

**McLennan**  
C O M M U N I T Y  
**COLLEGE**

WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**AND**  
**INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**British Literature**

**English 2321-002**

**Professor Reid Makowsky, PhD**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week course.**

**COVID 19 Notice:**

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

**Course Description:**

This semester we will read different kinds of journeys—physical, psychological, spiritual—undertaken for many reasons and leading to many outcomes, some triumphant and some disastrous. At the same time, we ourselves will embark on a literary journey that will span nearly the whole of English history—from *Beowulf* to the Twentieth Century. This presents us with a challenge: how do we both delve deeply into individual works and successfully place them within a broader context when the scope of the course is so wide? Seen from another perspective, there is something freeing about the huge span of such a journey: we can never exhaust the wealth of these works, and so we simply do our best to understand their merits, trace the threads of artistic, historical, and cultural continuity running through them, and listen to what their authors have to say to us across the centuries. If, later on, we decide we want to revisit these works, listen again to their authors have to tell us, we can always reach for them again. They will be waiting for us.

The goal of this course is to meet together to discuss some of the greatest works of literature ever produced. Twice a week we get to attend to works of art that both speak to us in our own time and place and that carry us out of ourselves and allow us to see other places and listen to voices from other times. Ultimately, through our reading of these great works, we aim to become more human.

**Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 (Composition I)

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Dr. Reid Makowsky

MCC E-mail: [rmakowsky@mclennan.edu](mailto:rmakowsky@mclennan.edu)

Office Phone Number: 299-8908

Office Location: FO 218

Office Hours: MW 9-9:30, 12:40-1:10, TR 12:35-1:35

**Required Text & Materials:**

Title: *The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Major Authors*

Author: Greenblatt, Stephen, et al., eds.

Edition: 10th

Publisher: Norton

**MCC Bookstore Website:** <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

Most of our class time together will be spent discussing the readings assigned for that day. There will also be four quizzes. We may at times do in-class work such as group work, in-class writing, recitations, etc. In addition we will have two major essay assignments, a mid-term, and a final exam.

**Course Objectives:**

1. We will practice reading great works more sympathetically and imaginatively.
2. We will understand the religious, cultural, historical, and biographical backdrops necessary for a sound understanding of British literature.
3. We will practice close reading for both explicit and implicit ideas and for details of technique.
4. We will overcome “chronological snobbery” and learn that great literature of all kinds and periods speaks to the agonies and joys that human beings experience in every era.
5. We will move from the collection of detail, to the employment of those details to analyze passages; compare and contrast works; and appreciate great art.

While I want you to complete this course with more knowledge about British literature than you had, what I want most is for each of us will grow in the understanding and wisdom that the study of these works can offer. I hope that the course will help you to become a better reader of literature, but also that you will come to enjoy reading literature more than you did at the beginning. I also hope that this love of literature might help you to live a richer, fuller, happier, and more peaceful life. I do not think that these hopes are beyond the power of the works.

**Course Schedule (All Readings are from the Norton unless otherwise noted.):**

**Unit 1: Adventures in Old English Literature**

Week of 8/22: Class 1: Introductions and Syllabus

Class 2: “Introduction” to Old English Literature, “The Dream of the Rood” and “The Wanderer”

Week of 8/29: Class 1: No Class. Labour Day.

Class 2: Beowulf ll. 1-661

Week of 9/5: Class 1: Beowulf ll. 662-1382

Class 2: Beowulf ll. 1383-2199

Week of 9/12: Class 1: Beowulf ll. 2200-3182. **Quiz 1.**

## Unit 2: Quests and Pilgrimages in Middle English Literature:

Class 2: “Anglo-Norman Literature” and “Middle English Literature”  
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight Fitt 1

Week of 9/19: Class 1: Sir Gawain Fitt 2  
Class 2: Sir Gawain Fitts 3 and 4

Week of 9/26: Class 1: **Essay 1 Due.** Chaucer “General Prologue” pp. 200-220 (Read the opening 43 lines and then only those lines devoted to the Knight, the Squire, the Monk, the Prioress, and the Parson)  
Class 2: From Sir Thomas Mallory’s *Morte Darthur* pp. 329-347 **Quiz 2.**

Week of 10/3: Class 1: Review for Mid-Term  
Class 2: Mid-Term

## Unit 3: Psychological and Spiritual Journeys in the Renaissance

Week of 10/10: Class 1: “Introduction” to the 16th Century, Sir Philip Sidney, Astrophil and Stella 1: “Loving in Truth. . .”, 20: “Fly, Fly, my friends. . .”, 52: “A strife is grown. . .”, 71: “Who will in fairest book. . .”  
Class 2: John Donne, introductory material, “The Flea”, “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”, “The Ecstasy”

Week of 10/17: Class 1: Donne: from the Holy Sonnets: Sonnet 1, Sonnet 5, Sonnet 10, Sonnet 14, Sonnet 19,  
Class 2: George Herbert, introductory material, “The Altar”, “Easter Wings,” “Prayer (1)” “Time” “The Collar” **Quiz 3..**

## Unit 4: Journeys of Growth and Decay in the Romantic and Victorian Eras

Week of 10/24: Class 1: “Introduction to the Romantic Period”  
William Wordsworth: from *Lyrical Ballads*: “We are Seven” , “Lines Written in Early Spring”, “Expostulation and Reply”, “The Tables Turned”  
Class 2: William Wordsworth: “Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey”

Week of 10/31: Class 1: Jane Austen, *Love and Friendship* (Letters 1-11)  
Class 2: Jane Austen, *Love and Friendship* (Letter 12-15)

Week of 11/7: Class 1: John Keats, Introduction, “When I have fears . . .”, “Bright star. . .”,  
“Sonnet to Sleep”, “Ode on a Grecian Urn”, “To Autumn”

Class 2: “Introduction to the Victorian Period”

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Introduction and from: *Idylls of the King*: “The  
Passing of Arthur”

Week of 11/14: Class 1: Gerard Manley Hopkins, Introduction, “God’s Grandeur”, “As  
Kingfishers Catch Fire”, “Pied Beauty”, [Carrion Comfort],

**Quiz 4.**

Postlude: The Quest Continues, Myth in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Class 2: T.S. Eliot, “The Gift of the Magi,” “The Lovesong of J. Alread  
Prufrock,” “The Hollow Men”

Week of 11/21: Class 1: T.S. Eliot, from *Four Quartets*, “Little Gidding”

Class 2: Thanksgiving

Week of 11/28: Class 1: Selection from J.R.R. Tolkien (Brightspace)

Class 2: Selection from J.R.R. Tolkien (Brightspace), Review for Final Exam.

**Essay 2 Due Thursday Night.**

**Final Exam: See College Exam Schedule:**

**<https://www.mclennan.edu/dates/finals/index.html>**

**Course Grading Information:**

Class Participation: 10%

Essay 1: 10%

Quizzes (4): 20%

Essay 2: 20%

Mid-Term: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Students are expected to participate daily in the class discussion. The quizzes will be objective: multiple choice, short answer, and fill in the blank will predominate. The goals and guidelines for the two major essay assignments are discussed in detail on the “Essay Assignment Sheet”. Through a combination of short answer, quote analysis, and essay, the exams will give you an

opportunity not only display your knowledge of the texts, but to demonstrate that you have thought carefully about them, both as individual works, and in relation to each other.

**Intentional plagiarism on either of these essays or on the exams will result in an irrevocable grade of 0 for that assignment. Two instances of plagiarism will result in failure for the course.**

**Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:**

**No make-up work is permitted except in special cases. Late essays will lose one letter grade per class day.** If you want to do well in this course, you must do all of the reading and should plan to attend all class meetings. You should send me an email explaining any absences. Failure to attend at least three quarters of all meetings will result in a grade of “W” or “F”, depending on whether the student was passing. Students who arrive after class has begun will be counted tardy. Three tardies will equal one absence. Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late will be counted absent.

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor. **Bring your book. Be prepared. Be on time. Be attentive. Be off your phone.**

**[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)**

**(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)**

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.



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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

### **Accommodations/ADA Statement:**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [www.mclennan.edu/disability](http://www.mclennan.edu/disability).

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

### **Title IX:**

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at [www.mclennan.edu/titleix/](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/). It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

**Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu](mailto:SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu). Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

**MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:**

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at [https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency\\_Grant\\_Application.pdf](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

Go to [www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity) for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

**Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:**

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**Minimum Technical Skills:**

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

**Backup Plan for Technology:**

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.



**Email Policy:**

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to [www.mclennan.edu/student-email](http://www.mclennan.edu/student-email).

**Instructional Uses of Email:**

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

**Email on Mobile Devices:**

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email [Helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@mclennan.edu) for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)
- [Email Setup for Androids](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email [helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mclennan.edu).

**Disclaimer:**

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.