

BRITISH LITERATURE
ENGL 2321 8M1



INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Joshua Cobb
Email: jscobb@lit.edu
Office Phone: 409-245-9596
Office Location: T5, Room 102

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 1-2:30 p.m.

CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Online

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

A D or better in ENGL 1301 (Composition I)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of the development of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical, linguistic, and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from a diverse group of authors and traditions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.
2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.
4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.

Core Objectives

- A. Critical Thinking: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
- B. Communication: To include the effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written and visual communication.
- C. Social Responsibility: To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- D. Personal Responsibility: To include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

There is no textbook required for this course. Your instructor will provide the required reading resources from week to week as Web links. Additional readings from the following e-books, available free online via links provided on Blackboard, might be assigned during the semester:

- *An Open Companion to Early British Literature*
- *British Literature I: Middle Ages to the Eighteenth Century and Neoclassicism*
- *British Literature II: Romantic Era to the Twentieth Century and Beyond*

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is an online course. Students are not required to attend any online class. However, students are expected to check Blackboard and their LIT e-mail daily. Students who do not engage with the class daily will fall behind.

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the [Academic Calendar](#). If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16-week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

COURSE CALENDAR

What follows is a tentative course calendar for the semester. Changes are possible and will be detailed in weekly announcements via Blackboard from your instructor.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS (Due last day of week, unless otherwise noted)
Week One: 8/24/2026- 8/30/2026	<i>Orientation</i> PowerPoint <i>Introduction to British Literature</i> PowerPoint <i>Poetry Analysis</i> PowerPoint	"Aubade" by Philip Larkin "The Lady, or the Tiger" by Frank Stockton	Orientation Quiz Professional Introduction Forum
Week Two: 8/31/2026- 9/06/2026	<i>The Postcolonial Period</i> PowerPoint <i>How to Research</i> PowerPoint	Zadie Smith, Salman Rushdie, Bernadine Evaristo, J.K. Rowling	Week Two Reflection
Week Three: 9/07/2026- 9/13/2026	<i>The Postmodern Period</i> PowerPoint <i>The Works Cited</i> PowerPoint	Tom Stoppard, George Orwell, William Golding	Week Three Reflection Create a Works Cited Page Assignment Creative Assignment One Pitch: Author Conversation
Week Four: 9/14/2026- 9/20/2026	<i>The Modern Period</i> PowerPoint <i>In-Text Citations</i> PowerPoint	Virginia Woolf, Dylan Thomas, E.M. Forster, Katherine Mansfield	Week Four Reflection In-Text Citations Quiz
Week Five: 9/21/2026- 9/27/2026	<i>The Edwardian Period</i> PowerPoint <i>Literary Criticism</i> PowerPoint	George Bernard Shaw, William Butler Yeats, Arthur Conan Doyle, Joseph Conrad	Week Five Reflection Creative Assignment One: Author Conversation
Week Six: 9/28/2026- 10/04/2026	<i>The Victorian Period</i> PowerPoint <i>Literary Theory</i> PowerPoint	Oscar Wilde, Charles Dickens, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Elizabeth Barrett Browning	Week Six Reflection Research Essay Mid-Term Outline Due
Week Seven: 10/05/2026- 10/11/2026	<i>The Romantic Period</i> PowerPoint <i>How to Access the LU Library</i> Presentation	Emily Brontë, William Wordsworth, Jane Austen, Mary Shelley	Week Seven Reflection Research Essay Mid-Term Rough Draft Due Creative Assignment Two Pitch: Adaptation
Week Eight: 10/12/2026- 10/18/2026	<i>The Enlightenment: The Age of Johnson</i> PowerPoint	Samuel Johnson, William Collins, Thomas Gray, Christopher Smart	Week Eight Reflection Mid-Term Final Draft Due Research Paper Topic Proposal Discussion Board

Week Nine: 10/19/2026- 10/25/2026	<i>The Neoclassical Period: The Augustan Age</i> PowerPoint	Alexander Pope, John Dryden, John Gay, Jonathan Swift	Week Nine Reflection Creative Assignment Two: Adaptation
Week Ten: 10/26/2026- 11/01/2026	<i>The Neoclassical Period: Restoration Age</i> PowerPoint <i>The Annotated Bibliography</i> PowerPoint	Aphra Behn, John Milton, William Wycherley	Week Ten Reflection Annotated Bibliography Prewriting (due Wed.) Independent Research Essay Annotated Bibliography (due Sun.)
Week Eleven: 11/02/2026- 11/08/2026	<i>The English Renaissance</i> PowerPoint	John Donne, Emilia Lanier, Lady Mary Wroth, Queen Elizabeth I	Week Eleven Reflection Independent Research Essay Early Draft Due
Week Twelve: 11/09/2026- 11/15/2026	<i>The Renaissance: Shakespeare</i> PowerPoint	Shakespearean Plays: <i>Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, Richard III</i>	Week Twelve Reflection Independent Research Essay Peer Review Due
Week Thirteen: 11/16/2026- 11/22/2026	<i>The Middle English Period</i> PowerPoint	Geoffrey Chaucer, Margery Kempe, William Langland, Anonymous Writer of <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>	Week Thirteen Reflection Independent Research Essay Final Draft Due
Week Fourteen: 11/23/2026- 11/29/2026	<i>The Old English Period</i> PowerPoint	Caedmon, Bede, Cynewulf, Anonymous author of Beowulf	Week Fourteen Reflection
Week Fifteen: 11/29/2026- 12/02/2026	<i>The Devil's in the Details</i> PowerPoint	TBA	TBA
Finals Week: 12/03/2026- 12/06/2026	TBA	TBA	Final Exam due Dec. 6

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Participation: 10%
- Daily Grades: 40%
- Mid-Term Exam: 15%
- Research Paper--Common Assignment: 20%
- Final Exam: 15%
- Total: 100%

GRADING SCALE

90-100: A

80-89: B

70-79: C

60-69: D

0-59: F

All numeric grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

LIT does not use +/- grading scales.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution's Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at <http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty>.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email specialpopulations@lit.edu. You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses

STARFISH

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION

Due dates are subject to change.

I do not allow students to retake/redo assignments.

Communication: I will respond to e-mails within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours over the weekend. Typically, I will only respond to e-mails during my office hours.

Grading: I try to return assignments within one week of the due date. This is a target, not a promise, and in a writing-intensive course such as this, sometimes grading takes longer. If you have any questions or concerns about the pace of grading, please contact your instructor directly.

Special Populations: If a student requires accommodations while on LIT campus, they must contact Jarmarcus Corks in the Special Populations office in Student Services. If a dual credit

student has accommodations through their school's special populations office, they must still contact LIT's Special Populations office at specialpopulations@lit.edu.

Electronics Policy: Students cannot use electronic devices such as cell phones, laptops, AirPods, or any other distracting devices in the classroom, *unless at my discretion*. If a student needs an electronic device for accommodations in class, they should contact the Special Populations office at LIT. Unless I allow students to use their devices, devices will stay in backpacks, not pockets, until the end of class.

Plagiarism/Cheating: Academic Dishonesty is a crime that Lamar Institute of Technology and I take seriously. Most colleges expel cheating students. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- Directly copying a source into an essay without citing the original source.
- Paraphrasing a source without citing the original source.
- Paying someone to complete an assignment, having a friend or family member complete an assignment, or using Artificial Intelligence to write a paper. If a paper has a student's name on it, I expect to see that student's work.
- Making minor changes to an original source while still retaining up to 75% of the structure of the sentence.
- Taking a quiz or test with another student, giving the answers to a quiz or test to another student, or **Googling the answers to the quiz or test**. My quizzes are not open-book quizzes. Students are only allowed the notes they have taken over an assignment during a quiz.

How to Know If Something Is Not Plagiarism: Generally, plagiarism only covers things that are not general knowledge. If a student makes the claim that the sky is blue, then they do not have to cite where they got that information because it is something that 90% of the world already knows. However, if a student describes *why* the sky is blue, they have to cite their source since that is not common knowledge.

How to Avoid Plagiarism: First, students should practice good paraphrasing and rewrite sentences *in their own words*. Part of the course will be discussions, assignments, and videos over good paraphrasing. Also, when students turn in their assignments, they should get a visible score from SafeAssign. SafeAssign is not perfect, and I have found plagiarism in papers with as low as a 10% score. If SafeAssign flags a paper as plagiarized, a student should rewrite and resubmit the paper until the percentage 25% or less. Keep in mind, however, that SafeAssign scores can be artificially high on later drafts. Email your professor if you have any concerns.

Late Work: If a student misses a deadline, they will get an automatic zero. Late work may be accepted with a penalty only up until the point when the assignment has been graded, typically within a week of the due date. Once an assignment is graded, it cannot be redone or resubmitted, or submitted late. Typically, if a student gets in the habit of turning in all assignments within the first three weeks, they can build that habit for the rest of the class.

Make-Up Work: I can make accommodations on deadlines for extenuating circumstances (family emergencies, sickness, mental health, chronic health issues, etc.) However, communication is necessary in these circumstances. **I need to know at least three days before a deadline if a student cannot complete an assignment on time. The new deadline will be three days after original deadline.** If a student asks for more time on an assignment the day before or the day it is due, I will not respond to their e-mail. Absolutely no late work will be accepted after the last day of class.

Concerns or complaints: If you have any concerns or complaints during this course, please follow the chain of command outlined below to ensure your issue is addressed promptly and appropriately:

- Instructor: Your first point of contact should be your course instructor. They are available to discuss any issues related to the course content, assignments, or classroom environment. (If your instructor has not responded to your email in a timely manner, please proceed to the next level.)
- Program Director/Lead Faculty: If your concern is not resolved after speaking with your instructor, please contact their Program Director or Lead Faculty. They can provide additional support and mediation. As of Spring 2026, the lead faculty for the English program in the GEDS department is Sarah Culver. Email sculver@lit.edu.

Department Chair: Should the issue remain unresolved, your complaint will be escalated to the Department Chair. The Chair's office is equipped to handle more serious or persistent issues

COVID-19 Requirements: LIT no longer requires masks in the classroom. However, you are still allowed to wear a mask if it makes you feel comfortable. If you receive a positive COVID test, please do not come to class. Instead, send me an e-mail/phone call/text, and I will do what I can to ensure you have access to daily lectures and assignments.