

South Plains College

Course Syllabus: ENGL 2321

British Literature

Revised July 2026

Department: English and Philosophy

Division: Arts and Sciences

Course Number: English 2321-151

Course Title: British Literature

Format: Online

Campuses: Online

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Instructor: Ms. Mollie Moore

Office Location: Levelland, CM 102

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Phone: 806-716-2444

Email: mmoore@southplainscollege.edu

Course Description & Purpose: This course is a study of selected significant works of British literature and may include study of movements, schools, or periods. English 2321 introduces students to some of the great works of British literature, from the Middle Ages through the present, which helped to shape modern literature, language, and culture. This course includes the general historical background, as well as the principles of literary criticism appropriate to the literature.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1302 **Credit:** 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

Core Curriculum: This course satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement

Language, Philosophy, and Culture Foundational Component Area. Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Social Responsibility**—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Understand the distinguishing elements of non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and drama for the appropriate time period
2. Understand the major elements of literature that are highlighted by the instructor
3. Be able to discuss the distinguishing characteristics of British Middle Ages, Renaissance, Restoration, Romantic, Victorian, and Modern literature and analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.
4. Show an understanding and competent application of the elements of the writing process in all writing situations as developed in English 1301 and 1302
5. Show an understanding and refinement of the skills of expository and argumentative writing already developed in English 1301 and 1302
6. Apply critical thinking to the study of literature and to the writing of analytical essays
7. Use a library and relevant internet sources for research purposes
8. Research and write an accurately documented paper, using MLA style or other assigned documentation style
9. Participate in class discussions and group work over the literature in the course
10. Make constructive suggestions for others' work during peer critiques or presentations

Student Learning Outcomes and Core Curriculum Objectives

Assessment: Students must write a proctored diagnostic essay before access to the course material is granted. A post-test and/or a writing project rubric will be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester.

Textbook:

Our course texts are **provided by open resource links and documents within the Blackboard** course. I have provided a suggested print copy list, if you would like to buy print versions of the major readings. **These are not required**, and you can also use any version you might have or want of the works. These are just some suggestions.

- *Beowulf: A New Verse Translation* translated by Seamus Heaney (I use the Norton Critical Edition)
- *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight: The Original and Translated Version* translated by William Allan Neilson
- *Macbeth: No Fear Shakespeare* edition edited by John Crowther
- *Frankenstein: The 1818 Text* by Mary Shelley (I use the Norton Critical Edition)
- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad (I use the edition by Karen Swallow Prior *A Guide to Reading and Reflecting*)

Supplies: Access to a computer with printer and reliable internet access

Technology Requirements:

1. **SPC username and password:** email helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu or call the SPC Help Desk at 806-716-2600 for help with your username/password
2. **SPC student email access:**
 - **SPC Student Email Account:** If you haven't already, you must go ahead and activate your SPC student email account. Not only will you need access to your SPC email account to receive TURNITIN digital paper submission receipts for our class, but you must use it to communicate with me.
 - Your SPC Email address is: **yourSPCusername@southplainscollege.edu** (ex. jsmith1234@southplainscollege.edu).
 - Your student email password is the same as your Blackboard password. If you need help, call the SPC Help Desk at 806-716-2600.
 - To access your SPC email account, log in to [MySPC here](#)
 - You can also set up access to your SPC email account through mobile phone mail apps, such as default smartphone Mail app or the Outlook app.
 - Check with the SPC Help Desk for assistance: 806-716-2600.
3. **Regular access to a computer and reliable internet service:**
 - Open computer labs are available free to students with an SPC I.D. on all SPC campuses (Levelland, Lubbock Downtown Center, Lubbock Career and Technical Center, Plainview).
 - Computer or internet connection problems may occur for you at some point this semester. **Understand that it is your responsibility to find alternate computers you may use to submit your work on time.** Find your alternate resources **now**; do not wait until you suddenly need them! Line up three friends TODAY who would be willing to loan you a laptop if yours suddenly crashes.

- Free WiFi is available in all SPC campus buildings, some SPC parking lots, most coffee shops, etc.
- 4. **Blackboard:** grades, assignments, quizzes, videos, and many other resources for this class are accessed through the Blackboard learning management system. Use your SPC credentials to log in here: <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com>
- 5. **Google Docs:** Since the advent of AI technology, I ask students to use Google Documents to write papers for this course. Google Docs allows students to prove their process of writing through the history of a document. If you do not already have a Google account, it is free to set up here: [Create your Google Account](#)
- 6. **Office 365: Word and PowerPoint:** You are required to use Microsoft Word to create papers for this course. As a member of the SPC community, you have free access to Office 365. Office 365 provides free online access to Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, and 1TB of free online storage with Microsoft OneDrive. You can use Office 365 online or download for free and install to your PC, Mac, or mobile device.
 - To access Office 365 for free as an SPC student, go to <https://www.office.com> and sign in with the following credentials:
SPCUsername@southplainscollege.edu and your SPC password.
 - You can then click the link for the individual application you want to use online, or click the install Office link towards the top right to install the application to your computer.
- 7. **Adobe Reader:** Available to download free from this website:
<http://www.adobe.com/products/reader.html>

Help: Need help with your computer, laptop, email address, or username and password?

- helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu
- 806-716-2600

Blackboard Help:

1. **Get Help by Email:** blackboard@southplainscollege.edu
 - Be sure to include your full name, your instructor's name, the course and section you are enrolled in, and a detailed description of the problem.
 - The blackboard@southplainscollege.edu account is monitored from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., Monday – Sunday.
 - You can expect a response within 24 hours by email; however, the average response time is less than one hour.
2. **Get Help by Phone:** 806-716-2180 (available between 8 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday, except on holidays)
3. **Get Help Online:** click on the Help link listed in the Blackboard course menu.

SPC Tutors

Tutoring is FREE for all currently enrolled students. Make an appointment or drop-in for help at any SPC location or online! Visit the link below to learn more about how to book an appointment, view the tutoring schedule, get to know the tutors, and view tutoring locations:

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php>

- Email: tutoring@southplainscollege.edu
- Phone: 806-716-2538

Course Organization:

- The course is organized into 5 units and lasts 5 weeks. Each week has its own folder under its unit on the **Course Content** page in our Blackboard course.
- All weekly assignments are due before 1:00 PM each of the 4 MONDAYS of the class, and 1:00 PM on the final THURSDAY of the class.
- LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED

Assignment Deadlines: The weekly assignment deadline is Monday at 1:00 PM. And, the last due date is Thursday, August 6th at 1:00 PM.

Grade Calculation:

A final letter grade will be assigned based on this grading scale: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (59 and below). Essay portfolio grades are usually made up of an outline, initial drafts, peer review workshops, and final draft.

Discussion Boards [5] = **30%**

Daily Work = **20%**

(Includes but not limited to:

- Blackboard Quizzes
- And CPB entries)

Responses [4] = **20%**

(In the form of:

- papers,
- videos,
- audio recordings, etc.)

Midterm Paper (Multiple source) = **15%**

Final Commonplace Book Project = **15%**

Total: **100%**

Each week, click on the **Gradebook** link in the Blackboard menu to view your grades and current average. If at any time you wish to discuss your course progress, contact me.

General Guidelines for Written Assignments:

1. All papers should meet the guidelines of the assignment prompt and be properly formatted in MLA 9th edition. You are responsible for understanding and following MLA format and asking questions when needed. Here's a quick overview: <https://www.scribbr.com/mla/formatting/>. Final drafts should be double-spaced, and written in a 12-point, readable font. The title of your essay should be centered; the body of your essay should be left-aligned. Margins should be one inch wide on all sides. A correct heading and running header are required. Points will be deducted for final drafts that do not meet basic formatting standards for a college essay.
2. **All major assignments should be written in GOOGLE DOCS for your protection from false AI-detection. If a paper is flagged for AI-generated materials, you MUST PROVIDE THE GOOGLE DOCUMENT SHOWING HOW YOU WROTE THE PAPER. When submitting to the course, please download your Google Document into a Word (.docx) file.** Do not submit PDF, gdoc, .pages, .odt, .rtf, or .txt files. I will not accept assignments written in the "Submission Text" or "Comments" portion of the submission link. Incorrectly submitted files are counted late until the appropriate file type is uploaded. Any

submission that is blank or corrupt is considered late until properly submitted. Make sure you receive a successful submission confirmation from TURNITIN. Essays submitted with less than half the required word count earn a zero by default.

Essay Assessment Guidelines:

Essays may earn grades ranging from A to F based on the instructor's grading scale. Depending on the assignment, certain criteria may be weighted more than others, and the instructor's assignment may establish additional, more specific criteria. The quality of each of the criteria determines the letter grade. Not every essay will fit a single grade's description completely.

"A" Essay (Superior)

To earn an "A," a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The paper states a clear thesis, all topic sentences strongly support the thesis, and body paragraphs are unified around their topic sentences. The essay conveys a clear purpose and is tailored to a distinctive audience.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs contain abundant, fresh details and examples that provide specific, concrete, logical evidence. If sources are required, the paper accurately integrates and correctly documents credible source material to add insight, sophistication, and complexity to the paper's ideas.
4. **Coherence:** The organization of the paper is excellent and logical (emphatic order, chronological order, etc.), transitions are sophisticated, and the paper exhibits mastery of basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) and is virtually free of other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice and sentence variety (simple, compound, complex) are effective and powerful.

"B" Essay (Strong)

To earn a "B," a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The paper states a clear thesis, all topic sentences directly support the thesis, and body paragraphs display unity. The essay conveys good awareness of purpose and audience.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs are well-developed with specific details, examples, and sound logic. If sources are required, the paper accurately uses and correctly documents credible source material to supplement its ideas.
4. **Coherence:** The organization of the paper is clear and helpful, transitions are helpful, and the paper exhibits strong basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than two major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) and very few other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice and sentence variety are strong.

"C" Paper (Acceptable)

To earn a "C," a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** A thesis is stated but may lack a strong claim or be obvious or predictable; topic sentences adequately support the thesis. One error in paragraph unity may occur. The essay's purpose and audience are adequately conveyed.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs contain relevant details or logical reasons but need more specific examples/evidence. If sources are required, credible outside sources are usually integrated and cited correctly.
4. **Coherence:** Organization of ideas is satisfactory, transitions are logical, and the paper indicates competence in basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than four major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form). Some other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors are present but not distracting. Word choice and sentence variety are strong.

"D" Paper (Developing)

To earn a "D," a paper will exhibit *one or more* of the weaknesses below:

1. The paper only partially fulfills one or more of the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The thesis may announce the topic but no claim, contain more than one idea, or be too vague, too broad, or too narrow. Topic sentences are not tied to the thesis. Two errors in paragraph unity may occur. Essay conveys little awareness of audience or purpose.
3. **Support:** Details are sparse or vague and consist of generalizations, clichés, or repetition. If applicable, sources are insufficient and/or not always integrated or cited correctly.
4. **Coherence:** Organization is attempted but disjointed or confusing; transitions are sparse. The paper indicates awareness of but not competence in basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than six major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form). Several other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors distract from the content. Informal word choices occur with little or no variety in sentence type and length.

"F" Paper (Unacceptable)

To earn an "F," a paper will exhibit *one or more* of the weaknesses below:

1. The paper fails to fulfill one or more of the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The thesis is illogical, incomplete, or missing, so the essay lacks focus on one central idea. Topic sentences are missing, so body paragraphs lack unity. The essay ignores the purpose and audience.
3. **Support:** Details are illogical, irrelevant, or missing from body paragraphs. If sources are required, the paper fails to use sources, does not meet the minimum source requirements, uses source material inaccurately, uses sources that are not credible, fails to document fully or correctly, and/or includes plagiarism.
4. **Coherence:** Organization is incoherent, transitions are missing or illogical, or the paper indicates lack of competence in basic paper components (for example, lack of introduction and/or conclusion, lack of paragraphing).
5. **Sentence Skills:** Seven or more major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) occur with numerous

other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice is often inaccurate, immature, or inappropriate. Multiple sentence structure/syntax errors make the paper difficult or almost impossible to read. If one type or a combination of types of errors, regardless of whether they are major or minor, seriously affects the readability of a paper, it will receive an "F."

Student Responsibilities:

1. Be on time and regularly attend class (log in frequently if an online course)
2. Be responsible for the learning process, including preparation for class, such as reading and homework; participation in class discussions, including asking relevant questions; getting assignments and/or notes if absent; and accepting responsibility for not understanding an assignment or failing an assignment
3. Have a cooperative attitude and use appropriate language in academic environments; avoid condescending, inflammatory, threatening, or profane rhetoric, whether verbally or in written form
4. Behave respectfully toward instructor and classmates to contribute to the atmosphere necessary for learning
5. Be courteous to others, especially by putting away cell phones and other distractions while in class
6. Write down all grades and apply them to the grading scale used for the class, which is shown in the syllabus
7. Submit all assignments in accordance with due dates, formats, and requirements
8. Avoid all forms of cheating and plagiarism on all assignments, including improper collaboration and unauthorized AI usage
9. Ask questions when something is unclear

Attendance: To be successful in this course, you must attend consistently and punctually and participate fully. For in-person courses, attendance counts as part of your course grade.

1. Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" (in-person class) or who have not logged into the Blackboard class (for a fully online course) by the official census date will be administratively dropped by the Admissions Office.
2. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class each day. If you miss more than 15 minutes of class at any point during a class meeting, you are counted absent and receive 0 attendance points for that day. Be aware that you must be mentally present in class to be counted present for the day. Additionally, students who are unable to participate in discussion when called upon will receive 0 attendance points for that day.
3. Please present an official SPC notification in advance if you are going to miss class for a school-sponsored event. I will work with you to avoid missing any deadlines.
4. **It's your responsibility to drop the course if you stop attending.**
5. I will accommodate extenuating circumstances at my discretion.

Late Work Policy*

Note that this late policy applies to **major assignments only (Midterm essay and final project). Late work is not accepted for any reason on all other assignments, such as quizzes, activities, or discussions.*

1. If you submit after the deadline without a prior authorization for an extension, 20% is automatically deducted from your grade, and this penalty increases by 10% each day

until submission. Major assignments will not be accepted more than one week after the deadline.

2. If technical difficulties prevent you from submitting a major assignment, **email me and attach the assignment or document the issue including a timestamp**. This may help avoid late penalties in the event of technical difficulties, but you're expected to upload the final draft appropriately after technical issues are resolved. I will not grade assignments sent via email.

Dropping the Class: The last day to withdraw/drop from a course this semester is listed on the academic calendar [here](#). It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Otherwise, students will be assigned their earned letter grade at the end of the course. Course grades are continually available in Blackboard each week. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php>.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in this course. Do not under any circumstances use words you didn't write in an essay or assignment without proper documentation. If you're not sure about proper documentation, you must reach out via email or office hours to ensure academic integrity. Plagiarism will automatically result in an F for the assignment and can result in getting dropped from the course with an F. In addition, an Academic Dishonesty Report may be filed with the Dean of Students.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Using Artificial Intelligence websites or apps to generate, revise, or translate all or part of a paper or other assignment; **Artificial Intelligence Statement & Procedure:** I have an ethical responsibility to ensure that all students receive credit for only work that they have originally and ethically produced. Any evidence of AI through detection software or faculty review may be subject to further investigation. It is your responsibility as a student to demonstrate that your work is original in order to avoid penalties or plagiarism violations. I encourage all students to keep a comprehensive draft history and track changes in Microsoft Word as a precaution. This is the easiest way to prove authorship and protect your academic integrity as a student in the age of AI. In certain cases, work containing evidence of AI assistance will require an instructor meeting or Zoom conference and/or proctored writing sample. These conferences may be recorded and/or reviewed by additional faculty members, and a determination will be made as to whether there is satisfactory evidence of authorship to earn credit for the assignment. Failure to respond to an instructor request for authorship verification will be considered an acceptance of the penalty for AI usage per the plagiarism policy.
2. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another writer or from an online site;
3. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
4. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them;
5. Submitting an assignment for this course that you also submitted to another course without my express approval;
6. Missing in-text citations and/or missing works cited entries.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
 2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
 3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, texting, internet, Quizlet, etc.) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
 4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
 5. Taking an examination for another;
 6. Altering grade records;
 7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
 8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Reviews so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
 9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.
- **DO NOT RECYCLE OLD PAPERS FOR THIS CLASS:** You may not submit the same or a revised version of a paper you wrote previously for this or another class. In other words, you will be expected to write new, original papers for each written assignment you complete this semester.

Diversity, Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy
Accommodations, Campus Concealed Carry, COVID: For information
regarding official South Plains College policies on these topics, please visit:
<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/> &
<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/covid19-faq.php#>