ENG 231: Modern British Literature 1790-present
MW 11:00-12:20pm
Office Hours: MW 10:00-10:45am  Room 10 Annex Mohegan Campus
Office Phone: 892 5763
Email: szander@trcc.commnet.edu

Required Texts

Novel TBA

Course Description
This course is a chronological survey of British Literature from 1790 through the Twentieth century. Through the close reading of selected works of the Romantic, Victorian, Modern and post-Modern periods, emphasis will be placed upon the unfolding British literary tradition and its intellectual background. Themes include British patriarchy, women’s rights and the emergence of feminism, imperialism and nationalism, and the crisis of traditional belief systems including religious, social and political institutions. Writing assignments will stress critical analysis including the incorporation of various critical approaches.

Learning Objectives
At the completion of Eng 231, students should be able to:

- recognize and define the major concerns of the Romantic, Victorian, Modern and post-Modern British literary periods;
- recognize changes in both poetic and fictional forms and understand those changes within historic and cultural contexts;
- strengthen the ability to use the basic elements of formalist criticism to deepen literary understanding;
- strengthen the ability to use other critical strategies such as psychological, feminist, new historical, cultural, Marxist, post-colonial, reader response;
- strengthen the ability to distinguish how different critical theories affect interpretation and levels of meaning, and to recognize the validity of differing interpretations;
- strengthen the ability to incorporate independent research into both class discussion and written work;
- formulate own perspectives about both meaning and structure in a work of literature, and support that perspective with specifics from the text;
- write analytical, evaluative essays about literature which present interpretations and support them with evidence from texts;
- use MLA parenthetical style more adeptly to document references to texts.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING
Essays

You will be asked to write two formal essays on topics generated from your reading and class discussions. All essays must follow MLA form. Essay #1 will be 5-8 pages (1250-2000 words) in length (1250 words), and Essay #2 will be a minimum of 8 pages (2000 words). If you use outside sources, I require that copies, marked according to directions, be submitted with your essay. ALL ESSAYS WHICH CITE OUTSIDE SOURCES THAT ARE NOT SUBMITTED WITH COPIES OF SOURCES WILL NOT BE GRADED.

Class presentation.
Each student will present on a text from the list or on a topic of their choice. If the topic is from an outside source, the student is responsible for providing copies for all class members (including me). In addition to the oral presentation, students will then write up their presentation, ensuing class discussion and explore the issues the text raises. The written version of the presentation, including the response from the class, will be due two weeks from the date of the oral presentation.

2. Class Participation

Constructive participation is expected; therefore, it is important that you come to class ready to discuss the assignments. If you are not prepared, you will find it difficult to participate in class conversations and your work will reflect your lack of engagement.

FINAL GRADES

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<td>Essay #1</td>
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<td>Essay #2</td>
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<td>Oral presentation/essay</td>
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<td>Mid-term</td>
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<td>Final in-class essay</td>
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<td>Class participation</td>
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ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED ON TIME, TYPED AND FOLLOW MLA FORMAT. LATE ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED UP TO ONE WEEK PAST THE DUE DATE BUT WILL BE DOWNGRADED ONE LEVEL.

COURSE POLICY

Attendance

Attendance is a requirement. Two or more absences will have a negative affect on your grade. If you miss class, it is up to you to find out what you have missed and make up the work in whatever way you can.

Classroom Decorum

If you are late, leave class early, or allow your cell phone to ring, you are being disruptive. I expect you to come to class on time with all the necessary texts and remain in the classroom for the entire period. Disruptive behavior will have a negative affect on your grade.
Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the intentional use of someone else’s words or ideas. It is a serious violation of academic standards that is subject to one or more of the following penalties: a failing grade for the paper; a failing grade for the course; a report to the administrative authorities for appropriate action (i.e. a notation on the student’s permanent record, suspension, or expulsion). Please read the Academic Integrity Policy in the TRCC catalogue.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Any student with a hidden or visible disability which may require classroom modification should see me during the first week or two of class so that an appropriate plan to meet your needs may be arranged.

WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASS
Up to March 30th a student may officially withdraw at the Registrar’s Office for any reason without the signature of faculty. From March 30th to April 23rd a student may withdraw with the signature of the instructor or advisor. Any student who stops attending class, but does not officially withdraw, will receive a grade of F for the course.

MESSAGES AND CONFERENCES
If you need to reach me, please call my office phone. I am also available during office hours and look forward to meeting with you to discuss your work. If my office hours are not convenient for you, please make an appointment to see me at another time.
ENG 232 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week One
M 8/30:
  Introduction
  Historical and literary background prior to 1790
W 9/1 Reading Due: Introduction (1-22); English Controversy about the Revolution (117-150). Note: You may find the prose style a bit of a challenge, but I’m hoping that these contemporaneous essays and poems will provide a context for reading the Romantics.

Week Two
M 9/6 NO CLASSES

Week Three
M 9/13 CONVOCATION: Auditorium 11am-12pm.
You may either 1) Attend the Convocation and write a 500 word response on the ways in which this ceremony defines education OR 2) Write a 750 word response on Mary Wollstonecraft’s *Frankenstein* (903-1033) that answers the question: How does Victor Frankenstein’s version of his quest for knowledge (921-38) define education?
W 9/15 Wordsworths cont.

Week Four
  Shelley: “To Wordsworth” (648), From *A Defence of Poetry* (752)

Week Five
M 9/27 Blake: Excerpts from *Songs of Innocence and Experience* (43-59)

Week Six
M 10/4 Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley *Frankenstein* (903)
W Discussion cont.

Week Seven
M 10/11 MID-TERM
W 10/13 The Victorian Age: Introduction (1043-64) “Evolution” (1679-5) “Industrialism: Progress or Decline?” (1697-1717); “The Woman Question” (1719-39);

Week Eight
M 10/18 Carlyle: “Portraits…” (1070-6), The French Revolution (1103-9) Newman: The Idea of a University (1121-27) W 10/20 John Stuart Mill (1137-66); George Eliot: “Margaret Fuller and Mary Wollstonecraft” (1456-61) and “Silly Novels by Lady Novelists” (1461-9) ESSAY #1 Due

Week Nine
M 10/25 Middlemarch W 10/27 Middlemarch

Week Ten
M 11/1 Middlemarch W 11/3 Middlemarch

Week Eleven

Week Twelve
M 11/15 Tennyson: selected poems incl. “Ulysses’ (1213); “The Lotos Eaters” (1208); “The Lady of Shallot” (1204); “The Charge of the Light Brigade” (1280). W 11/17 Robert Browning: selected poems incl. “Pophyria’s Lover” (1187); “My Last Duchess” (1190); “Fra Lippo Lippi” (1211); “Andrea del Sarto” (1222). Kipling (1863-93)

Week Thirteen
M 11/22 The Twentieth Century Introduction (1897-14) W 11/25 NO CLASS

Week Fourteen

Week Fifteen
M 12/6 Summation W 12/8 In-class Essay

Please Note: Some of the texts on this schedule will be given to students as oral reports. Those reports will then form the basis of a paper.