

# English 102B British Literature

(Syllabus subject to change)

Spring 2015

Instructor: John Black

Classroom: PPHAC 116

Class schedule: TTh 2:35-3:45

Blackboard (Bb) enrollment code: ENGL102BSP15

Email: [blackj@moravian.edu](mailto:blackj@moravian.edu)

Office: Zinzendorf 303  
Office Hours: T 12:00-1:00, W 5:30-6:30,  
and by appointment  
Office Phone: 861-1390

## Required texts:

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Major Authors*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Edited by Stephen Greenblatt *et al.* New York: Norton, 2013. Print. (Norton also provides useful online resources. Refer to the *Preface* of your text.)

Shakespeare, William. *Henry V*. Mineola, NY: Dover Thrift, 2003.

Occasional supplemental readings via Blackboard (Bb), photocopy, and reserve.

Films in class, on Blackboard, or on reserve.

## Other useful books (in Reeves Library) and web-based resources for literary study and writing:

*A Handbook to Literature*. Ed. by H. Holman and W. Harmon (Reference PN41 .H6 1986). See also Norton Appendix A10-30.

*The Bedford Handbook*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Edited by D. Hacker. (Reference PE1408 .H277; an online version is also available at [http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/bedhandbook8e/#t\\_518572](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/bedhandbook8e/#t_518572))

OWL - The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Critical Reading: A Guide (by J. Lye at Brock Univ.): <http://www.brocku.ca/english/jlye/criticalreading.html>

## Course Description, Objectives, and Format:

Welcome to English 102! Literature is a biography of human experience – our hopes, challenges, and successes; our fears, disappointments, and failures. This class, in surveying samples of British literature from its earliest forms in the Old English period to its contemporary manifestations in the 21st century, allows you to explore this wealth of human experience, not only in a wide variety of genres and forms, but also across a diverse collection of major authors writing on many different themes. In addition, you will be introduced to the historical, cultural, and literary contexts in which the works were written, and you will be asked to consider the changes and continuities in English-language literature across the periods. Literature is a representation of reality; reading it requires you to interpret and to support your interpretation through close reading. Our discussions, presentations, and written assignments will help you refine the critical reading and writing 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 short lectures, audio-visual aids, and presentations will introduce literary periods, figures, and pieces, our class will consist primarily of discussion: *preparation and participation are, therefore, essential to the success of the class and to your success in it.*

## Reading Prompts, Quizzes, Presentations, Exams, and Papers:

For most every class, you'll be responsible for responding to prompts (posted to Bb) for the assigned readings. Keep a copy for your use in class and in reviewing for assignments and make a photocopy to hand in to me at the beginning of class. (Alternatively, you may email me a copy of your responses *before class*. Be sure to *type your name on the document you email to me.*)

Periodically, you'll have a short quiz covering basic facts or themes, or an explication or interpretation of a passage, or perhaps a short reading response. These short exercises help us keep up with the reading, serve as practice for our course exams, prompt us to think about what we've read, and provide us with a starting point for discussions. There are no make-up exercises; however, I will drop your lowest quiz/short response score.

As part of a small group, you'll make a presentation on the historical/cultural context of a literary period.

You'll also take a midterm and a final examination, consisting of short answer questions (ID's, etc.) and longer essays.

**Your best preparation for quizzes and exams is active, careful, thorough, and thoughtful reading and re-reading. I strongly recommend taking notes on what you read. When an introduction to a period or author is assigned, you should also study this material carefully, as it will greatly assist in your understanding of the literature.**

You will also write one 4-5 page analytical paper on a selected aspect of literature (e.g., theme, characters, style, etc.) in three works/literary periods. Please choose your topic in a timely fashion. Feel free to consult with me. A library research session, draft workshops, and individual conferences will help you strengthen your research and writing process. **I do not accept papers that have not been reviewed in the draft workshop process and subsequently revised. Papers and other assignments are due in class on the due dates noted on the syllabus. I do not accept or read late papers, except under very unusual circumstances.**

Further details for the presentations, exams, and paper will be discussed in advance of the assignments.

**Extra Credit:** Learning takes place both in and outside the classroom. To encourage you to learn more about the richness of the College and local community, students may earn extra credit through confirmed participation (usually in the form of a brief write-up) in various activities related to language, literature, and writing. Up to a total of three points of extra credit can be added at the end of the semester to a student's lowest assignment grade. One hundred points is the maximum total for the course. Some examples of eligible activities are: attending a College theater production or poetry/fiction reading, submission of

creative work to *The Manuscript*, meeting with a Writing Center tutor, or participating in Moravian's Student Scholarship and Creative Endeavors Day in April. Other, similar activities may also be eligible; please confer with me.

### Attendance and Participation:

**Be here:** I will take roll regularly. You are expected to attend each day. **Be prompt:** Class begins at 2:35pm 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 general 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. Bring your textbook to class every day. You are expected to make comments or ask questions on the readings and topics each day. I will not hesitate to call on you if you are not contributing. Class time allotted for group work, group discussion, draft feedback, review, etc. is instructional time, not break 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. Every three times you come to class late or leave early without talking to me first will also count as an unexcused absence. 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 refrain from bringing food and drink into the classroom. *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, about challenges you're encountering, or whatever. Make use of them. I realize that it may be difficult for you to meet during my posted office hours, so I'm also readily available by appointment: [blackj@moravian.edu](mailto: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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 interactive online help and research guides (e.g., <http://moravian.libguides.com/content.php?pid=77663&sid=575136>)
- The Academic Support Office (<http://home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/learning/>) (1<sup>st</sup> fl., Monocacy Hall (861-1401) and The Counseling Center (<http://home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/counseling/>) (1307 Main St., 861-1510) provide many services to help you meet the demands of college life and achieve academic success.
- Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Ms. Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic & Disability Support, located on the first floor of Monocacy Hall (861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic & Disability Support office.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism, representing someone else's work as your own, is a serious breach of personal integrity and a significant violation of the College's Academic Honesty Policy. Consult the *Student Handbook* <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>

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

Midterm exam.....	20%	Group presentation.....	10%
Analytical paper - draft.....	10%	Prompts and Quizzes.....	10%
Analytical paper - final version.....	20%	Class participation.....	10%
Final exam.....	20%		

**You must complete all requirements in order to pass the course.**

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Jan.	20	T	Introduction; syllabus; policies and goals
	22	Th	<i>Norton</i> introduction to Middle Ages (3-28); introduction to Anglo-Saxon England; Colorplates C1-C3 "Dream of the Rood" (32-36) <i>Beowulf</i> (36-54)
	27	T	<i>Beowulf</i> (54-106)
	29	Th	<i>Sir Gawain &amp; the Green Knight</i> (135-88); introduction to Middle English period; Colorplates C4-C8
Feb.	3	T	Chaucer's <i>The Canterbury Tales: The General Prologue</i> (188-213)
	5	Th	Chaucer's <i>The Canterbury Tales: The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale</i> (230-58)
	10	T	Small-group discussion sessions
	12	Th	<i>Norton</i> introduction to 16 <sup>th</sup> Century (349-81), <b>group presentation</b> ; Religions in England (A44-47); Colorplates C9-C12 Wyatt: introduction (382-83), "The long love" and "Whoso list to hunt" (383-84) Surrey: introduction (386-87) and "Love, that doth reign" (387) Marlowe: introduction (498-99) and "The Passionate Shepherd" (499-500) Raleigh: introduction (487-88) and "The Nymph's Reply" (488-89) Shakespeare: <i>Sonnets</i> introduction (539-40), #12 (541), #18 (541-42), and #130 (550)
	17	T	Shakespeare: <i>Henry V</i> (Dover Thrift Edition); Colorplates C13-C15
	19	Th	<i>Norton</i> introduction to Early 17 <sup>th</sup> Century (637-65), <b>group presentation</b> ; Colorplates C19-C21, C24 Jonson: introduction (707-10) and "Inviting a Friend to Supper" (712-13) Herrick: introduction (739), "Corinna's Going A-Maying" (741-43), and "To the Virgins" (743) Donne: introduction (666-68), "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" (679-80), and <i>Holy Sonnet 14</i> : "Batter My Heart, Three-Personed God" (692)
	24	T	Herbert: introduction (730-31), "The Altar" (732), and "Easter Wings" (733) Marvell: introduction (750-51), "To His Coy Mistress" (751-52) Lanyer: introduction (699) and "Eve's Apology" (700-02) Wroth: introduction (720-21) and from <i>Pamphilia and Amphilanthus</i> (722-24) Cavendish: introduction (761-62) and from <i>The Blazing World</i> (762-67) Colorplates C16-C18, C22-C23 <b>Literary criticism paper assigned</b>
	26	Th	Small-group discussion sessions; review for midterm
	27	F	<b>MCTC staged reading of Shakespeare's <i>Henry V</i> (Arena Theatre, HUB, 8pm)</b>
Mar.	3	T	<b>Midterm exam</b>
	4	W	<b>Paper topic due (by email by 5pm)</b>
	5	Th	<b>Library session (meet in Reeves); review paper topics with instructor</b>
	10	T	<b>No class</b> - Spring Break
	12	Th	<b>No class</b> - Spring Break

17	T	Milton: introduction (768-72) and selections from <i>Paradise Lost</i> (799-870)
19	Th	Milton: selections from <i>Paradise Lost</i> (870-929)
20	F	<b>Paper proposal due by email by 5pm</b> (see paper assignment handout for details of proposal)
24	T	Small-group discussion sessions
26	Th	Norton introduction to Restoration and 18 <sup>th</sup> Century (931-60), <b>group presentation</b> ; Colorplates C25-C32 Swift: introduction (1055-56) and "A Modest Proposal" (1199-1205) Equiano: introduction (1384-86) and from <i>The Interesting Narrative</i> (1386-94)
31	T	<b>Note: page and colorplate numbers for subsequent dates/assignments refer to Vol. 2 of Norton</b> Norton introduction to Romantics (3-30), <b>group presentation</b> ; Colorplates C1-C8 Blake: introduction (43-46); from <i>Songs of Innocence and of Experience</i> : "Lamb" (50), "Little Black Boy" (50-51), "Divine Image" (52), "Tyger" (58), "Human Abstract" (61-62), "Poison Tree" (62-63) William Wordsworth: introduction (124-27) "Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey" (131-35) Coleridge: introduction (250-52), "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" (256-71)
Apr. 2	Th	Shelley: introduction (376-78) and "Ozymandias" (386) Keats: introduction (466-69) and "When I Have Fears..." (476) Wollstonecraft: introduction (95-98) and Introduction to "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" (98-102)
7	T	<b>Paper draft workshop; full draft due (bring 2 copies of draft to class); critique sample paper (print out sample paper from Bb, read and review, bring to class for discussion); conferences TBA</b>
9	Th	<b>No class</b> - in lieu of paper conferences
14	T	<b>No class</b> - in lieu of paper conferences
16	Th	Norton introduction to Victorians (533-59), <b>group presentation</b> ; Colorplates C9-C16 Elizabeth Barrett Browning: introduction (585-87) and from <i>Sonnets from the Portuguese</i> (590-92) Robert Browning: introduction (709-12), "Porphyria's Lover" (713-14), and "My Last Duchess" (716-17) Hopkins: introduction (817-20), "As Kingfishers Catch Fire" (821) and "Pied Beauty" (822)
21	T	Small-group discussion sessions
23	Th	Wilde: introduction (874-77) and <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> (886-929) <b>Paper due (refer to "Some Guidelines for Submission of Written Assignments" - handout and Bb)</b>
28	T	Norton introduction to 20 <sup>th</sup> Century (959-85), <b>group presentation</b> ; Colorplates C17-C24 Conrad: introduction (996-97) and <i>Heart of Darkness</i> (997-1057) Discuss final
30	Th	Yeats: introduction (1057-60), "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" (1062) and "Easter 1916" (1068-70) Woolf: introduction (1095-97) and "Kew Gardens" (handout; also on Bb) Eliot: introduction (1298-1301) and "The Hollow Men" (1320-22) Walcott: introduction and "A Far Cry from Africa" (1445-47) Wrap-up; final exam review; course evaluation

**The Final Exam is scheduled for Fri. May 8 at 8:30am in PPHAC 116. Plan accordingly.**