

ENG 241 British Literature I

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 112 or ENG 113

Corequisites: None

This course covers selected works in British literature from its beginnings to the Romantic Period. Emphasis is on historical background, cultural context, and literary analysis of selected prose, poetry, and drama. Upon completion, students should be able to interpret, analyze, and respond to literary works in their historical and cultural contexts. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for the general education core requirement in humanities/fine arts.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completing requirements for this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the works of major British writers in the context of such literary, historical, cultural, and intellectual periods as the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Neoclassicism;
2. Trace the development of themes and genres within their historical contexts;
3. Analyze literary works for their aesthetic features and thematic patterns;
4. Identify styles, themes, and works of major writers;
5. Understand and apply critical approaches to literature;
6. Understand critical and popular reception of major works of the period;
7. Communicate critical insights about British literature in writing and orally.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Overview of issues in British literature
 - A. Cultural, intellectual, and historic background
 - B. Genres and literary movements
- II. English literature in the Middle Ages
 - A. Old English
 - B. Middle English
 - C. Medieval culture
 - D. Literary characteristics
- III. English literature of the Renaissance
 - A. The political and cultural context of the Tudors
 - B. The political and cultural context of the early Stuarts and the Commonwealth
 - C. Literary characteristics
- IV. English literature of the Restoration and early eighteenth century
 - A. The rise of neoclassicism
 - B. Literary characteristics
- V. Selected authors and works in each period
 - A. Biographical overview
 - B. Critical and popular reception
 - C. Stylistic and thematic characteristics

D. Contribution to British literature

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIAL:

The textbook and other instructional material will be determined by the instructor.