This survey course will address British literature from the Romantics to the Postmoderns and examine the quest for empire. The British Empire spanned the world and linked a quarter of world's population to Britain through a shared, official allegiance to the Crown. Thus, Britain has—through language, education, and culture—shaped globalization, and the world.

From Blake to Beckett, Austen to Yates, we will attempt to understand the literature, culture, and history of Britain as we address themes of: nation and empire, women’s rights, scientific and economic revolutions, aesthetic beauty, war, religion, race, language, and definitions of the individual. We will also work to understand how these themes continue to impact our current global culture and national identities as we strive to create social justice in a post-colonial economy.