

**Course:** EN323-DDN British Literature I  
**Credit:** 3 Semester Hours  
**Semester:** Fall 2026  
**Location/Time:** East Ed 120, TR 1:00-2:20pm  
**Instructor:** Becca Howell, becca.howell@calvary.edu

*\*About This Class: This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.*

*\*About Changes to this Syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any changes made will only be done after clearly communicating the need for the change and the specific change to be made via in class announcement and Canvas announcement.*

## I. DESCRIPTION

Through the critical reading of selected classic works of British literature, this course develops skills in analysis, appreciation, and understanding of British literature from the middle ages through the eighteenth century. Literary selections include works from the early manuscripts, medieval authors, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Bunyan, and Swift. In addition, Part One of British Literature focuses on some works of Christian literary tradition and allows for student evaluation of well-known works in light of scriptural truth. (Prerequisite: EN112, EN113, and a 200 level Literature course)

## II. OBJECTIVES

### A. General competencies to be achieved. You will:

1. Improve critical reading skills through critical analysis of literary texts (PLO 1; Assignments A–D).
2. Participate effectively in group discussions with emphasis on careful listening, critical thinking, and appropriate response (PLO 1, 3; Assignment A).
3. Develop the ability to research and write a literary essay (PLO 1–4; Assignments A–D).
4. Identify the various cultural, linguistic, and sociological characteristics as presented in the literary works (PLO 1; Assignments A–D).
5. Evaluate individual literary works according to the Biblical worldview (PLO 1, 3; Assignments A–D).

**B. Specific competencies to be achieved. You will be able to:**

1. Carefully read and analyze literary works from British literature (PLO 1; Assignment A–D).
2. Apply the literary elements to literary works in discussion and research (PLO 1; Assignments A–D).
3. Compare and contrast the Biblical worldview with that of the authors studied (PLO 3; Assignments A–D).
4. Use literary research tools to write a literary essay (PLO 1–4; Assignment D).

*Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."*

**III. REQUIRED MATERIALS**

**A. Required Textbooks**

- **The Bible** is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.
- Abrams, M. H. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. Volume 1. ISBN: 9780393912470. \$88.49 (new), \$9 (used). [Amazon Link](#)

Note: Several of our class readings are not included in the above textbook and will come from public domain internet resources. The textbook, however, does contain the majority of our readings and is an important purchase as the editor's introductions and analysis of the works provide important keys to our analysis of these works.

**B. Suggested Resources**

- MLA Handbook, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

**IV. REQUIREMENTS**

**A. Attendance:** Students must attend the class section for which they enroll. Online students may attend via live stream (if applicable) or by watching the recorded lecture.

**Attendance is taken for all in-class and livestream students.**

**Each class is worth 25 points for attendance.** Notification of absence is expected by email within 24hrs of class missed. Absences due to illness or CU activities will be excused (up to two illness absences without doctor's note).

**B. Reading Assignments and Application Activities:** Reading assignments are assigned from the required textbook. After reading the material, students will

complete a discussion board, application activity, or reflection. See Canvas for details.

**C. Reading Assignments:** *This course is reading-intensive.*

Reading assignments are assigned from the required textbook (see below). *Students may not substitute any kind of Cliff Notes, E-Notes, or online summaries of any kind.* Students will certify that they have completed reading in Canvas.

**D. Discussion Board:** The professor will assign discussion questions in Canvas each week. Responses must match their required length, be clearly organized, and be well-supported by notes, quotes from the text, or outside research. A rubric will provide detail on grading standards.

**E. Literature Report:** Students will choose a novel, play, or extended piece of poetry from a British author of this time period, read it, take thorough notes, and write 2–3 page report, which describes the novel’s major literary elements and their effect on the work as a whole. Though not a full literary analysis, this paper still requires attention to detail and an application of literary elements and historical and cultural background. A list of suggested texts will be provided. If the student elects to choose a text not on the list of suggestions, the literary work must be approved by the instructor.

**F. Literary Essay:** In a 7–10 page essay, argue a particular thesis about a literary work discussed in this course. Example topics include:

- a. What does *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* tell us about the cultural ideals of Middle England?
- b. What is different between the Christianity of Bunyan and that of Milton?
- c. What does Gulliver’s final journey reveal about the human condition?
- d. From a historical context, how should the tragedy of *Romeo and Juliet* be understood?

Five outside resources must be included in the essay, and quotes from the primary short stories studied are expected. See Canvas for additional details.

**F. Other Assignment Policies**

1. *Style Guide:* All class papers must follow the MLA style according to the *MLA Handbook*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition.
2. *Plagiarism* is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person’s or AI entity’s ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own.
3. *Other forms of cheating* include copying another student’s work, allowing a student to do your work, using notes instead of reading the literary works, basing your research essay on another essay, bringing cheat sheets or written information to a quiz or an exam, and working collaboratively with another student on individual assignments. This also includes handing in one essay for assignments given in two different courses to reduce the amount of student work. Please check with the professor if you have concerns or doubts about the academic approach you plan to take for an assignment.

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4. *Late work*: Late work will not be accepted without special permission from the instructor.
5. *Originality*: Originality: Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.
6. *Late work*: Late work will not be accepted without special permission from the instructor.
7. Students may not hand in one paper from two different courses – even if the paper has been altered. Students may not hand in a paper written for another class in previous courses. All work must be completely new and written solely by the student.
8. *Absences*: Students are responsible for making up missed coursework. Watch the recorded class video to find out what was covered.

**V. METHODS**

- A. Lectures, Discussions:** This course is balanced between lecture and discussion. Students are expected to participate in discussions. Online students will be given special instructions about how to participate in these discussions.
- B. Reading and Writing:** All reading must be completed as assigned. *All essay assignments must be completed to pass this course.* Grading rubrics are used on all essays.
- C. Grading**

*Possible Points for All Assignments:*

Participation Activities (8 x 25)	200 points
Readings/Reflections (18 x 25)	450 points
Novel Report	110 points
Literary Essay	250 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

The Grading Scale can be found in the University Catalog.

**VI. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

Weeks 1-2: Historical Background, Literary Criticism, and Old English  
Beowulf (As translated by Seamus Haney)  
Various Readings on the legend of Arthur (Geoffrey of Monmouth, Wace, etc.)

Week 3-4: Middle English  
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight  
Canterbury Tales: Chaucer (Prologue, Wife of Bath)

Week 5-6: The Renaissance, and Early Modern English  
Twelfth Night: Shakespeare  
The Flea, Holy Sonnet 14: John Donne

Week 7-8: Early Modern to Restoration  
John Milton: Paradise Lost

Week 9-10: Restoration Literature  
Annus Mirabilis: Dryden  
Blazing World: Margaret Cavendish  
John Locke

Week 11-12: The great Protestant classic / Satire, Part I  
Pilgrim's Progress: John Bunyan  
A Tale of a Tub, A Modest Proposal: Swift

Week 13-14: Satire, Part II, and Pope  
Gulliver's Travels: Swift  
An Essay on Man: Pope

Week 15-16: Early 1700's Life / The Rise of the Novel  
Turkish Embassy Letters: Lady Mary Wortley Montague  
Moll Flanders: Daniel Defoe

**VII. Resources:**

- A. Disabilities:** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the DSS Director ([dss@calvary.edu](mailto:dss@calvary.edu)) of any disabling condition that may require support.
- B. The Clark Academic Center** (email: [cac@calvary.edu](mailto:cac@calvary.edu)), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this free service.