
ENGL 3210 – 001: British Literature to 1750

Instructor.	Dr. Darryl P. Domingo	Office Hrs.	M / W / F: 9:10 – 10:05am
Location.	Patterson Hall 331	Phone.	(901) 678-3458
Time.	M / W: 12:15 – 1:15pm	E-Mail.	dphnrhnd@memphis.edu
Office.	Patterson Hall 407	Session.	Jan. 19 – May 6, 2027

Course Description. This course will introduce students to the formative periods in the British literary tradition, beginning in the eighth century and running through to the middle of the eighteenth century. The course will survey some of the major authors and major works of the complex periods classified by literary historians as the Medieval, the Early Modern, and the Restoration and Eighteenth Century. We will examine the development of genres and themes over time and analyze their connection to broader developments in British culture. Yet given how foreign early British literature can often feel—the strangeness, curiosity, and novelty with which twenty-first century readers experience works written between the eighth and eighteenth centuries—this section of ENGL 3210 will pay particular attention to the ways in which authors reflect upon the very problems associated with cultural difference and historical distance. How do these authors represent their own bewilderment at an expanding world and exploding worldview? What do their works say about the experience of novelty and the relationship of the new to the traditional, the familiar, the old? Through what means does early British literature reconcile the past with a dynamic, changing present? How might the lessons of literary history help us to understand the value of a canon of literature that can seem out of date?

Required Reading. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, Volume 1(A-C), 11th edition, ed. Stephen Greenblatt *et. al.* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2024 / 9781324072805).

Learning Outcomes. Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify and analyze major authors and works from the period between the eighth century and the middle of the eighteenth century.
- Explain characteristic genres and define poetic, dramatic, and narrative terms relevant to the literature of this period.
- Formally analyze poetic language, including the use of prosody, tropes and figures of speech, rhetoric, and other literary devices.
- Describe the social, political, cultural, material, bibliographical, and, in general, the broad historical contexts of literary texts from this period.
- Orally discuss critical issues concerning Medieval, Early Modern, and Restoration and Eighteenth-Century literature, and write about them in a clear and coherent manner.
- Employ the conventions of Standard Written English and MLA style.