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LIT 491.02: British 19th Century Poetry

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Spring 2022

British Nineteenth-Century Poetry

LIT491.02, 3 credits

CRN 34205

Dr. Vanita, Professor of English

Tuesday, Thursday, 3.30-4.50

Room: LA106

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Office Hours: by appointment

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PLEASE READ THIS SYLLABUS CAREFULLY AND REFER TO IT WHEN YOU HAVE DOUBTS. ANSWERS TO MOST QUESTIONS WILL BE FOUND HERE.

Hybrid Course

This course will be taught as a mix of in-person meetings (in LA106) and on Zoom. There will be eight in-person meetings. Consult the class schedule (pp. 4-6 on this syllabus) for the in-person days.

The Zoom link has been sent to you by email and is also on Moodle. Please do not share it with anyone else, because this can inadvertently lead to the class getting hacked.

During a Zoom class, we will have discussion and Q&A, but also feel free to use the chat mechanism to communicate with me and/or the class. I cannot see chat while I am showing a power-point but I can see it at other times.

If you are on campus, you can, if you wish, sit in our classroom to join the Zoom class.

Office hours: by appointment. Email me and I will set up an in-person or a Zoom appointment with you at a time convenient to both of us.

Goals

1. To acquire an understanding of major British nineteenth-century poems, and their place in the history of English literature
2. To understand the literary, social, political contexts of these poems
3. To consider the influence of these poems in their time and thereafter

Learning Outcomes

- (a) Acquire an understanding of British nineteenth-century poetry and its reception and influence in its own time and later

- (b) Acquire information about the literary traditions and contexts in which this poetry was composed, and about some techniques it deploys
- (c) Acquire information about the historical, philosophical, social and political contexts in which this poetry was composed
- (d) Develop a basic understanding of how Goddesses and Goddess-like figures are represented in literature and art in these three traditions.

Classes

1. This class is not a seminar. It will be a mix of lectures and discussions. Lectures will provide background information.
2. Since some of the language of and allusions in these poems are unfamiliar to present-day readers, I will explain some parts of some poems line by line.
3. You are not required to read any literary criticism to succeed in this class. You are welcome to do so if you wish but if you do, you need to show an awareness of more than one critical approach to the poems.
4. Since most of these poems were written to be read aloud, and were widely read, sung and recited for over 150 years, we will read them aloud in class. I will send you individually a poem for you to read aloud, so that you can practice before class.

Please take the class only if these procedures appeal to you.

Texts

Required readings (all on Moodle)

1. William Wordsworth, Extracts from "Preface to Lyrical Ballads" (1800)
2. William Wordsworth, Poems
3. Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Poems
4. Percy Bysshe Shelley, Extracts from "Defence of Poetry"
5. Percy Bysshe Shelley, Poems
6. John Keats, Extracts from Letters
7. John Keats, Poems
8. Emily Bronte, Poems
9. Alfred Tennyson, Poems
10. Elizabeth and Robert Browning, Poems
11. Christina Rossetti, Poems
12. Matthew Arnold, Poems
13. Edward Fitzgerald, extracts from "The Rubaiyyat of Omar Khayyam"
14. Gerard Manley Hopkins, Poems
15. A. E. Housman, Poems
16. Lewis Carroll, "The Walrus and the Carpenter"
17. Gerard Manley Hopkins, Poems
18. "Michael Field" (Katherine Bradley and Edith Cooper), Poems
19. W.B. Yeats, Poems
20. Oscar Wilde, "The Ballad of Reading Gaol"

Requirements

- (a) attend classes regularly. More than four absences not explained to my satisfaction will result in halving your grade for attendance and class participation, and eight or more absences will result in a zero for attendance; leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence. Explanations (preferably in advance of the absence) must be backed up with documentation, communicated to me in person, and accepted by me.
- (b) keep up with the assigned readings, all of which are on Moodle, bring the text to class (either printed out or on a device), and participate in discussion
- (c) Starting on 25 January, submit a two-page essay (typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point; just your name on top) every Thursday before 2 p.m., on a topic that I will email to you over the weekend. The essay must be written in a formal style, not a colloquial one, and must adhere to correct grammatical, syntactical and academic conventions.
- (d) Take the mid-term and final exams
- (e) **Check UM email and Moodle regularly**, especially the day before class. This is **very important** because I send out notifications and changes by email and also respond to some student questions by email. UM policy forbids me to write to you on any email address other than the UM one. The best way to communicate with me is by email.
- (f) Please switch off the ringer on all devices, such as mobile phones, while you are in class, whether in-person or on Zoom

The Writing and Public Speaking Center provides one-on-one tutoring to students at all levels and at any time in the writing process. <http://www.umt.edu/writingcenter>

Grades

- a. **Important: Please note that I will not calculate individual grades at any time during the semester.** Grades will not be posted on Moodle. Final grades will appear on Cyberbear at the end of the semester. You can use the formula below to calculate your own grade at any time.
- b. Grade calculation formula: attendance and participation 20%; weekly papers 50%; the mid-term and the final 15% each.
- c. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind, in any assignment, will result in your failing the class and may also result in other penalties such as expulsion from the University (for further details, refer to the section on Academic Misconduct in the Student Conduct Code).
- d. If you have a condition (such as a physical or learning disability) that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as I have outlined it, please notify me in the first week of class so that we can discuss the accommodations you request. Please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 (406.243.2243).

Notes on Covid

- 1. If covid cases continue to rise, this class may move entirely to Zoom. I will keep you posted
- 2. Please turn off cell phones in class.
- 3. Mask use is required in the classroom and in my office.

4. If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to in-person classes. Notify me and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330. If you feel well enough, you are welcome to attend Zoom classes.
5. UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center.
6. Please sit in the same seat in every class. This is required to support contact tracing efforts.
7. Please do not eat or drink in the classroom.
8. As a covid precaution, please maintain a 6-foot distance from me if you talk to me before or after an in-person class.

Class Schedule

This schedule is tentative. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with changes.

Readings indicated for a certain class are to be read in advance of that class, for example, read Wordsworth's "Tintern Abbey" before coming to class on 27 January.

Date	Assignment (to be completed before class)	Class Plan	In-class assignment
18 January	Read syllabus carefully and bring any questions to class.	In-person class Introduction to the class, the syllabus, and to British 19 th -century literature	
20 January	Read Wordsworth, Extracts from "Preface to the Lyrical Ballads"	Background lecture on Romanticism; discuss Wordsworth's Preface if there is time	
25 January	Read Wordsworth, introductory note, "We are Seven," and "Lucy Gray"	Explanations and discussion	
27 January	Read Wordsworth, "Lines written above Tintern Abbey"	In-person class Explanations and discussion	
1 February	Read Wordsworth, "The Tables Turned," "She dwelt among the untrodden ways," "A Slumber," "I wandered lonely," "My Heart Leaps Up," "The world is too much with us"	Explanations and discussion	.
3 February	Read Wordsworth, "Hart-Leap Well" and "To the Cuckoo"	Explanations and discussion	
8 February	Read Coleridge, intro note; "Rime of the	Explanations and discussion	.

	Ancient Mariner” Parts I-IV		
10 February	Read Coleridge, “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” Parts V-VIII	Explanations and discussion	
15 February	Read Coleridge, “Dejection: an Ode” and Shelley, intro note and “Defence of Poetry”	In-person class Explanations and discussion	
17 February	Read Shelley, intro note; “Ozymandias,” “Men of England,” “Love’s Philosophy”	Explanations and discussion	
22 February	Read Shelley, “Ode to the West Wind” and “To a Skylark”	Explanations and discussion	
24 February	Read Shelley, “Adonais”; “When the lamp is shattered”; and “One word is too often”	Explanations and discussion	
1 March	Read Keats, Extracts from Letters; intro note, and “The Opening Lines of Endymion”	Explanations and discussion	
3 March	Read Keats, “Bright Star”; “Chapman’s Homer”; “In drear-nighted December”	In-person class Explanations and discussion	
8 March	Read Keats, “Ode to a Nightingale”	Explanations and discussion	
10 March		Review for the mid-term	
15 March		In-person class Mid-term exam	
17 March	Read Keats, “To Autumn” and “This living hand”		
21-25 March	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS ON 22 AND 24 MARCH	
29 March	Read Emily Bronte, intro note and poems, and Tennyson, intro note and poems	Explanations and discussion	
31 March		In-person class Continue discussing Tennyson	
5 April	Read Elizabeth and Robert Browning, intro notes and poems	Explanations and discussion	

7 April	Read Christina Rossetti and Matthew Arnold	Explanations and discussion	
12 April	Read Edward Fitzgerald	Explanations and discussion	
14 April		Watch the film “Wilde”	
19 April	Read Housman and Lewis Carroll	Continue watching the film, and discuss it. Discuss readings	
21 April	Read Hopkins	Explanations and discussion	
26 April	Read Yeats and Michael Field	Explanations and discussion	
28 April	Read Wilde, “The Ballad of Reading Gaol”	Explanations and discussion	
3 May		In-person class Continue discussing Wilde	
5 May		Review for final exam	
10 May, 1.10-3.10		In-person class FINAL EXAM	