Syllabus

English 2233 British Literature II

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth MacCrossan  
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Waugh, Evelyn. Brideshead Revisited. (any edition)
Smith, Zadie. White Teeth. (any edition)

Catalogue description: 3 credit hours. Prerequisite: Completion of the Core Curriculum requirement in literature. Study of representative works of British literature from 1700 to the present. Required of students majoring in English.

Course description, goals, and expectations: This course is a continuation of the study of British literature. The term “British Literature” is a complicated one and only gets more complicated in the period we will cover in this course. We will begin with an understanding of the complexities of the idea of “British Literature,” as well as “Britishness,” and consider works in their historical, artistic, and spatial contexts.

This course gives students the opportunity to (further) develop a basic knowledge of the aesthetic and theoretical principles of literature, respond critically to the works covered as individual and human expressions of values and aesthetics within historical and social contexts, and to include this study in an overall understanding of the implications of cultural differences (and similarities) and global issues. Respectful behavior in the classroom and putting forth the effort to learn something new are required in this course. This means coming to class on time and prepared, participating in discussions like a scholar, turning off cell phone ringers, not surfing the Internet during class, or engaging in any other behavior that distracts others.

Grading: All assignments and exams are due when they are scheduled. Neither I nor office staff will report grades by telephone, fax, or e-mail. Because the summer term is so short, NO LATE WORK can be accepted for a grade.

Weekly summary papers: Each week, you will summarize the readings and class discussions from your notes. Each summary will include a brief discussion of each work read along with your views on the importance of each work, what key points were discussed, and an overall view of the week’s readings as a sampling of “British literature.” Opinions are welcome, but all opinions must be supported. If you have kept good notes, there will be no need to use secondary sources. If, for whatever reason, you do include other sources, you MUST provide a works cited page with full publication information for those works. Each week’s summary paper will be worth 10 percent of your final grade. They will be due July 18, July 25, August 1, August 8, and August 11. These will not only help you to synthesize the large amount of reading we do in a short time, but will provide you with an excellent study guide for the final exam.
Final Project: You will mock-up a “new” and shorter anthology for British Literature II. You will decide what five works should be covered for each period (Romantic, Victorian, 20th century), and write brief head notes on them, explaining their importance (see Norton for examples). Three of the five works for each period may come from your book (but will include your own head note), and two must come from elsewhere. Additionally, you will include one key image from each era that you think is representative, along with a brief explanation. Further instructions will follow. This project will be worth 20 percent of your final grade.

Final exam: This exam will cover all three periods and will be mixed format (multiple choice, short answer, essay). The final will be worth 20 percent of your final grade.

Attendance and participation: Each student will begin with 90 points. Each absence will result in a 5 point deduction. At the end of the term, students who have participated regularly and thoughtfully in class discussion will be given up to 10 points. This will be worth 10 percent of your final grade.

I encourage you to use the academic support services available to you through the Tomás Rivera Center (TRC) to assist you with building study skills and tutoring in course content. These services are available at no additional cost. There are several locations on the Main Campus and downtown. For more information, visit www.utsa.edu/tress.

Please visit http://www.utsa.edu/disability/students.htm for university disability services information.

Please visit http://www.utsa.edu/infoguide/appendices/b.html (section 203) for university policies regarding scholastic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to the student… etc. In this class, cheating/plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment and possible F for the course.

Schedule:
Friday, July 8—Syllabus and introduction to course.
Tuesday, July 12—Barbauld, 26-38; Wollstonecraft, 167-195.
Thursday, July 14—M. Shelley, 955 -970.
Friday, July 15—Byron, TBA.

Monday, July 18—Victorians, 979-1001.
Tuesday, July 19—Mill, 1043-1077.
Wednesday, July 20—Tennyson, 1109-12, 1114-18, 1123-25, 1188-9; Dickens, 1236-48.
Thursday, July 21—Darwin, 1538-55; Industrialism, 1556-1580.
Friday, July 22—Gender, 1581-1606; Empire, 1607-1634.
Monday, July 25—20th century, 1827-1850.
Tuesday, July 26—Conrad, 1885-87, 1890-1947.
Wednesday, July 27—Kipling, TBA
Thursday, July 28—Woolf, Lawrence, Eliot, TBA
Friday, July 29—Stoppard’s Arcadia.

Monday, Aug. 1—Brideshead Revisited, Prologue-1.3.
Tuesday, Aug. 2—1.4-1.6.
Wednesday, Aug. 3—1.7-2.2.
Thursday, Aug. 4—2.3-Epilogue.
Friday, Aug. 5—White Teeth, Chs. 1-5.

Monday, Aug. 8—6-11
Tuesday, Aug. 9—12-15
Wednesday, Aug. 10—16-20
Thursday, Aug. 11—Review
Friday, Aug. 12—Final exam