

English 12A: British Literature

Syllabus

Course Central Motif: The Influence of Environment on Literature

Students will examine both nonfiction and fiction texts written in England, examining how the environment of the authors influenced what they wrote. Throughout the course, students will learn about the geographical, political, religious, and other elements that affected the authors and what they wrote. Students will look at the influence on different genres of literature including: poetry, prose, plays, essays, etc.

Students will think about these essential questions as they continue through the course:

1. What is the relationship between literature and place?
2. How does literature shape or reflect society? How does society shape or reflect literature?
3. What is the relationship of the writer to tradition?

These essential questions as well as the central motif will be revisited throughout the course. Students are expected to think about these questions as they respond to all of their assignments and participate in the discussions.

Reading Material:

There is no required textbook for this course. All reading material can be downloaded or read online, and links are provided. Students who wish to read hard-copy versions of the material can go to their local library to borrow it.

Course Project:

At the **end of the course**, students will be completing a visual project where they will be recreating images from the reading selections. Students should read through the project guidelines and work on the project throughout the course, to submit at the end of the course.

Literary Movements and Genres

Students will examine the following literary movements and genres in England:

--Old English Epic

--Medieval Poetry

--Renaissance Poetry and Drama

--17th & 18th Century Poetry, Non-Fiction, and Fiction

Each literary movement and genre will require students to refine his/her skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. All units require students to do research about the environment of the authors. Students will also analyze key texts from the period in order to master common core standards. Each literary movement will require literary analysis and writing in order to provide practice for students to master common core standards.

Students will receive feedback from the teacher on submitted general assignments as soon as the teacher can review their work. Students are encouraged to ask the teacher questions via email.

Reading Quizzes

Every unit has a reading quiz with basic questions about the reading selections. Students must read the required selections and take the quiz before continuing on to complete the assignments for the unit. It is advised that students review the unit's lectures and assignments before taking the quiz to become more familiar with the reading material.

Background Research

Students will be required to do research about a particular subject relating to each unit's theme. Research can be done with traditional books as well as online, but all sources must be properly cited according to MLA standards.

Unit Assignments

Each unit has a group of assignments for students to work on towards their understanding of common core standards in relation to the reading assignments. Questions require students to analyze the literature read in that unit.

Vocabulary & Grammar

In this course students will be studying etymology, or the study of words, their origins, and their meaning. Students will learn about prefixes, roots, and suffixes, and how we can use these parts of speech to fully understand language. Each unit will have a lecture and assignment about etymology, and there will be a final using the skills learned in the 8th unit.

Writing Workshops and Unit Assessments

Each unit has a Writing Workshop, where you will learn how to write for a specific audience in a certain style. The workshops will prepare you to complete the unit's Assessment, which uses the writing style learned in the Workshop to show a deeper understanding of the literature of that unit and mastery of common core standards. Unit Assessments should be final drafts when they are submitted.

Threaded Discussions

Each unit has at least two topics for discussion. Students should respond to each topic in a well-thought and supported response. Discussions can not be one sided. Students must respond to at least two of their classmates' posts. This is your class participation grade.

Midterm

At the end of the 4th unit, there is a Midterm. This midterm shows the student's understanding of the literature from the first four units.

Finals

Unit 8 in this course is the finals. There is a reading selection, lectures, and then a 4-part final. All four parts must be completed. Please read the directions for each final, as they are all different. The finals reflect what students have learned throughout the course and show over-all mastery of all common core standards covered in this course.

Course Expectations:

- Students will spend a minimum of 10 – 15 hours per week working on course work.
- Students will contact teacher through the course via **e-mail** with all content questions/concerns prior to turning in assessments.
- Students are responsible for reading the Class Announcements for teacher clarification and/or additional tasks.
- Students **must follow proper MLA guidelines and rules of grammar** with **all** responses. Since this is an online course, where many responses are posted for other students to see, students need to treat each assessment as a formal academic assessment. This means that proofreading is important before posting/submitting assignments.
- Students will participate in the course with academic integrity. **Plagiarism** is when a student copies, lifts, steals another individual's ideas or work either intentionally or unintentionally and passes it off as his or her own. This means that students must use proper in text citations when paraphrasing and using quotations. See MLA link on course home page for

additional guidance to avoid plagiarism. **Note:** All essays are submitted through turnitin.com, a tool to check on sources and catch plagiarism.

Course Outline

Unit	Activities
Unit 1: Old English Epic	Read <i>Beowulf</i> Review Lectures about The Epic, <i>Beowulf</i> Background, and Paraphrasing Take Reading quiz Do Background Research PowerPoint presentation about epic heroes Complete Unit Assignments Complete Vocabulary & Grammar assignment on “How Words are Made” Complete Writing Workshop about autobiographical narrative Complete autobiographical narrative Unit Assessment Participate in Threaded Discussions
Unit 2: Medieval Poetry	Read Anglo-Saxon Lyric Poetry (“The Seafarer,” “The Wanderer,” and “The Wife’s Lament”), a selection from <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , and Folk Ballads (“Twa Corbies,” “Lord Randall,” and “Get Up and Bar the Door”)

	<p>Review Lectures about Anglo-Saxon Lyric Poetry, Connecting to Historical Context, Characterization, and Folk Ballads</p> <p>Take Reading quiz</p> <p>Do Background Research about pilgrimages and Canterbury and create a sales advertisement for a pilgrimage</p> <p>Complete Unit Assignments</p> <p>Complete Vocabulary & Grammar assignment on dictionary definitions</p> <p>Complete Writing Workshop on Writing About Literature</p> <p>Complete Unit Assessment by writing an essay about the characters of the Middle Ages</p> <p>Participate in Threaded Discussions</p>
<p>Unit 3: Renaissance Poetry</p>	<p>Read poetry by Edmund Spenser, Sir Philip Sidney, William Shakespeare, Sir Thomas Wyatt, and Pastoral Poetry</p> <p>Review Lectures about The Sonnet, Paraphrasing, Relate Structure to Theme, and Pastoral Poetry</p> <p>Take Reading quiz</p>

	<p>Do Background Research and create a PowerPoint presentation about the Italian Renaissance and the poets of this unit</p> <p>Complete Unit Assignments</p> <p>Complete Vocabulary & Grammar assignment about Greek and Latin influences in English</p> <p>Complete Writing Workshop about Writing a Manual</p> <p>Complete Unit Assessment by writing a manual about sonnets</p> <p>Participate in Threaded Discussions</p>
<p>Unit 4: Renaissance Drama</p>	<p>Read <i>Hamlet</i></p> <p>Review Lectures about Elizabethan Drama, Soliloquy, Using Text Aids, Blank Verse, Dramatic Irony, Imagery, Beliefs of the Period, and Tragedy</p> <p>Take Reading quiz</p> <p>Do Background Research about William Shakespeare</p> <p>Complete Unit Assignments</p>

	<p>Complete Vocabulary & Grammar assignment about Roots</p> <p>Complete Writing Workshop about News Articles</p> <p>Complete Unit Assessment by creating a newspaper based on <i>Hamlet</i></p> <p>Participate in Threaded Discussions</p> <p>Complete Midterm which covers the first half of the course</p>
<p>Unit 5: 17th & 18th Century Poetry</p>	<p>Read Carpe Diem Poetry and poetry by Milton, Lanier, Lovelace, Donne, Ben Johnson, Gray, and Finch</p> <p>Review Lectures about Metaphysical Poetry, Speaker's Situation/Motivation/Attitude, Epigrams, Hypothesizing, Carpe Diem, Historical Context, Pre-Romantic Poetry, and Paraphrasing</p> <p>Take Reading quiz</p> <p>Do Background Research and create a PowerPoint presentation about the English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution</p> <p>Complete Unit Assignments</p> <p>Complete Vocabulary & Grammar assignment about Prefixes</p>

	<p>Complete Writing Workshop about writing a Historical Investigation Report</p> <p>Complete Unit Assessment by writing a Historical Investigation report about an event, figure, or topic that relates to the historical context of literature in this unit</p> <p>Participate in Threaded Discussions</p>
<p>Unit 6: 17th & 18th Century Non-Fiction</p>	<p>Read selections from Samuel Johnson's <i>Dictionary</i>, Newton's "Letter on Light and Color," and selections from Bacon's essays</p> <p>Review Lectures about Scientific Reports and Reasoning, Dictionary/Diction, and Establish a Purpose</p> <p>Take Reading quiz</p> <p>Do Background Research about "The Age of Enlightenment" and create an advertisement about an idea or item from this time period</p> <p>Complete Unit Assignments</p> <p>Complete Vocabulary & Grammar assignment about suffixes</p> <p>Complete Writing Workshop Reflective Essay rough draft and peer-edit two classmates' essays</p> <p>Complete Unit Assessment by writing a Reflective Essay</p>

	Participate in Threaded Discussions
Unit 7: 17 th & 18 th Century Fiction	<p>Read <i>Gulliver's Travels</i>, Part I: "Voyage to Lilliput"</p> <p>Review Lectures about Satire, Irony, and Style and Analyze and Evaluate Information</p> <p>Take Reading quiz</p> <p>Do Background Research about religion and politics during this time period and create a political cartoon about the situation</p> <p>Complete Unit Assignments</p> <p>Complete Vocabulary & Grammar assignment of the Word Meaning Scavenger Hunt</p> <p>Complete Writing Workshop about how to write a Promotional Leaflet</p> <p>Complete Unit Assessment by writing a Promotional Leaflet about <i>Gulliver's Travels</i></p>
Unit 8: Finals	<p>Participate in Threaded Discussions</p> <p>Read Sir Thomas More's <i>Utopia</i></p> <p>Review the lectures about Understanding <i>Utopia</i> and Utopia vs. Dystopia</p>

	Take Final—Part I: Reading
	Take Final—Part II: Writing
	Take Final—Part III: Vocabulary & Grammar
	Take Final—Part IV: Timed Exam
	Participate in Threaded Discussion
Project	Finalize and submit the Project “A Picture is Worth 1000 Words”

Point Values

Each submitted activity has a specific point value. Additionally, each activity type is worth a percentage of your total grade. It is important to complete *all* assignments to the best of your ability. There is no way for your teacher to tell you how many assignments you need to complete to pass the course. It depends on which assignments you complete and how well you complete them. Here is the break-down of the activities, their point values, and their percentage:

Activity	Point Value	Percentage
Background Research	10 points each	10% of total grade
Finals	I-III = 50 points each IV = 75 points	10% of total grade
Midterm	50 points	5% of total grade
Project	100 points	10% of total grade
Reading Quizzes	Unit 1 = 10 points Unit 2 = 11 points Unit 3 = 11 points Unit 4 = 25 points	5% of total grade

	Unit 5 = 12 points	
	Unit 6 = 8 points	
	Unit 7 = 5 points	
Threaded Discussions	10 points each	10% of total grade
Unit Assessments	25 points each	15% of total grade
Unit Assignments	10 points each	15% of total grade
Vocabulary & Grammar	10 points each	10% of total grade
Writing Workshops	10 points each	10% of total grade
992 Points Possible in Course		

Letter Grade	Percentage Earned
A	95%+
A-	90% - 94.9%
B+	87% - 89.9%
B	84% - 86.9%
B-	80% - 83.9%
C+	77% - 79.9%
C	74% - 76.9%
C-	70% - 73.9%
D+	67% - 69.9%
D	64% - 66.9%
D -	60% - 63.9%
F	59% and lower