth’s “Lines Written in Early Spring” (page 280).

Homework for Friday – read extract from the Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* from the *Norton Anthology* (page 293 -304).

**Friday** - Class discussion on the assigned reading followed by a reading of Wordsworth’s “I Wandered lonely as a Cloud” & “The Solitary Reaper”. Homework for next week – read Coleridge’s “Kubla Khan” from the Norton Anthology Vol. D (pages 459 - 462).

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**Week 4 (January 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>)**

**Monday** – Introduction to **Samuel Taylor Coleridge** (1772 – 1834) from the Norton Anthology Vol. D (pages 437 – 439) followed by a reading of Coleridge’s “Kubla Khan” including the background (pages 459 – 462). Homework for Wednesday – read Shelley’s “Ode to the West Wind” *Norton* (791-93).

**Wednesday** – Introduction to **Percy Bysshe Shelley** (1792-1822) from Norton Anthology Vol. D (page 748-751) followed by reading of Shelley’s “Ode to the West Wind” (791-793).

**Friday** – Shelley’s “Ode to a Skylark” from Norton Anthology Vol. D (pages 834 – 836). Homework for next week – read Anna Letitia Aikin and John Aikin’s “On the Pleasure Derived from Objects of Terror...” in Norton Anthology Vol. D (pages 589 -594).

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**UNIT II – *Prose Works of the Romantic Period and the Gothic Novel***

**Week 5 (February 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>)**

**Monday** – Introduction to Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* (1818). Please bring your Norton Critical edition of the text to class every day this week.

**Wednesday** – Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* [Discussion continues]

**Friday**- Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* [Concluding chapters]

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Unit III: *Introduction to the Victorian Age* [The Norton Anthology Vol. E]

Week 6 (February 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>) [Class Discussions will be followed by Free Writes every day this week. Students must read the assigned pages before class.]



**Monday – Friedrich Engels** (1820 – 1895), from “The Great Towns” [extract from *The Condition of the Working Class*, 1845] in the *Norton Anthology* Vol. E (pages 1589 – 1597).

**Wednesday – J.A. Hobson** (1858 – 1940) from “Imperialism: A Study” in the *Norton Anthology* Vol. E (pages 1665 – 1667).

**Friday- Sarah Stickney Ellis** (1812 – 1872), from “The Women of England: Their Social Duties and Domestic Habits” in the *Norton Anthology* (pages 1610 – 1612).

Homework: Read Tennyson’s “The Lady of Shallot” and the two poems of Robert Browning assigned for the coming week (page numbers mentioned below).

Unit IV: *Victorian Poetry*

Week 7 (February 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>)

**Monday** – Introduction to **Lord Alfred Tennyson** (1809 – 1892) followed by the reading of “The Lady of Shallot” (pages 1161 – 1166) in the *Norton Anthology* Vol. E.

**Wednesday** – Introduction to **Robert Browning** (1812 – 1889) and brief lecture on the Dramatic Monologue as a poetic genre followed by class discussion on “Porphyria’s Lover” (1278 -1279) & “My Last Duchess” (1282 – 1283).

**Friday** – Background on Pre - Raphaelite Poetry followed by the reading of **Dante Gabriel Rossetti**’s (1828 – 1882) “My Sister’s Sleep” in the *Norton Anthology* (pages 1476 – 1478).

Unit V: *Victorian Stage Comedy* [Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of being Earnest*]

Week 8 (February 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>)

**Monday** – **Oscar Wilde** (1854 -1900), “The Importance of Being Earnest” in *Norton Anthology* Vol. E (pages 1733 – 1777), Act I & 2 will be covered in class today.

**Wednesday** – “The Importance of Being Earnest” Act III.

Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> is Midterm Point – Midterm Examination to be held in class.

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Unit VI: *Crime and Mystery in Victorian Fiction*

Week 9 (March 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>)



**Monday - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle** (1859 – 1930) “The Speckled Band” in the *Norton Anthology* (page 1831). In addition to the reading, you may watch a dramatized version of the story in the Sherlock Holmes series by Granada Television, available in YouTube. Check out the following link:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbGQSFbwB9o>

Homework – please read the assigned pages to be read in each class. See the page numbers below.

**Wednesday - Robert Louis Stevenson** (1850 – 1894), “The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” in the *Norton Anthology* (Segment I: Page 1677 – 1695).

**Friday-** “The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” in the *Norton Anthology* (Segment II: Page 1695 – 1719).

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~~-----Week 10 (March 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>) - Spring Recess, No Classes-----~~

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Unit VII: *Introduction to the Twentieth Century* [The Norton Anthology Vol. F]

Week 11 (March 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>)

**Monday** – Brief lecture on the World War and its impact on British Literature, reading war poets **Rupert Brooke**’s “The Soldier”, **Siegfried Sassoon**’s “They” and “Glory of Women” from The Norton Anthology Vol. F (pages 2018 – 2025).

**Wednesday** – *Modernist Manifestos* – F.S. Flint and Ezra Pound from *Norton* Vol. F (pages 2064 – 2068), followed by reading of T.E. Hulme’s “Autumn”, Pound’s “In a Station of the Metro” and H.D.’s “Oread” in *Norton* (page 2069).

Friday- A discussion about **Blast** in *Norton* (pages 2070 – 2077).



I HAVE SPREAD MY  
DREAMS BENEATH YOUR  
FEET. TREAD SOFTLY  
BECAUSE YOU TREAD  
ON MY DREAMS.

—W.B. YEATS

### Unit VIII: *Irish Nationalism and W.B. Yeats*

Week 12 (March 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>)

**Monday** – Background on W.B. Yeats followed by class discussion on Yeats’ “Easter 1916” in Norton (pages 2093 – 2095).

**Wednesday** – “Sailing to Byzantium” and “A Prayer for my Daughter” in *The Norton Anthology* (pages 2100 to 2103). Homework – read parts I & II from T.S. Eliot’s “The Wasteland” assigned for next week.

**Friday** – Eavan Boland’s poetry “The Lost Land” followed by a discussion on the Irish literary tradition, especially Irish nationalist writing.

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### Unit IX: *T.S. Eliot’s The Wasteland*

Week 13 (March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 4<sup>th</sup>)

**Monday** – T.S. Eliot’s *The Wasteland* Part I & II in Norton (pages 2530 – 2535)

**Wednesday** – T.S. Eliot’s *The Wasteland* Part III in Norton (pages 2535 – 2539)

**Friday** – T.S. Eliot’s *The Wasteland* Part IV in Norton (pages 2539 – 2534)

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### Unit X: *Twentieth Century Short Fiction and Contemporary Anglophone Literature.*

Week 14 (April 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>)

**Monday** - James Joyce “Araby” in Norton (page 2278)

**Wednesday** – E.M. Forster “The Other Boat” in Norton (page 2122)

**Friday** – George Orwell’s “Shooting an Elephant” in Norton (page 2605)

Homework – Please read the two short fiction pieces assigned for class next week.

Week 15 (April 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>)

**Monday** – Hanif Kureishi “My Son the Fanatic” in *Norton* (pages 30134)

**Wednesday** – Nadine Gordimer “The Moment before the Gun Went Off” in *Norton* (page 2790)

**Friday - Friday before Easter Recess, No Class**

Week 16 (April 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>)

**Monday** – Salman Rushdie “The Prophet’s Hair” in *Norton* (page 3002)

**Wednesday** – Kiran Desai “The Sermon in the Guava Tree” in *Norton* (page 3047)

**Friday** – Farewell’s, SEI’s and Final Examination Questions.

*Final Examination Answers will be due on Monday April 28<sup>th</sup>. Final examination envelopes must be dropped off at the Instructor’s Office Room G-05, Colson Hall – Downtown.*

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