

## **English Literature II**

**ENGL 2317**

**CRN 11118**

**Fall, 2010**

**Irby 313**

### **Syllabus**

English Literature II covers the period in literary history between the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 and the Romantic period, which ended in the early decades of the nineteenth century, though its effect was felt well into the twentieth century. Probably, no two periods stand in such stark contrast, at least on the surface. The writers of the Restoration and Neo-Classical period tended to be deeply traditional, politically conservative, and had pretty strict ideas about genres and the social responsibilities of the writer. The Romantics, on the other hand, tended to look to the future, were sometimes politically radical, and experimented both with poetic language and the subjects they gave serious treatment to in their poetry. But, for all these apparent differences, the writers of both periods were confronting a world that was changing rapidly in ways that were sometimes exciting but more often disturbing. Ways of life and ways of thinking that had been in existence for centuries were changing as money, industry, and trade began to eclipse land ownership as the source of both wealth and political and social power and prestige. Science was beginning to become a prominent cultural force and the reasoning faculty became more important as a subject of discussion and controversy as faith and tradition began to fade. If the Restoration and eighteenth-century writers seem today stodgy defenders of outworn traditions, they were nevertheless clear about what they were up against and what was at stake, and if the Romantics seemed more at ease with change, they, too, felt ill at ease in a time when industrialization and analytical thought seemed to be tearing apart all organic connection. The truth is the writers of both periods were witnessing the birth pangs of a new world. Whether that world has been for the good or the bad is still something we are trying to figure out.

### **Text:**

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, eighth edition, vols. C and D

### **Restoration and Eighteenth Century:**

John Dryden, "Absalom and Achitophel"

Jonathan Swift, "Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift"

*Gulliver's Travels*, Part IV

"A Modest Proposal"

### **Exam**

Alexander Pope, "An Essay on Man"

"An Essay on Criticism"

Samuel Johnson, *The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia*

### **Exam**

### **Romantic Period:**

William Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*

*Songs of Innocence and of Experience*

William Wordsworth, Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*

“Expostulation and Reply,” “Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey,” “Resolution and Independence,” and “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”

### **Exam**

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

John Keats, “Ode to a Nightingale,” “Ode on a Grecian Urn,” “The Eve of St. Agnes”

### **Final Exam**

I may need to make some minor changes in the syllabus as the semester unfolds, but I will notify you of any and all changes well in advance.

The exams will all be in-class essay exams and will be graded according to your ability to analyze and interpret the works and your success in explaining, expressing, and developing your ideas in clear and coherent writing. Your final grade will be based primarily on your performance on these exams, but I also take into account steady and marked improvement. In the case of borderline grades, I take into account class attendance and participation. (You are allowed three unexcused absences. After that, you need to talk to me.)

The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university’s Academic Integrity Policy, as approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student’s acceptance of the university policy.

I don’t tolerate plagiarism or cheating of any kind. If you cheat and I find out about it, I will fail you for the course. In case you haven’t noticed, cheating undercuts your own education, not to mention your character.

The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act. If you need accommodations under this act due to a disability, contact the Office of Disability Support Services at 450-3416.

Since I invariably treat my students with consideration and respect, I expect courtesy and respect from my students. I will not tolerate any kind of behavior directed towards me or any students that interferes with the class. You will receive one and only one warning. After that I will drop you from the class.

Richard Gaughan

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Office Hours: MW 11-12, 1-2, 3:15-4:15; TTh 10:40-12:15, F 11-12 and by appointment

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