

ENGL 43A: SURVEY OF BRITISH LITERATURE I: BEOWULF TO THE LATE 18TH CENTURY

Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Units:	5
Hours:	5 lecture per week (60 total per quarter)
Prerequisite:	Eligibility for college-level composition (ENGL 1A or 1AH), as determined by college assessment or other appropriate method.
Advisory:	Successful completion of college-level composition (ENGL 1A, 1AH or 1S & 1T) or equivalent; not open to students with credit in ENGL 43AH, 46A or 46B.
Degree & Credit Status:	Degree-Applicable Credit Course
Foothill GE:	Area I: Humanities
Transferable:	CSU/UC
Grade Type:	Letter Grade (Request for Pass/No Pass)
Repeatability:	Not Repeatable

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of major writers, key texts, and documents of British literature from Beowulf to the late 18th century.
- Students will be able to identify major literary genres and explain the development of literary forms during these periods.
- Students will demonstrate, in writing, application of relevant critical and theoretical frameworks to evaluate the literature.

Description

A survey of canonical literature spanning the earliest Old English texts, Middle English period, Early Modern period, ending with Neoclassicism. Texts discussed and analyzed within historical, sociocultural, philosophical, and aesthetic contexts.

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of major writers, key texts and documents of British literature from the Old English period through the late eighteenth century.
- identify major literary genres, and trace the emergence and development of literary forms during these periods.
- apply relevant critical and theoretical frameworks to evaluate the literature within historical, (multi/inter)cultural, and philosophical contexts.
- demonstrate orally and in college-level writing an analytical understanding of the literary texts.

- demonstrate appropriate formatting and documentation.

Course Content

A. Major writers and canonical texts

- Old English writers and texts (e.g., *Caedmon's Hymn*, *Beowulf*)
- Middle English period (e.g., Chaucer, the Gawain poet, de France, Kempe)
- Early Modern period (e.g., Shakespeare, Spenser)
- Neoclassical writers
 - Restoration (e.g., Milton, Dryden, Behn)
 - Augustan Age (e.g., Swift, Pope, Defoe)
 - Age of Reason (e.g., Johnson, Equiano, Burney)

B. Literary genres and forms

- Old English forms, including elegies, heroic narratives, alliterative verse
- Middle English forms, e.g. the lyric, verse romance
- Early modern sonnet and drama, blank verse
- Metaphysical poetry
- Heroic couplet
- Rise of the novel

C. Relevant critical and theoretical frameworks

- Historical perspectives, including dominant ethical, philosophical, political, religious, social, and aesthetic perspectives in the literature of this period
- Gender studies
- Queer theories; sexuality studies
- Psychological theories (Freudian, Jungian)
- Marxian and other socioeconomic frameworks
- Theories of race and ethnicity
- Postcolonial and neocolonial studies
- Formalist theories

D. Analytical understanding of the literary texts

- Class discussion regarding analytical reading of literary texts
 - Composition of literary analysis essays on the literary texts
 - Recognition of linguistic differences between Old, Middle, and Early Modern English
- E. Formatting and documentation
- Modern Language Association (MLA)
 - American Psychological Association (APA)

Lab Content

Not applicable.

Special Facilities and/or Equipment

- When taught on campus, no special facility or equipment needed.
- When taught via Foothill Global Access, ongoing access to computer with email and basic software capabilities.

Method(s) of Evaluation

- Examinations as determined by instructor
- Composition of at least one formal literary analysis
- Informal assignments as determined by instructor
- Class discussion
- Formal presentations (at instructor's discretion)

Method(s) of Instruction

- Reading and discussion of texts in the British literary canon
- Lectures on the literature and its historical, social, and theoretical contexts
- Group projects and presentations

D. Literary analysis, oral and written

Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

Instructors may choose from anthologies and/or single-author texts specific to the literary periods. Examples include:

Greenblatt, Stephen, ed. [The Norton Anthology of English Literature](#). 10th ed. Volume A: The Middle Ages. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2018.

Greenblatt, Stephen, ed. [The Norton Anthology of English Literature](#). 10th ed. Volume B: The Sixteenth Century and the Early Seventeenth Century. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2018.

Greenblatt, Stephen, ed. [The Norton Anthology of English Literature](#). 10th ed. Volume C: The Restoration and Eighteenth Century. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2018.

Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

- A. Reading from representative literary texts as assigned by instructor
- B. Quizzes on reading comprehension of assigned literary texts
- C. Individual and small group presentations on the literature and its historical, cultural, and theoretical contexts
- D. Analytical and reader response journal assignments on readings
- E. Formal literary analysis essay demonstrating comprehension and critical thinking

Discipline(s)

English