

English 351 British Renaissance and Neoclassicism

Spring 2014

Instructor: John Black

Classroom: PPHAC 233

Class schedule: TTh 1:10-2:20

(Guidelines subject to change)

Blackboard enrollment code: ENGL351SP14

Email: blackj@moravian.edu

Office: Zinzendorf 303

Office Hours: T 4:00-5:00, W 5:15-6:15,

and by appointment

English Dept. Phone: 861-1390

Course Description, Objectives, and Format:

Welcome to English 351! This course is devoted to the study of selected poetry, prose, and non-Shakespearean drama of the Renaissance and Neoclassical periods of English literature, 1500-1800. At the conclusion of English 351, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of the variety and breadth of literary works created during this period of three centuries;
2. Articulate the direct effects of the history of the three centuries on the creation of literary work - sometimes on form, but especially on content;
3. Discuss the conjunction of forces (e.g., political, economic, social, psychological, environmental, etc.) that culminated in conditions amenable to the creation of great literature;
4. Explain how literary artists of exceptional ability emerged during this period, influenced each other, and left their mark on their own time and the times to come;
5. Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of the variety and breadth or critical and philosophical works that define and analyze British Renaissance and Neoclassical works;
6. Demonstrate competence in devising perceptive oral and written analyses of British Renaissance and Neoclassical works by careful and exact reading and employing the tools of literary analysis and library research.

Through our study, this course will also allow you to continue establishing your own distinctive approach to literary scholarship. As literature is a representation of reality, reading it requires you to interpret and to support your interpretation; our discussions and written assignments will help you refine the critical reading, writing and research skills essential not only to reading literature, but also to critical assessment and understanding in general. And, along the way, you'll get to enjoy some great reading! While we'll occasionally use short lectures, audio-visual aids, Blackboard postings, and presentations, our class will consist primarily of reading and discussion: *preparation and participation are, therefore, essential to the success of the class and to your success in it.*

Assignments, Exams, and Evaluation:

English 351 is an upper-level, major elective course; your work for the class should reflect deliberation and sophistication in thinking and writing. As assignments for the course, you will draft and revise one 12-15 page paper, make oral presentations on your paper and on other course materials, and complete several other shorter assignments. There will also be mid-term and final exams. Specific requirements for the assignments and exams will be discussed in advance of each. I encourage and expect you to consult with me as you plan and work on your assignments. A library research session, draft workshops, and individual conferences will help you strengthen your writing process. **I do not accept papers that have not been reviewed in the draft workshop process.** Drafts and papers are due in class on the due dates noted on the syllabus. **In addition to the final version of a paper, all preliminary drafts, notes, etc. are to be handed in; otherwise, the assignment is incomplete and will not be accepted. I do not accept or read late papers, except under very unusual circumstances.**

Weighting of assignments:

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|-------------------------|-----|---|-----|
| Mid-term exam..... | 20% | Field Trip Writing Assignment..... | 10% |
| Final exam..... | 20% | Reading responses, quizzes, and short assignments | 10% |
| Group Presentation..... | 10% | Informal Writing and Class Participation..... | 10% |
| Research Paper..... | 20% | | |

The instructor will apply both quantitative and qualitative assessments in determining grades for assignments and for the course. Final grades are calculated on 10-pt. scale: 90=A-, 80=B-, etc.

You must complete all these requirements in order to be eligible to pass the course.

Extra Credit: Students may earn up to a total of three points of extra credit to be added at the end of the semester to their lowest assignment grade. Extra credit is earned through confirmed participation in various activities related to literature and writing. For example, a student whose attendance is verified at a MCTC production or at a MC poetry or fiction reading will earn one point for each activity. Attendance at performances and readings at other Lehigh Valley institutions

may also be eligible for extra credit. Similarly, any student for whom submission of creative work to *The Manuscript* or other literary journal is verified will earn one point. Also, any student for whom a session with the Writing Center is verified will earn one point. Total extra credit may not exceed three points. One hundred points is the maximum total for the course.

Attendance and Participation:

Be here: You are expected to attend each class. **Be prompt:** Class begins at am 1:10pm sharp. **Be prepared:** Your first responsibility is to read carefully, re-read, and be prepared to discuss, both orally and in writing, all assignments. You should expect to devote several hours to preparing for each class. (A good rule of thumb for college courses is 2-3 hours outside of class for every hour in class.) **Participate:** Classes become more meaningful the more you engage yourself in them. You are expected to read aloud and to make comments or ask questions on the readings and topics each day. Class time allotted for group work, group discussion, draft feedback, etc. is instructional time; you are expected to remain focused on the assigned activity for all of the allotted time.

If you know you will be absent from class, please talk to me beforehand. If you are sick, please notify me as soon as possible. *Your absence from more than three classes may affect your final grade. Missing more than five classes may result in your failing the course. If you are tardy or absent, it is wholly your responsibility to determine what was covered in class and what revisions, if any, were made to the syllabus in your absence.*

Other notes: One of the qualities I expect and appreciate most in students is **personal integrity**. Students who exhibit this quality are ethical and honest, are engaged in class, turn in thoughtful assignments, are responsive to the world beyond themselves, meet deadlines, and keep me informed of any difficulties or successes they have while in my class. **Also:** Please arrange to go to the restroom before or after class. **Please silence and put away all cell phones, etc. before coming into the classroom.**

Office Hours: Students are always welcome in my office. My office hours are times that I have set aside specifically to talk with you – not only about class and assignments, but also about life at Moravian, about something fun and exciting you've done, or whatever. Make use of them. I realize that for some schedules my posted office hours just won't work, so I'm also available by appointment: blackj@moravian.edu.

Other Resources:

- With your work on written assignments, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the help available through appointment at the Writing Center (2nd fl, Zinzendorf). For more information, visit its website at: <http://home.moravian.edu/public/eng/writingCenter/appointments.htm>
- Similarly, the librarians in Reeves are very resourceful. Make it a habit of consulting with them when research questions arise. The library webpage (<http://home.moravian.edu/public/reeves>) is an excellent resource, offering live online help and research guides.
- The Learning Services Office (1307 Main St., 861-1510) provides many services to help you achieve academic success: <http://home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/learning/>
- Another important resource that provides help with the demands of college life is The Counseling Center (also at 1307 Main St., 861-1510): <http://home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/counseling/>
- Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support (1307 Main St., 861-1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Learning Services Office.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism, representing someone else's work as your own, is a breach of personal integrity and a violation of the College's Academic Honesty Policy: consult the *Student Handbook* or consult <http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic/academic2.html> and read this policy in its entirety. I take the provisions of the Academic Honesty Policy very seriously and am obliged to report any suspected cases of plagiarism, the consequences of which may be failure, suspension, or dismissal from the College. If you plagiarize, you will receive a 'zero' on the plagiarized assignment, which will very likely result in your failure for the course. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism will not be accepted as an excuse. If at any time you have any questions about documenting sources properly (MLA style) or as to whether or not the aid you are receiving is authorized, don't hesitate to ask me. The Reeves Library online research tutorial also addresses the issue: <http://home.moravian.edu/public/reevestutorial/pages/index.htm>

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Resources

Required texts:

The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol. B: The Sixteenth Century/The Early Seventeenth Century, 9th ed. Edited by Julia Reidhead et al. New York: Norton, 2012.

The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol. C: The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century, 9th ed. Edited by Julia Reidhead et al. New York: Norton, 2012.

Other selected materials, as posted to Bb or distributed in class.

Some useful websites:

Renaissance English Literature (with music) <http://www.luminarium.org/renlit/index.html>

Neoclassicism – An Overview <http://www.victorianweb.org/previctorian/nc/neoclassov.html>

John Milton Reading Room http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/

Literary Resources–Renaissance <http://www.andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/ren.html>

Literary Resources–Miscellaneous <http://www.andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/misc.html>

(The latter two have not been updated in some time, yet still provide some good background.)

Syllabus

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|------|----|----|--|
| Jan. | 14 | T | Introduction to course |
| | 16 | Th | Introduction to Renaissance: The Sixteenth Century (531-563); Skelton (564-568) |
| | 21 | T | More (568-574, 619-624, other selections from <i>Utopia</i>) |
| | 23 | Th | Wyatt (646-660); Surrey (661-670); Queen Elizabeth (749, 757, 762-765); selections from other women writers |
| | 28 | T | Spenser (769-774; 775-795, 985-999) |
| | 30 | Th | Sidney (1037, selections from <i>The Defense of Poesy</i> ; 1084; selected sonnets); Mary Herbert (1102-1105); Marlowe (1106, 1126); Raleigh (1023-1024; selected works) |
| Feb. | 4 | T | Marlowe (1127-1165); group presentation |
| | 6 | Th | Shakespeare (1166-1186) |
| | 11 | T | Shakespeare (cont.); introduce field trip writing assignment |
| | 13 | Th | Field Trip – Allentown Art Museum |
| | 18 | T | Campion (1017-1020); Lanyer ((1430-1436); Wroth (1560, 1566-1571); field trip writing assignment due |
| | 20 | Th | Webster (1571-1647) |
| | 25 | T | Metaphysical Poets - selections |
| | 27 | Th | Cavalier Poets - selections |

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| Mar. | 4 | T | No class – Spring Break |
| | 6 | Th | No class – Spring Break |
| | 11 | T | Milton (1897-1900, 1917-1923, selected poems) |
| | 13 | Th | Midterm Exam |
| | 18 | T | Milton (cont.) |
| | 20 | Th | Introduction to Restoration and Eighteenth Century (2177-2207); Dryden (2208 and selected works); paper topic due |
| | 25 | T | Library session |
| | 27 | Th | Pepys (2260-2264); Rochester (2296-2300); paper proposal due |
| Apr. | 1 | T | Behn (2307-2312); Astell (2420-2423); Finch (2431-2433) |
| | 3 | Th | Defoe (2424-2430); Swift (2464, 2466, 2633-2638); Pope (2665-2668, 2205-2212) |
| | 8 | T | Congreve (2359-2419) |
| | 10 | Th | Draft workshop for paper (bring 2 copies of draft to class); review assignment handout and writing rubric; read sample paper in advance of class (Bb); bring copy to class and critique in class |
| | 15 | T | No class , in lieu of conferences (TBA) |
| | 17 | Th | Addison and Steele (2639-2640, 2641, 2652); Hogarth (2833-2840); Johnson (2841, 2929-2935, 2936-2939); Boswell (2959, 2962-2968); Montague (2759-2761) |
| | 22 | T | Equiano (3033-3043); Gray (3047, 3051-3053); Goldsmith (3061-3071); discuss final exam |
| | 24 | Th | Paper due; oral presentations on papers; course review and evaluation |

The final exam is scheduled for Wed. Apr. 30 at 8:30am in PPHAC 233. Plan accordingly.