**English 2319: British Literature**

Fall 2017

**Instructor:** Kaci McCourt

**Course Information:** English 2319-002; TTh 5:30 – 6:50 PM

**Office/Hours:** Carlisle 520; TTh 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Email:** kmccourt@uta.edu

**Course Description:** This is a survey course that will cover British literature from the Old English period through the 21st century. We will read some of the major authors of British literature (Chaucer, Shakespeare, Austen) as well as some lesser known and anonymous authors. This course will cover topics and themes of identity, gender, sexuality, etc. We will cover multiple genres in this course (poetry, drama, novel, graphic novel, and film).

**Course Objectives under the Core Curriculum:** This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirements in Language, Philosophy, and Culture.

1. Students will develop their critical thinking by learning to read literary texts closely, pay attention to relevant details, and organize their observation into cogent arguments.
2. Students will develop their communication skills by discussing literature orally in class and by articulating their findings in written arguments.
3. Students will develop their sense and practice of personal responsibility by learning to engage with and incorporate secondary sources into their writing.
4. Students will develop their understanding of social responsibility by tracing the way that literature shapes and addresses urgent social questions, both historical and contemporary; students will do this in class discussion and most pointedly in the Signature Assignment (see below).

The Departmental guidelines for sophomore literature can be found by typing “sophomore literature” in the “Search UT Arlington” box on the University website: http://www.uta.edu/uta.

**Course Outcomes:** The goals of sophomore literature are:

1. To encourage students to see that literary studies matter and to foster enjoyment of literature, as students engage with ideas and beliefs in ways that extend beyond the English classroom.
2. To help students recognize that literature does not occur as isolated literary events, but as complex dialogue within cultural and historical contexts.
3. To develop students’ ability to read critically by studying a variety of literary elements such as form, structure, and style.
4. To enable students to demonstrate their understanding of and their ability to analyze literary texts both orally and in writing.

**Required Texts:**

“Dream of the Rood” (Provided)

“Lanval,” “Laüstic,” “Yonec,” and “Chevrefoil” (Provided)

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Provided)

*The Canterbury Tales* (Provided)

“General Prologue”

“The Friar’s Tale”

“The Summoner’s Tale”

“The Wife of Bath’s Tale”

“The Pardoner’s Tale”

*The Taming of the Shrew* (Online)

*Pride and Prejudice* ISBN: 978-0393264883

*V for Vendetta* (Graphic Novel) ISBN: 978-1401208417

*In a Dark, Dark Wood*  ISBN: 978-1501112317

**Description of Major Assignments:**

Analysis Essays: You will be required to turn in five analysis essays over the course of the semester. A more detailed assignment sheet and rubric can be found on Blackboard.

Exams: You will have both a midterm and a final in this course. The midterm will cover all material from the first half of the course and the final will cover all material from the second half of the course. The exams will consist of terms and passages that have been discussed in class, as well as have an essay question.

Reading Quizzes/Daily Work/Participation:

Quizzes – There will be 6 reading quizzes given throughout the semester. Each quiz will be worth 20 points and I will drop the lowest grade, making these a combined 100 point grade. These will be pop quizzes, as they are not on the course schedule. These will be given at the beginning of class and we will immediately discuss the quiz once students are finished; therefore, you cannot make up a quiz or take a quiz if you arrive late. I will post the quizzes (but not the answers) to Blackboard after the class period that they are given. These will serve as study guides for the fill-in-the-blank section of the midterm/final.

Daily Work – There will be days in class where you will write short responses to discussion questions, participate in group work, practice writing essays for the exams, etc. These will all be graded individually as a daily grade and each daily grade is worth 100 points. Some daily grades will be completion grades, meaning that if you are in class and complete the assignment then you will receive full credit. Other daily grades will be graded on a points scale based on what you turn in to me at the end of the class period. I will let you know before you begin the assignment if it is a completion grade or if it will be graded on a points scale. The topic/thesis and outline of your signature assignment will also fall into this category.

Participation – This includes coming to class, reading the required materials, bringing the required reading materials to class, and participating in class discussion. Everyone will begin the course with 100 participation points. Up to 5 points a class period can be docked from this grade if you are absent from class, do not bring required materials and/or have not read the required materials, or do not participate in class discussion.

Signature Assignment:

**Overview:**

The signature assignment addresses all four of the course objectives. **Personal responsibility**: This essay includes the integration of outside sources; it, therefore, requires students to demonstrate personal responsibility as they use the words and ideas of other writers in an accurate and ethical manner. Citing sources properly isn’t just a matter of mechanics. It’s a question of personal responsibility (with real consequences for students) that overlaps with students’ responsibility to the academic community of which they are a part. The construction of a clearly articulated thesis statement supported by a careful analysis of textual evidence demonstrates **critical thinking** and **communication skills**. The development of a well-organized essay that demonstrates the correct use of grammar and other writing mechanics and demonstrates an awareness of the how to appeal convincingly to an audience further addresses the communication objective. The critical analysis of the way the selected text engages a significant issue of social responsibility addresses the **social responsibility** outcome.

**Specific Requirements:**

Write a well-organized, effectively developed, full 3-5 page analysis of an assigned text listed on the Course Schedule. Note: You may use more than one text if appropriate. The paper should critically analyze the way the text engages a significant issue of social responsibility. Students should anchor the paper’s argument with a clearly articulated thesis statement and use careful analysis of textual evidence to support their claims.

**Possible Areas of Focus:**

Your analysis of an assigned text listed on the Course Schedule might focus on issues of gender, class, identity, loyalty, truthfulness, sexuality, faith, knowledge, etc. You are free to take one of your analysis essays that address the idea of social responsibility and revise/expand that essay to fit the requirements of the signature assignment. Please note that if you choose to use a topic discussed in one of your analysis essays, you will have to do significant revisions (in other words, you cannot just “add” to the end of that essay to meet the page requirement).

Students who want to brainstorm topics are free to stop by during office hours or email me with your ideas.

**Responsible Integration of Sources (personal responsibility):**

Students must properly integrate material from two secondary sources into their analysis in a way that gives credit to the authors whose ideas and language they are incorporating. This is not a research paper or a summary of the work of literature, but a paper in which you draw on secondary sources to communicate an interpretive argument about your chosen text through the lens of social responsibility. The UTA Library offers a quick, online plagiarism tutorial: <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>.

**Appropriate Secondary Sources:**

* National newspapers (e.g., *New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, Dallas Morning News, Fort Worth Star Telegram*)
* Print magazines (e.g., *The Atlantic, Harper’s, New Yorker, Time, Newsweek*)
* Online magazines (e.g., *Slate, Salon*)
* Scholarly articles (e.g., academic articles published in peer-reviewed journals; you can find citations for these articles by using the MLA International Bibliography database, JSTOR, or Project Muse—all of which UTA’s library gives you access to online)
* Scholarly books or book chapters (it’s a good bet a book is scholarly if it’s published by an academic press, such as Duke University Press; if you’re not sure, ask your instructor)
* Historical documents (e.g., old newspaper articles, letters, speeches, journal entries) from academic databases (see the History subject guide on the library website for ideas)

Students interested in using a source that isn’t listed here, should check with me.

**Minimum Requirements**

Your essay should be a Word document that is double spaced, with 1-inch margins, in 12-pt., Times New Roman font. Follow the MLA’s recommendations for formatting, citation, and style.

In order to receive a passing grade on the signature assignment, students are expected to:

1. Write an essay that is at least 3 full pages long, but no more than 5.
2. Integrate two appropriate sources.
3. Have a thesis.
4. Have a title.
5. Incorporate evidence (i.e., quotations) from the literary text.
6. Have a Works Cited page using MLA form.

**Grades:**

Your final grade for this course will consist of the following:

Analysis Essays (5) – 25%

Signature Assignment – 25%

Midterm – 20%

Final – 20%

Reading Quizzes/Daily Work/Participation – 10%

Final grades will be calculated as follows: A=90-100%, B=80-89.99%, C=70-79.99%, D=60-69.99%, F=below 60

**Turning in Assignments to Blackboard:** All assignments in this course will be submitted to Blackboard. I will not accept any assignments via e-mail. All assignments submitted to Blackboard must be saved as a .doc or .docx file to ensure that I am able to open them on my computer. It is your responsibility to ensure that all of your work is saved in this way and submitted in the correct format. If you submit work in the wrong format, then you will receive a zero for the assignment.

**Late Enrollment Policy:** Though I realize that at times enrolling in a course after the start date is unavoidable, please be advised that you will be held responsible for the class periods that you have missed even if you were not enrolled in the course. I will not allow you to make up missed opportunities for participation points or any other assignments that occurred before you enrolled. If you enroll in class after the start date it is your responsibility to contact your peers in order to get caught up on the schedule and any announcements that might have been delivered in your absence. This policy also applies to students who drop and add.

**Late Assignments:** All assignments are due by 5:30 PM on the due date specified. The only assignment accepted late will be the final draft of the Signature Assignment, but with a ten-point deduction per day that the assignment is late (unless I have agreed to late submission in advance of the due date). I will not accept your final Signature Assignment draft after three late days. If you must be absent, your work is still due on the assigned date.

**Paper Reuse Policy:** You are not allowed, under any circumstances, to reuse papers from prior classes in this course or any other course that you have taken at any institution. Reusing papers does not demonstrate any advance in knowledge or skill, and so would not be helpful for you either in terms of your learning this semester, or for me in terms of assessing this learning. If you feel your situation constitutes a clear or significant exception to this rule, you must discuss this with me prior to the due date of the first draft.

**Participation Policy:** Successful college students come to class and participate regularly. Excused absences include official university activities, military service, and/or religious holidays. Students must inform me in writing at least one week in advance of an excused absence. I will not supply what you miss by email or phone. It is your responsibility to conference with a peer to get this material or make an appointment to see me in person. My participation policy is: Students are given (100) participation points at the beginning of the semester and may lose up to (5) points daily if they fail to participate in class. Participation includes being in class on time, having all necessary books/materials, and being thoughtfully engaged in activities and discussions. An unexcused absence will result in losing all 5 participation points for that day.

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I WILL take attendance every class period. Come to class. Your presence in class is important to your individual success and the success of the class as a whole.  Attending class will help you sharpen your critical reading, writing, and thinking skills. This will, therefore, help you become a better writer.

**Classroom Behavior:** Class sessions are short and require your full attention. All cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices should be **turned off and put away when entering the classroom**; all earpieces should be removed. Store materials from other classes, reading not related to this class, bulky bags, and other distractions so that you can concentrate on the assigned readings and discussions each day. Bring book(s) and e-reserve readings (heavily annotated and carefully read) to every class. Students are expected to participate respectfully in class, to listen to other class members, and to comment appropriately. I also expect consideration and courtesy from students. Professors are to be addressed appropriately and communicated with professionally.

According to *Student Conduct and Discipline*, "students are prohibited from engaging in or attempting to engage in conduct, either alone or in concert with others, that is intended to obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with, or that in fact obstructs, disrupts, or interferes with any instructional, educational, research, administrative, or public performance or other activity authorized to be conducted in or on a University facility. Obstruction or disruption includes, but is not limited to, any act that interrupts, modifies, or damages utility service or equipment, communication service or equipment, or computer equipment, software, or networks” (UTA Handbook or Operating Procedures, Ch. 2, Sec. 2-202). Students who do not respect the guidelines listed above or who disrupt other students’ learning may be asked to leave class and/or referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

**Classroom Visitors:**Only students officially enrolled in this section are allowed to attend class meetings. Students may not bring guests (children, spouses, friends, family) to class unless an academic request has been submitted and approved by the instructor well in advance of the proposed class visit. Children are not allowed in class as visitors at any time

**Academic Integrity:** All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

You can get in trouble for plagiarism by failing to correctly indicate places where you are making use of the work of another or colluding with another to prepare assignments. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the conventions of citation by which you indicate which ideas are not your own and how your reader can find those sources. Read your textbook and/or handbook for more information on quoting and citing properly to avoid plagiarism. If you still do not understand, ask your instructor. All students caught plagiarizing or cheating will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos. For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](https://owa.uta.edu/owa/kmccourt@exchange.uta.edu/redir.aspx?SURL=R_czXha484JwDrHXUqS7lyItmHf3XhiWq5w0Jl-5xi9ajYfbCK_SCGgAdAB0AHAAOgAvAC8AdwB3AHcALgB1AHQAYQAuAGUAZAB1AC8AdABpAHQAbABlAEkAWAA.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.uta.edu%2ftitleIX).

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

**Writing Center:** The English Writing Center is located in Room 411 of the Central Library.  Their fall hours can be found by visiting their website at [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl). Students must register and can make appointments online at [http://uta.mywconline.com](http://uta.mywconline.com/). Face-to-Face and online appointments for undergraduate students can be scheduled for 20, 40, or 60 minute sessions. Writing Center consultants assist with any aspect of academic writing, from understanding an assignment, brainstorming, revising an early draft, to polishing a final draft. However, the Writing Center is not an editing service; consultants will not correct grammar or rewrite assignments during our long sessions. Please see [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for more information about services and guidelines.

**Library Research Help for Students in the First-Year English Program:** UT Arlington Library offers many ways for students to receive help with writing assignments: All First-Year English courses have access to research guides that assist students with required research. To access the guides go to <http://libguides.uta.edu>. Search for the course number in the search box located at the top of the page. The research guides direct students to useful databases, as well as provide information about citation, developing a topic/thesis, and receiving help. Other helpful information may be found at links provided below:

Library Home Page <http://www.uta.edu/library>

Ask A Librarian [http://ask.uta.edu](http://ask.uta.edu/)

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit (I will show you all where the nearest exit is on the first day of class). When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**Electronic Communication Policy:** All students must have access to a computer with internet capabilities. Students should check email daily for course information and updates. I will send group emails through Blackboard. I am happy to communicate with students through email. However, I ask that you be wise in your use of this tool. Make sure you have consulted the syllabus for answers before you send me an email. Remember, I do not monitor my email 24 hours a day. I check it periodically during the school week and occasionally on the weekend. Please note: **You must email me at** [**kmccourt@uta.edu**](mailto:kmccourt@uta.edu) **in order to receive a timely response. If you email me through Blackboard, I might not receive it or receive it in a timely fashion.**

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. ***Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.*** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

**Office Hours and Questions:** I have three regularly scheduled office hours each week. These times are reserved for students to drop by or to make an appointment to discuss course assignments, grades, or other class-related concerns. I will be happy to make other appointment times for you if your class schedule conflicts with regular conference times or if I am not available on certain days. If you receive a grade on an assignment or quiz about which you have questions, please wait twenty-four hours before discussing it with me. This gives you time to process the assignment comments and to think about how your course work meets the requirements set forth for each assignment. I do not discuss individual student issues in the classroom before, during or after class.

**Syllabus and Schedule Changes:** Instructors try to make their syllabuses as complete as possible; however, during the course of the semester I may be required to alter, add, or abandon certain policies/assignments. Instructors reserve the right to make such changes as they become necessary. Students will be informed of any major changes in writing.

**Course Schedule:** Assignments are due on the day they are listed, by 5:30 PM.

**Emergency Phone Numbers:** In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911.

**Course Schedule**

**Note – unless otherwise stated, all assignments must be submitted to Blackboard by 5:30 PM the day that they are due. You should read all texts before the day that we are discussing them in class.**

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|  | Today’s Topics/Readings | Assignments Due |
| **Week 1** |  |  |
| Thursday, August 24 | Review syllabus; course expectations |  |
| **Week 2** |  |  |
| Tuesday, August 29 | Introduction to Old English history, culture, literature  Read: “Dream of the Rood” |  |
| Thursday, August 31 | Introduction to Middle English/Arthurian literature  Read: “Lanval,” “Yonec,” “Laüstic,” and “Chevrefoil” | “Lanval,” “Yonec,” “Laüstic,” and/or “Chevrefoil” analysis paper |
| **Week 3** |  |  |
| Tuesday, September 5 | Read: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* Fits I and II |  |
| Thursday, September 7 | Read: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* Fits III and IV | *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* Fits III and IV analysis paper |
| **Week 4** |  |  |
| Tuesday, September 12 | Introduction to *The Canterbury Tales*  Read: “The General Prologue” |  |
| Thursday, September 14 | Read: “The Friar’s Tale” and “The Summoner’s Tale” | “The Friar’s Tale” and/or “The Summoner’s Tale” analysis paper |
| **Week 5** |  |  |
| Tuesday, September 19 | Read: “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale” | “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale” analysis paper |
| Thursday, September 21 | Read: “The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale” |  |
| **Week 6** |  |  |
| Tuesday, September 26 | Introduction to the Early Modern Period  Read: *The Taming of the Shrew* Induction and Act I |  |
| Thursday, September 28 | Read: *The Taming of the Shrew* Acts II and III | *The Taming of the Shrew* Acts II and III analysis paper |
| **Week 7** |  |  |
| Tuesday, October 3 | Read: *The Taming of the Shrew* Acts IV and V | *The Taming of the Shrew* Acts IV and V analysis paper |
| Thursday, October 5 | Review for midterm |  |
| **Week 8** |  |  |
| Tuesday, October 10 | Midterm Exam |  |
| Thursday, October 12 | Introduction to Regency/Victorian/Romantic Era  Read: *Pride and Prejudice* Chapters 1-10 |  |
| **Week 9** |  |  |
| Tuesday, October 17 | Read: *Pride and Prejudice* Chapters 11-35 | *Pride and Prejudice* Chapters 11-35 analysis paper |
| Thursday, October 19 | Read: *Pride and Prejudice* Chapters 36-61 | *Pride and Prejudice* Chapters 36-61 analysis paper |
| **Week 10** |  |  |
| Tuesday, October 24 | Introduction to Signature Assignment/Research |  |
| Thursday, October 26 | Read: *In a Dark, Dark Wood* Chapters 1-18 | *In a Dark, Dark Wood* Chapters 1-18 analysis paper |
| **Week 11** |  |  |
| Tuesday, October 31 | Read : *In a Dark, Dark Wood* Chapters 19-36 | *In a Dark, Dark Wood* Chapters 19-36 analysis paper |
| Thursday, November 2 | In-class work on signature assignment |  |
| **Week 12** |  |  |
| Tuesday, November 7 | Read: *V for Vendetta* Book I | Topic and thesis sentence (Signature Assignment) |
| Thursday, November 9 | Read: *V for Vendetta* Book II | *V for Vendetta* Book II analysis paper |
| **Week 13** |  |  |
| Tuesday, November 14 | Read: *V for Vendetta* Book III | *V for Vendetta* Book III analysis paper  Outline due (Signature Assignment) |
| Thursday, November 16 | In-class work on signature assignment |  |
| **Week 14** |  |  |
| Tuesday, November 21 | No class! |  |
| Thursday, November 23 | Thanksgiving! No class! |  |
| **Week 15** |  |  |
| Tuesday, November 28 | Movie (in-class): *V for Vendetta* | Draft of signature assignment (optional) |
| Thursday, November 30 | Movie (in-class): *V for Vendetta* |  |
| **Week 16** |  |  |
| Tuesday, December 5 | Review for Final | Final draft of signature assignment |

**FINAL EXAM:** Tuesday, December 12, 5:30 – 8:00 PM