

English 351 British Renaissance and Neoclassicism

Spring 2016

Instructor: John Black

(Guidelines subject to change)

Office: Zinzendorf 303

Classroom: PPHAC 116

Office Hours: W 1:00-2:00, Th 10:30-11:30,

Class schedule: TTh 1:10-2:20

and by appointment

Email: jblack@moravian.edu

Blackboard enrollment code: ENGL351SP16

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 analyses of British Renaissance and Neoclassical works and their contexts by careful and exact reading and by employing the tools of research and literary analysis.

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: *your preparation and participation are, therefore, essential to the success of the class and to your success in it.*

Assignments, Exams, and Evaluation:

*****For English majors: In preparation for creating an English Major Portfolio in your senior capstone seminar, please save both digital and hard copies of your work for this class, including drafts with peer and instructor comments.**

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 complete a digital mapping project, make oral presentations on your project 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. **I do not accept late assignments, except under very unusual circumstances.**

Weighting of assignments:

Mid-term exam.....20%	Art & Literature Writing Assignment.....10%
Final exam.....20%	Reading responses, quizzes, and short assignments10%
Group Presentations.....10%	Informal Writing and Class Participation.....10%
Digital Mapping project.....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: Learning takes place both in and outside the classroom. To encourage further exploration of the connections in learning between English 351 and the 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 or area theater production or poetry/fiction reading, submitting creative work to *The Manuscript*, or a meeting with a Writing Center tutor. Other, similar activities may also be eligible; please confer with me. In April, Moravian hosts its annual Student

Scholarship and Creative Endeavors Day (SSCED); a student who presents a paper at SSCED will earn three points. A student who assists with or attends SSCED will earn one point.

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, 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. 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.
- *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.*
- *Using your laptop or smartphone during class for purposes not related to the course is unacceptable: it seriously undermines your credibility as a student and it distracts others from their focus.*

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: jblack@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> The Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you have mobility impairments and need the services of the Writing Center, please call 610-861-1392.
- 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 Academic Support Center (lower level of Monocacy Hall, 610-861-1401) 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 the Academic Support Center (lower level of Monocacy Hall, 610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

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/reeves/research/tutorials/tutorialsindex.htm>

Related to academic honesty is the issue of copyright; please protect yourself by being familiar with and following copyright laws.

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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. Print.
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. Print.
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

Jan.	19	T	Introduction to course
	21	Th	Introduction to Renaissance: The Sixteenth Century (531-563); Skelton: introduction (564), poems (565-68)
	26	T	More: introduction (568-574), selections from <i>Utopia</i> (575-97, 602-645)
	28	Th	Wyatt: introduction and poems (646-658); Surrey: introduction and poems (661-670); Queen Elizabeth: introduction (749-50), selected works (757, 762-66); selections from other women writers (721-48)
Feb.	2	T	Spenser: introduction (766-68), selections from <i>The Shepheardes Calendar</i> (769-74), <i>The Faerie Queene</i> , Book I, Canto 1 (775-95), summary of Book II (934), summary of Book III (946), <i>Amoretti</i> (985-89), <i>Epithalamion</i> (990-99)
	4	Th	Sidney: introduction (1037-39), selections from <i>The Defense of Poesy</i> (1044-52, 1066-83), selected sonnets from <i>Astrophil and Stella</i> (1084-1101); Mary Herbert: introduction and poems (1102-1106); introduce art & literature writing assignment
	9	T	Guest presentation
	11	Th	Field Trip – Allentown Art Museum
	16	T	Marlowe: introduction (1106-08), “The Passionate Shepherd” (1126); Raleigh: introduction (1023-24), selected poems (1024-27); field trip writing assignment due
	18	Th	Shakespeare: introduction (1166-70), selected sonnets (1170-86); Campion: introduction (1004), poems (1017-1020)
	23	T	Marlowe: <i>Doctor Faustus</i> (1127-1165); group presentation
	25	Th	Introduction to Early 17 th Century (1341-69); group presentation ; Lanyer: introduction (1430-31), selections from <i>Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum</i> (1431-36); Wroth: introduction (1560-61), selections from

Mar.	1	T	<i>Pamphilia to Amphilanthus</i> (1566-1571) Metaphysical Poets - selections
	3	Th	Cavalier Poets - selections
	8	T	No class – Spring Break
	10	Th	No class – Spring Break
	15	T	Webster: introduction (1571-72), <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> (1572-1647)
	17	Th	Midterm Exam
	22	T	Milton: introduction (1897-1901), selections from <i>Paradise Lost</i> (read 1943-64, skim 1964-2024, read 2024-44, skim 2044-630)
	24	Th	Milton: selections from <i>Paradise Lost</i> , cont. (skim 2063-91, read 2091-2175)
	29	T	Introduction to Restoration and Eighteenth Century (2177-2207); group presentation ; digital mapping project work time
Apr.	31	Th	Dryden: introduction (2208-09), selected works (2210-12), <i>Mac Flecknoe</i> (2236-42), “Shakespeare and Ben Jonson Compared” (2254-55), “In Praise of Chaucer” (2258-59)
	5	T	Pepys: introduction and selections from <i>The Diary</i> (2260-64); Rochester: introduction (2296-97), selected poems (2297-2301), “A Satire against Reason and Mankind” (2301-07)
	7	Th	Behn: introduction (2307-09), <i>Oroonoko</i> (2313-58); Astell: introduction and selections from <i>Some Reflections Upon Marriage</i> (2420-24); Finch: introduction and poems (2431-34)
	12	T	Defoe: introduction and selection from <i>Roxana</i> (2424-30); Swift: introduction (2464-66), “A Modest Proposal” (2633-38); Pope: introduction (2665-69), selection from <i>Eloisa to Abelard</i> (2705-13)
	14	Th	Congreve (2359-2419); group presentation
	19	T	No class , in lieu of consultations (TBA)
	21	Th	Addison and Steele: introduction (2639-41), selections from <i>The Spectator</i> (2641-44, 2652-56); Hogarth: introduction and <i>Marriage A-la-Mode</i> (2833-40); Johnson: introduction (2841-43), selections from A Dictionary of the English Language (2929-36), selections from <i>The Preface to Shakespeare</i> (2936-39); Boswell: introduction (2959-60), selections from <i>The Life of Samuel Johnson</i> (2962-69); Montagu: introduction and selection from <i>Letters</i> (2759-62)
	26	T	Equiano: introduction (3033-34), selections from <i>The Interesting Narrative</i> (3035-43); Gray: introduction (3047), “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” (3051-54); Goldsmith: introduction (3061-62), “The Deserted Village” (3062-71); discuss final exam
	28	Th	Oral presentations on projects ; course review and evaluation

The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3 from 8:00-10:00am in PPHAC 116. Plan accordingly.