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by appointment

### **Course Objectives**

- To outline an understanding of the elements and evolution of the British novel from the seventeenth to the twentieth-first century
- To become familiar with selected examples of the genre that address the theme of oppression in various forms, especially as associated with British imperialism
- To practice careful reading and informed interpretation of the literature
- To develop skills in oral and written presentation and in research

### **Required Texts**

Austen, Jane. *Mansfield Park*. New York: Norton, 1998.

Behn, Aphra. *Oroonoko*. New York: Norton, 1997.

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. New York: Norton, 2001.

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*. New York: Norton, 2006.

Dickens, Charles. *David Copperfield*. New York: Norton, 1990.

Evaristo, Bernardine. *Blonde Roots*. New York: Penguin, 2010.

Forster, E. M. *A Passage to India*. New York: Harcourt, n.d.

Woolf, Virginia. *Orlando: A Biography*. New York: Harcourt, n.d.

### **Course Requirements**

**Attendance and Participation.** Students are expected to attend class regularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:35 to 3:45 in PPHAC 116. Absences will be recorded and may negatively affect a final grade. Students should complete the assigned reading prior to the class meeting for which it is listed on the schedule of assignments at the end

of this syllabus and come to every class meeting prepared to contribute to the learning experience. On January 22 and March 14, however, customized reading assignments of historical, cultural, and critical materials will have been made, and students will report on their assignments in small-group and whole-class discussions. In addition to formal oral presentations, contributions to class discussion and participation in other class activities will be considered in assigning the final grade.

**Reaction Paper.** Each student will choose a date on which to present a short reaction paper prepared in response to an aspect of that day's assigned reading and posing a significant question about that aspect for class discussion. A written copy (1-2 word-processed, double-spaced pages) will be submitted to the instructor immediately following the discussion. This activity—presentation, question for class discussion, and paper—will be worth 10% of the final grade.

**Visual Analysis.** Each student will choose a date on which to present a visual analysis of a character from the novel under consideration at that class meeting. The student will make a ten-minute oral presentation to the class, using a non-representational painting to both inspire and illustrate her or his analysis of the character. Insights may include but need not be limited to the character's nature, behavior, moods, motives, feelings, temperament, hopes and ambitions, disappointments, fears and phobias, inhibitions, obsessions, superstitions, morality, and philosophy of life. The painting may illustrate these attributes or others through the suggestion of color, line, mass, movement, and texture but not by the realistic representation of a figure or scene. A companion essay summarizing the oral presentation (1-2 word-processed, double-spaced pages) will be submitted to the instructor immediately following the oral presentation. This activity—presentation and paper together—will be worth 10% of the final grade.

**Examinations.** A mid-term examination in-class on February 28 will be worth 20% of the final grade. A final examination on May 3 at 8:30 a.m. will count for 30% of the final grade.

**Essay.** A research paper dealing with the theme of oppression (perhaps, but not necessarily, focused on oppression inherent within British imperialism) as it is treated in one of the novels read for the course will be due on April 16. Prior to that date, on April 2, students will submit a proposal briefly (100 words or fewer) stating the paper's focus, working thesis, and tentative main points. The fully developed essay will incorporate five relevant and reliable library/internet sources in support of its argument and will include appropriate documentation in the MLA format. A suggested length is 5-7 word-processed, double-spaced pages, including appropriate documentation. On April 18, 23, and 25, students will present their papers to the class and discussion will follow. Should improvements be suggested by these presentations and discussions, students have the option to submit a revision of their papers no later than April 26 at 4 p.m. The proposal, paper, and presentation together will count as 30% of the final grade.

## **Grading**

The final grade will, in general, be computed according to the percentages and conditions noted above. Late work will be penalized. Similarly, since students are expected to attend and participate in class regularly, absences will be noted and will negatively affect a final grade. Contributions to class discussions and participation in other class activities will be considered in assigning the final grade. Make-up examinations are given at the discretion of the instructor only for valid, documented medical or other extraordinary reasons. The instructor will apply both quantitative and qualitative judgments in determining grades for individual assignments and for the course.

Grading equivalents:

A+	98	B+	88	C+	78	D+	68
A	95	B	85	C	75	D	65
A-	92	B-	82	C-	72	D-	62
						F	55

## **Academic Honesty**

Students in this course are expected to adhere to the accepted practices of academic honesty such as those outlined in the statement on academic honesty at Moravian College in its current *Student Handbook*, available online.

Students must retain copies of all written work submitted to the instructor, as well as all electronic or hard-copy notes, drafts, and materials used in preparing assignments. These are to be made available for inspection by the instructor at any time.

Questions about appropriate collaboration, proper documentation, and other honesty issues can be confusing. If in doubt, ask the instructor.

## **N.B.**

This syllabus, including the schedule of assignments that follows, is subject to change.

Students can expect to work at least six hours per week outside of class preparing for this class.

In preparation for creating an English Major Portfolio in the senior capstone seminar, English majors are advised to save both digital and hard copies of work written for English 353, including drafts with peer and instructor comments.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this course for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Academic and Disability Support, at 1307 Main Street or by calling 610 861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

### Schedule of Assignments

<b>Jan.</b>	15	Introduction to the course
	<u>17</u>	<i>Oroonoko</i> , xi-xv, 1-72, 265-267
	22	<i>Oroonoko</i> , Historical Backgrounds and Criticism, 73-264
	<u>24</u>	<i>Mansfield Park</i> , Volume I
	29	<i>Mansfield Park</i> , Volume II
	<u>31</u>	<i>Mansfield Park</i> , Volume III
<b>Feb.</b>	05	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , Chapters 1-14
	<u>07</u>	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , Chapters 15-25
	12	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , Chapters 26-38
	<u>14</u>	<i>David Copperfield</i> , Chapters 1-16
	19	<i>David Copperfield</i> , Chapters 17-32
	<u>21</u>	<i>David Copperfield</i> , Chapters 33-48
	26	<i>David Copperfield</i> , Chapters 49-64
	<u>28</u>	<b><u>Mid-term examination</u></b>
<b>Mar.</b>	12	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> , ix-xix, 1-77, 507-509
	<u>14</u>	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> , Backgrounds, Contexts, and Criticism, 97-506
	19	<i>A Passage to India</i> , "Mosque," 1-132
	<u>21</u>	<i>A Passage to India</i> , "Caves," 133-314
	26	<i>A Passage to India</i> , "Temple," 315-362
	<u>28</u>	<i>Orlando</i> , Illustrations, Chapters 1-2, and Index
<b>Apr.</b>	02	<i>Orlando</i> , Chapters 3-4; <b><u>research essay proposal due</u></b>
	<u>04</u>	<i>Orlando</i> , Chapters 5-6
	09	<i>Blonde Roots</i> , Book One
	<u>11</u>	<i>Blonde Roots</i> , Book Two
	16	<i>Blonde Roots</i> , Book Three; <b><u>research essay due</u></b>
	<u>18</u>	Research exposition
	23	Research exposition
	25	Research exposition
	<u>26</u>	<b><u>Research essay revisions accepted until 4 p.m. (optional)</u></b>
<b>May</b>	<u>03</u>	<b><u>Final examination at 8:30 a.m.</u></b>