

ENGL 3220 – 001
Summer 2016, 1st session
Dr. Carey Mickalites

Class Meetings: M – F, 8:55 – 10:30
Office: TBD
Office Hours: M – Th, 10:30 – 11:00
Email: cjmcklts@memphis.edu

Course Description

In this course we will read a range of selected influential works from the late 18th century to the present. The course is organized into periods of literary history, spanning the Romantics, the Victorian era, modernism, and the contemporary. We will read individual works closely, focusing on form and genre, style, figurative language, and the like, but will also balance this approach with attention to the historical and cultural contexts in which British literature has been shaped and received. Thus, class time will alternate between close readings in discussion and lectures that help us see the literary texts in their broader historical contexts.

Assignments and Requirements

Students will write 3 short essays and take a midterm and final exam. We will use some class time for writing workshops. There will also be occasional quizzes, and consistent and thoughtful participation will also be a factor in students' grades.

Reading List

*Note: The books have been ordered through the university bookstore, but I highly recommend that you buy them online, making sure that the ISBNs match those in the list below. While I encourage you to buy used copies of the books, please make sure to get clean copies (without excessive highlighting or other marking).

English Romantic Poetry: An Anthology (Dover). ISBN: 978-0486292823
Thomas Hardy, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. (Signet Classic). ISBN: 0-451-52519-1
Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Dover).
ISBN: 0-486-26688-5
Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Dover). ISBN: 978-0486264783
James Joyce, *Dubliners* (Penguin). ISBN: 0-14-018647-6
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (Harvest/Harcourt Brace). ISBN: 0-15-600555-7
Zadie Smith, *White Teeth* (Vintage). ISBN: 0-375-70386-1

*We will also read a selection of Victorian short fiction, which I distribute electronically.

Course Outcomes

Students should:

- Acquire a broad knowledge of British literature and culture from the late eighteenth century to the present, and better understand how literature engages with significant political, social, and cultural changes
- Become familiar with significant literary forms in English, including sonnets, odes, novellas and novels, and drama
- Become more confident and competent in discussing literary texts: how they work and what they say about British culture
- Advance skills in writing about literature (and in writing in general).