



WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS  
AND  
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**British Literature**

**Engl - 2321 - 002**

**Dr. Reid Makowsky**

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

**NOTE: This is a Face-to-Face course.**

**Course Description:**

A survey of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to the historical, linguistic, and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from a diverse group of authors and traditions.

**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: MTWTH: 12:30-1:30. Please make an appointment.

**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:**

This semester we will read about 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 know we can't read them all, or even mine all the riches from the ones we do read, 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.

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.

Here are some specific objectives I have in mind for our semester together:

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 little to the large: from the collection of detail, to the explication of passages; to the comparison of works; to the appreciation of great art.

While I want you to complete this course with more knowledge about British literature than you had, I truly hope that 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 and fuller life.

**Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:**

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who misses 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

**Course Schedule:**

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

Week of 8/21: Class 1: Syllabus and Introduction

Class 2: “The Dream of the Rood” “The Wanderer”

Week of 8/28: Class 1: Beowulf ll. 1-661

Class 2: Beowulf ll. 662-1382

Week of 9/4: Class 1: Labor Day, no class

Class 2: Beowulf ll. 1383-2199

Week of 9/11: Class 1: Beowulf ll. 2200-3182. **Quiz 1.**

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

Class 2: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight Fitt 1

Week of 9/18: Class 1: Sir Gawain Fitt 2

Class 2: Sir Gawain Fitts 3 and 4

Week of 9/25: 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 10/2: Class 1: Review for Mid-Term

Class 2: Mid-Term

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

Week of 10/9: Class 1: 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: William Shakespeare, Sonnets 3, 12, 15, 18, 19, 29, 30

Week of 10/16: Class 1: John Donne, “The Flea”, “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”, “The Ecstasy”

Class 2: Donne, Holy Sonnets, 1, 5, 10, 14, 19

Week of 10/23: Class 1: George Herbert, “The Altar”, “Easter Wings,” “Prayer (1)” “Time” “The Collar” **Quiz 3.**

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

Class 2: “Introduction to the Romantic Period” On Brightspace

William Wordsworth: “Lines Written in Early Spring”, “Expostulation  
and Reply”, “The Tables Turned,” “The World is Too Much with Us,”  
“Surprised by Joy”

Week of 10/30: Class 1: Wordsworth: “Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey”

Class 2: Jane Austen, *Love and Friendship* (Letters 1-11)

Week of 11/6: Class 1: Jane Austen, *Love and Friendship* (Letter 12-15)

Class 2: John Keats, “When I have fears . . .”, “Bright star. . .”, “Ode on a  
Grecian Urn”, “To Autumn”.

Week of 11/13: Class 1: Alfred, Lord Tennyson, From *In Memoriam A.H.H.* (Prologue-8, 28, 50,  
57,78, 84, 126, 129-Epilogue), “The Passing of Arthur”

Class 2: 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

Week of 11/20: Class 1: T.S. Eliot, “The Gift of the Magi,” “The Lovesong of J. Alread Prufrock,” “The Hollow Men” “Little Gidding”

Class 2: Thanksgiving break, no class

Week of 11/27: Class 1: Tolkien “Leaf by Niggle” (Brightspace)

Class 2: Review for Final Exam. **Essay 2 Due Thursday Night.**

**The final exam will be on Wednesday Decemeber, 6, 9:35-11:35 AM.**

### Course Grading Information:

Class Participation: 10%

Essay 1: 10%

Quizzes: 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”. The mid-term and final exam will consist of short answer, quote analysis, and essay. **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.**

**A word about ChatGPT and other AI platforms.** As I said above, my goal for you in the course is for you to love the works we read and for you to grow from them and benefit from them. That won’t happen if you don’t think about them. Farming your thinking out to someone else (or to an algorithm) is cheating yourself. Some students say they like to use AI for brainstorming but then do their own writing. I question even this. If AI hands you a structure and few basic ideas that it gleaned from the internet, then your essay won’t really reflect your thoughts even if you do the actual writing. *If everyone wrote in this way, no new thoughts would be written. Where would we be then? Somewhere even worse than where we already are.* That

said, I cannot (and do not wish to) police how your brainstorm. What I can do is look at the result. And this result I expect to be written in your own words, and sources should be cited in the correct manner. **So, if the AI detection tool in Turnitin detects more than 10% AI, I will ask for a rewrite. If no rewrite is supplied, the essay will receive a grade of 0).**

**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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Updated 07/18/2023



## **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) 2542998122 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 acting Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center 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/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email ([ast@mclennan.edu](mailto:ast@mclennan.edu)) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>).

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 either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing [crew@mclennan.edu](mailto:crew@mclennan.edu) or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu](mailto:SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu). Both are located in the Completion Center located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC) which is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to [https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_07byXd7eB8iTqJg](https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_07byXd7eB8iTqJg). Both the Completion Center and Paulanne's 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. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

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

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teachingandlearning/FacultyandStaffCommons/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/studentemail](http://www.mclennan.edu/studentemail).

**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](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

**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.