

ENGL 3220.001 Fall 2017: Toward Empire
MW 2:20-3:45
Rhonda Powers
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Course Prerequisite: A grade of C or better in English 1010, 1020, and 2201 or the equivalents

Required Texts:

Damrosch, David, ed. *The Longman Anthology of British Literature*. 5th ed. Vols 2A, 2B, 2C: New York: Longman, 2012. ISBN: 9780205235964

Course Description:

In “The Function of Criticism at the Present Time,” Matthew Arnold argues that the “business” of criticism, the practice of reading, thinking, and writing about literature, is “simply to know the best that is known and thought in the world.” This course will challenge you, as a critical reader, to address some of the texts that have been considered “the best that is known and thought” and to ask if that designation is true, hopefully with the end of creating “true and fresh ideas.”

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 as we understand it. In this course, we will attempt to understand British literature, culture, and history 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, as well as the impact these have had upon current global culture.