

**Course number and section:** ENGL 221.101

**Course Topic:** Foundations: Literature in Historical Context 2

**Credits:** 3

**Term:** Winter T2, 2020 (Jan.-April, 2021)

**Instructor:** Dr. Jennifer Gustar

**Course Description:** This is a survey of the literature of England, from the 19th century to the Modern period. In poetry, we start with the Romantics: Blake, Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley and Byron; from the Victorian period, we look at Christina Rossetti and Robert Browning. Of the modernists, we will study T.S Eliot and the WWI poets. In terms of fiction, we will study Jane Austen (or Charles Dickens) and Virginia Woolf. We complete the course with a brief selection of contemporary poetry and short stories. I always try to contextualize this literary history within the larger history of humanism and its discontents--empire, colonialism, industrialisation, as well as gender inequality--so that we gain a solid understanding of the ways in which this specific literary history engages far-reaching and persistent issues.

**Method of Course Delivery:** On-Campus. At present, Term 2 courses are scheduled to return to face-to-face, live classroom delivery in January 2021.

**Course Format:** Lecture, seminar and discussion

**Course Objectives:**

- Understand and appreciate the key developments in literature in Britain from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the contemporary period.
- Develop the ability to contextualize major trends in British literature.
- Distinguish between major literary movements such as romanticism, modernism, social realism, etc.
- Comprehend impacts of different genre conventions
- Understand developments that impacted literature such as industrialization and colonialism, the quest for women's rights.
- Develop an appreciation of diverse historical genres such as satire, lyric, novel.
- Acquire an understanding of the relationship between literary expression, historical conditions, and cultural knowledge.
- Engage in research.
- Learn interdisciplinary methodologies for the study of literature and culture.
- Increase current understanding of theories, concepts and terminology, which inform our broader understanding of literature and culture.
- Improve critical thinking and assessment.
- Learn how to engage in close readings.
- Advance ability to write convincingly in the university setting, incorporating research.

**Required Reading:**

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Major Authors*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition, Volume 2.

2 novels (in addition to the anthology): To be determined.

**Other:** This is a gateway course intended to prepare students for success in upper-level English classes. For this reason, in terms of methodologies, I focus on fostering close reading and research skills. I also schedule at least one class to deal with essay structure, format, and thesis development.