

ENGLISH 449B: British Literature II

MW 2:30-3:45, WRI C235



Instructor Carl Lindner
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Office Hours M/W 1:00-2:30 and by appointment

"I, whose profession it is to be intelligent, understand nothing about it; now you wouldn't understand anything about it either; therefore, it can only be that you are as intelligent as I am." – Roland Barthes

Required Text: *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, Vol. 2 (9th Edition ONLY)

Bring your textbooks **every day** except for exams, or if instructed otherwise. After the first full week, you are expected to **always** do the readings **ahead** of our discussion **including** the introductory material for every work. Also, please bring copies of the Online/WebCampus readings when listed in the syllabus.

Course Description and Objectives

English 449B is designed to provide a broad overview of British literary history essential to more in-depth study into individual movements, authors, and texts. As a survey course, this class will cover some of the most influential works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama published between the late eighteenth and late twentieth centuries by concentrating on five key moments and movements — Romanticism, the Victorian Age, Modernism, the Postcolonial, and the Postmodern. Over the course of our exploration, we will attempt to examine the following:

- How each of these moments and movements conceived the nature and function of literature
- How specific historical contexts, conditions, and concerns helped shaped literary theory and practice
- How literature shaped the way in which people understood and grappled with the rapid and sweeping changes during the rise and fall of the British Empire

Course Requirements

Assignments include both out-of-class and in-class work and will include research, informal writings, and discussions on assigned readings from the texts. To successfully complete English 449B, you need to:

- COMPLETE WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS
- Attend AND Participate in Class and Group Discussions
- Write five (5) formal 600-800 word Reading Responses
- Complete three (3) Non-Cumulative Examinations

Grading

Grades will be determined on a percentage basis. Your overall grade is based on the following percentages:

A = 100 – 92 %	A- = 91 – 90 %	B+ = 89 – 88 %	B = 87 – 82 %	B- = 81 – 80 %
C+ = 79 – 78 %	C = 77 – 72 %	C- = 71 – 70 %	D+ = 69 – 68 %	D = 67 – 62 %
D- = 61 – 60 %	F = 0 %			

Assignments

All major assignments will be evaluated on the standard plus/minus letter-grade scale and total 100 points. Use the table below to track your performance in the class.

Projects	Overall %	Points
Reading Responses	20%	20.00
Romantic Era Exam	20%	20.00
Victorian Era Exam	20%	20.00
Modern Era Exam	25%	25.00
Miscellaneous	15%	15.00
	100%	100.00

Response Papers

You are required to write at least **five (5)** substantive entries, **600-800 words** each by the end of the semester. The purpose of these responses is to demonstrate that you have read the assigned material, you understand the material, and you can properly articulate what you have learned. **I do NOT want plot summaries**, but your assessment, interpretation, and/or focused analysis about the reading for a given week. Grading will be based on the level of critical thought, the depth of analysis in each response, the use of direct quotations and paraphrasing, and the overall quality of the entry.

Note: I only accept **one (1)** response per week. Please submit your responses **during** the week we discuss the text. Arbitrary responses submitted several weeks late or that *only* reiterate what we have talked about will be returned *ungraded*.

Assignment Submission Requirements

All *outside* writing assignments must be typed or word-processed unless otherwise noted. All *final* documents must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with one-inch margins and formatted according to MLA guidelines. Papers that do not meet these criteria, or do not meet the minimum length requirement will be returned *ungraded*.

Exams and Quizzes

There are **three (3) exams** that roughly correspond to each literary movement the course covers, consisting of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, quotation identification, and short essays. Questions will focus on authors, genre, country and language of origin, date of composition, literary terminology, and/or thematic understanding of the readings. I will provide an overview and discuss the format of each exam a class or two before it is given.

Note: I will begin administering random “pop” reading quizzes if the class does not appear to be carefully reading the assigned material and/or picking up key content. Quizzes will be added to the Miscellaneous grade.

Extra Credit

Periodically throughout the semester I will offer opportunities for extra credit. The points for these will be added to the points for in-class Participation and/or Reading Responses. Writing additional Reading Responses is a simple way to improve your grade. I accept up to **ten (10)**. Significant extra credit can raise your grade.

Attendance

Class attendance is required and absences will be recorded. Keep in mind that the allowed absences are intended for unavoidable absences due to illness or emergencies. If you have a medical or otherwise legitimate reason to

have a missed class excused, discuss it with me *beforehand*. Students who will miss class because of religious holidays or official activities should refer to: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=9&navoid=839>.

- Absences exceeding the equivalent of **four (4)** classes result in a final grade reduction of **one letter grade**.
- Absences exceeding the equivalent of **six (6)** classes result in a grade of **F**.

Students who are late, leave early, or are unprepared for class will be penalized **1/2 absence**. It is possible to have a grade deduction or to fail the class simply from being late consistently. This is department policy and I have no authority to bend the rules for lazy students. **YOU'VE BEEN WARNED**.

Late Work

Unless there's a good reason, this class operates much like the real world does, where employees who habitually turn in their work late tend to be ex-employees. **There is no way for you to "make up" missed in-class assignments or quizzes**. Asking me repeatedly to make up work will not change this policy. If illness or emergency will prevent you from completing an assignment by its due date, contact me *beforehand*.

Miscellaneous Grade

Your miscellaneous grade is determined by your attendance, in-class participation, and completion of the day-to-day assignments not listed on this syllabus. **Active participation is a must in all areas of the course**. You are expected to participate in class discussion, but participation involves more than "talking" in class. You should also be thinking about and listening to what is going on around you. In other words, just talking about your ideas without engaging with your classmates is **not** discussion. We are here to investigate and interpret these texts *together*, so always be prepared to discuss each text *in class*. My purpose is to teach you the *process* of intellectual discovery rather than give you my particular interpretation of the text.

Note: I strongly recommend taking brief notes as you read since most the class is devoted to discussion of the text and your critical insights. Write down questions you have, anything interesting or noteworthy, and anything else you might want to bring up in class.

Class Conduct

You are expected to respect your classmates and your teacher as you would have them respect you. The class is only an hour and 15 minutes long—if you have business to conduct, please do it before entering the classroom. Interrupting people, vulgar language, and/or general rudeness toward others or myself will not be tolerated. I reserve the right to administratively drop any student who disrupts the harmony of the classroom.

Electronics

In general, this is a **NO TECHNOLOGY CLASSROOM**. All electronic devices, including laptops and cell phones, **must remain on silent/off** and under the desk during class. There are only **two (2)** exceptions:

1. If we are discussing Online/WebCampus texts, you can use a laptop or tablet in order to save paper.
2. If you require special accommodations or assistance in order to fully participate in the class.

I reserve the right to ask students to place their electronic devices on my desk for the duration of class or to leave the classroom if they are using technology inappropriately.

Grade Disputes

If you disagree with my evaluation of an assignment and the grade I have assigned, I am always willing to discuss it with you and to reevaluate my assessment. I will ask that you do two (2) things before we talk:

1. Take the time to carefully read and consider my comments on your paper and to reread your paper;
2. Define the specific reasons that you feel that your essay deserves a different grade.

Then, we will be able to discuss and evaluate the assignment together.

Academic Dishonesty

“Academic Integrity is a concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism.”

Plagiarism, “using the words or ideas of another from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources” is one example of academic misconduct that can result in academic sanctions. See the Academic Misconduct Policy http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=9&navoid=845#Stud_Acad_Misc for a complete list of definitions, procedures and sanctions.

Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism – using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any other source, without proper citation of the source – **constitutes grounds for failure in this course.**

Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, you are encouraged to visit the following website: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC 3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Tutoring

The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling 702-895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at: <http://www.unlv.edu/asc/tutoring>

Special Accommodations:

If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 143. Their numbers are: (702) 895-0866/Voice; or (702) 895-0652/TDD; and (702) 895-0651/Fax. For additional information please visit: <http://www.unlv.edu/drc>

Last Date to Drop:

The final date to drop or withdraw from the course without a grade being recorded is **March 24th**. No withdrawals will be permitted after this date.

A syllabus is a contract. Your continued attendance in this class means that you have read and understood the rules, policies, and guidelines that this syllabus details.
