

**ENGL-3260-M01: British Literature: 1800 to the Present**

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus

Spring 2017 (Draft: December 16, 2016)

Class Time: Mondays and Wednesdays – 14:30-15:45

Classroom: San Ignacio Hall – PRH 3

Prerequisite: One 2000-level English literature course, or equivalent

Credits: 3

Instructors: Paul Vita, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 16:00-17:00 pm, or by appointment

**Description:** This course examines representative works of nineteenth- and twentieth-century British literature in light of major historical and cultural developments. It is strongly recommended for English majors.

**Required Texts:** All texts are available through the Madrid Campus Book Service; on-line editions/texts are also available and have been posted on the Blackboard Website.

Wordsworth, William (and Samuel T. Coleridge). *Lyrical Ballads*

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*

Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*

Kipling, Rudyard. *Kim*

Woolf, Virginia. *To the Lighthouse*

Orwell, George. *Homage to Catalonia*

Smith, Zadie. *White Teeth*

Selected Poems by Rossetti, Tennyson, Hopkins, Owen, and Yeats.

Recommended: A Handbook of Literary Terms (for example, that of Abrams)

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students who complete this course will be able to:

- Situate texts within key intellectual and aesthetic movements of literary and cultural history;
- Analyze how texts respond to and shape the cultural conditions of their moment; and
- Write with an awareness of how the present historical moment informs our understanding of the past

**Learning Objectives:** Essay assignments, exams, quizzes, class lectures and discussions, and instructor conferences will focus (and provide evidence of) student ability to do the following:

- Interpret passages from literary texts, connect and compare these interpretations, and combine them to sustain an argument about issues raised by the works read across the semester;
- Define, identify, analyze and evaluate literary devices and techniques that writers use;
- Recognize common concerns and themes raised by the works read as well as individual author's responses to social and cultural issues;
- Show knowledge and understanding of literary form through the ability to answer questions about:
  - the form and content of the works themselves;
  - the historical context of the works read;
  - approaches to the study of literature;
  - the relevance of literature to readers in the twenty-first century.
- Follow MLA citation and documentation guidelines in essays.

## Course Requirements and Grading Rationale

1. Class attendance, preparation (including reading responses) and participation in class meetings – 15%.
2. Three essays, ranging from 4-7 pages in length – 60%
3. Three exams: two 45-minute in-class exams and one final exam at the end of the term – 25% (5% for each in-class exam; 10% for the final).

**Class Trip to London:** To contextualize and respond to the works we are reading together, there are several *optional* class activities, including a trip to London (February 9-12). Those participating on the London trip must make payment for it during the “Change of Registration” period in order for our staff to purchase theatre tickets, etc. The prices currently posted on the web are approximate; the final price will be based on the number of students who plan to participate by the last day of the Add/Drop period. Students who plan to participate in the trip but withdraw from the class are not entitled to a refund. Please review SLU-Madrid's trip policies, available [online](#). In addition to the London trip, other optional class activities include a visit to Madrid's *Museo de Romanticismo*, film/theatre excursions in Madrid, and “In the Footsteps of Orwell” Tour of Barcelona.

**Attendance, Preparation, and Participation:** Absences will lower a student's grade; after four absences, the student risks failing the course. Students should come to class prepared, having read the assigned texts carefully and critically. Informal quizzes will be given to ensure that students are keeping up with the reading assignments.

**Response Papers:** For many of the works studied, students will be asked to write a short (one-paragraph) response to an issue to be discussed in class. Students submit these response via Blackboard *before* the class meeting. As these response assignments prepare students for class discussions, no extensions will be granted. If they are not submitted on time or if the student misses the class for which they are due, no credit will be given. These response essays will count toward the student's participation grade (5% of the final grade); completion of all responses will positively impact the student's preparation and participation in the course. Students who know in advance that they will be missing a class are expected to submit a response on time.

**Essays:** The first essay requires students to analyze a literary passage; the second asks students to consider an issue and to develop an argument based on close readings of texts in the context of their historical moment and participation in literary traditions; the third requires students to compare two works, informed by at least one secondary source. The instructor will distribute essay topics several weeks before each essay is due. Students may develop their own topics, but must secure the instructor's approval beforehand. Essays must follow MLA style guidelines. Students who anticipate not meeting an essay deadline must inform the instructor by e-mail before the due date and identify when the essay will be submitted; otherwise, the grade for the essay will be lowered. All three essays must be completed in order to pass the course.

**Revisions and Writing Assistance Center:** Revising essays requires rigorous re-thinking and re-writing. While students may revise any or all of their essays, they must contact the instructor before doing so—as the student may be required to work with teaching assistants at the English Writing Center (located in Padre Rubio Hall). The deadline for revising an essay is at least one class meeting before the next essay is due.

**Examinations:** There are two short exams and one final exam in this course. The exams will ask students to identify, analyze and discuss the significance of passages from the works we have read. They will also ask students to write essays that consider social and cultural issues that the various texts raise, respond to, and shape.

**Conferences:** Students are required to meet with the instructor at least once over the course of the term outside of class. If a student receives the grade of C- or lower on an essay or on midterm, he or she **must** make an appointment to meet with the instructor.

**Blackboard:** All course handouts will be posted on the class Blackboard intranet site, accessible through MySLU. In addition, students will be able to access all readings, all assignments, a course calendar, their grades, and additional resources on-line via this learning technology tool.

**Libraries and Research:** Most of the written work required for the course will be based on close readings of the literary works as cultural/historical artifacts, not on extensive research. Nonetheless SLU Madrid Library's collection holds several critical and theoretical works of especial interest to students of literature. Students also have access to the University's electronic resources via its Proxy Server, which hosts the MLA International Bibliography, the Oxford English Dictionary On-line, and several full-text journal databases.

**E-mail:** Announcements and additional information will often be handled by e-mail. Students should check their "@slu.edu" e-mail regularly.

**Students with Special Needs:** In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/learning-resources>.

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations **must** contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also **must** notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at [disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu](mailto:disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu) or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage. Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

**Assessment:** In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to accreditation requirements, SLU-Madrid regularly assesses its teaching, services and programs for evidence of student learning. For this purpose, SLU-Madrid keeps representative examples of student work from all courses and programs on file, including assignments, papers, exams, portfolios and results from student surveys, focus groups and reflective exercises. Copies of your work for this course may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer SLU-Madrid not to retain your work for this purpose, you must communicate this decision in writing to your professor.

**Bias-Free Environment (Title IX Statement):** Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 ([mmaruri@slu.edu](mailto:mmaruri@slu.edu); 915-54-5858, ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus. If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall ([counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu](mailto:counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu); 915-54-5858, ext. 230) or Sinews Multiplettherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid ([www.sinews.es](http://www.sinews.es); 917-00-

1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address:<http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

**Statement on Academic Integrity:** *Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors.* The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office [website](#). Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals.

The professor will review these matters during the first weeks of the term. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

### **Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

#### **Week 1: Course Introduction**

Wednesday, January 11 Wordsworth, "Preface" to *Lyrical Ballads* (LB)

#### **Week 2: England at the Onset of the Nineteenth Century**

Monday, January 16 Wordsworth & Coleridge, *LB*: "Tintern Abbey" & "Rime of the Ancient Mariner"

Wednesday, January 18 Austen, *Pride & Prejudice*, Volume I (Chapters 1-23)

#### **Week 3: The Romantics**

Monday, January 23 Wordsworth & Coleridge, *LB*: Selected Poems  
Last Day to Drop a Class Without a Grade of W and /or Add a Class, choose Audit (AU) or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) Options

Wednesday, January 25 Austen, *Pride & Prejudice*, Volume II (Chapters 24-42)

Friday, January 27 No Classes (University Holiday)

#### **Week 4: The Nineteenth-Century Novel**

Monday, January 30 Austen, *Pride & Prejudice*, Volume III (Chapter 43-end)

Wednesday, February 1 Dickens, *Great Expectations*, Chapters 1-3

Friday, February 3 First Essay Due

#### **Week 5: 1832 and the Reform Bill: Progress**

Monday, February 6 Rossetti, "Goblin Market"

Wednesday, February 8 Dickens, *Great Expectations*, Stage I (Chapters 4-19)

Thursday, February 9 – Sunday, February 12: Class Trip to London

#### **Week 6: Victorian England**

Monday, February 13 Dickens, *Great Expectations*, Stage II (Chapters 20-30)

Wednesday, February 15 Dickens, *Great Expectations*, Stage II (Chapters 31-39)  
Registration for Summer 2017 Sessions begins

#### **Week 7: Literature and Social Economics**

Monday, February 20 First Exam

Wednesday, February 22 Dickens, *Great Expectations*, Stage III (Chapter 40-end)

Thursday, February 23 – Sunday, February 25 Winter Break (no classes)

**Week 8: Fin de Siècle**

Monday, February 27 Tennyson, Selected Poems  
Midterm Grades Due in the Registrar's Office  
Wednesday, March 1 Kipling, *Kim* (Chapters 1-7)  
Ash Wednesday  
Friday, March 3 Class Screening: Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

**Week 9: Orientalists and Empire**

Monday, March 6 Hopkins, Selected Poems  
Wednesday, March 8 Kipling, *Kim* (Chapters 8-15)  
Friday, March 10 Second Essay Due  
Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of W

**Week 10: Modernism**

Monday, March 13 Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*: "The Window"  
Wednesday, March 15 Owen, Selected Poems

**Week 11: Literature and Psychology**

Monday, March 20 No Class (University Holiday)  
Wednesday, March 22 Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*: "Time Passes" and "The Lighthouse"

**Week 12: Twentieth-Century Literature**

Monday, March 27 Second Exam  
Wednesday, March 29 Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia* (Chapters 1-6)  
Registration for Fall 2017 Begins

**Week 13: Mid-century: Literature of Twentieth-Century Wars**

Monday, April 3 Yeats, Selected Poems  
Wednesday, April 5 Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia* (Chapters 7-12)  
Friday, April 7 Third Essay Due

**Semana Santa**

Saturday, April 8 – Sunday, April 16

**Week 14: Post-colonialism and Postmodernism**

Monday, April 17 Smith, *White Teeth* – Part I  
Wednesday, April 19 Smith, *White Teeth* – Part II

**Week 15: Contemporary British Literature**

Monday, April 24 Smith, *White Teeth* – Part III  
Wednesday, April 26 Smith, *White Teeth* – Part IV

**Review and Exam**

Monday, May 1 No Class (University Holiday)  
Wednesday, May 3 Review and Conclusions  
Tuesday, May 10 Final Exam (15:30)

Friday, May 11 Baccalaureate Mass & Prize Day  
Friday, May 12 Commencement Day!