

English 2201: Selected Works of British Literature, Medieval to 1800

ONLINE
Thursday 3-4:20 p.m. Zoom
Spring 2021

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Office hours: Tu 11-1 or by appointment, via CarmenZoom

Course description

This course has an ambitious objective: to introduce you to the first one thousand years of British literature. Although we cannot cover everything, we will sample a range of major works, authors, and genres representative of the medieval period, the Renaissance, and the long eighteenth century. This course will introduce you to several “great authors” (such as Chaucer and Shakespeare) and lesser-known women writers (such as Marie de France and Hester Pulter). Our theme this semester is place and identity: how do location, time period, gender, race, social class, religion, and politics shape who we are? We will read texts closely and examine how language and form contribute to meaning. We will also approach texts historically by placing them in their cultural contexts. As we do so, we will consider what it means for literary works to be “canonical” or “popular” in their time and ours. This course will challenge you to read a lot and to think critically about what you read.

Who will benefit from English 2201?

- English majors: it is part of the required core curriculum.
- Non-majors: it fulfills GE requirements for (1) Literature and (2) Diversity: Global Studies. See the appendix for full details.

Course goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Understand and analyze several important literary works.
- Identify some authors and genres in medieval, Renaissance, and 18th century England.
- Compare early British culture to our own, as well as your own values, beliefs, and actions to those of others.
- Value multiple perspectives.
- Read with greater confidence, think critically, and ask good questions—all of which are crucial skills for today’s world.

How this course works

Mode of delivery: This course is 100% online. Our activities will consist of: (1) independent reading and video-watching; (2) discussion board postings due every Tuesday, (3) live Zoom meetings on Thursdays 3-4:20 p.m. that will be recorded; (4) weekly quizzes, which are open-book, open-notes, and untimed; (5) three larger projects requiring written work and videos.

Pace of online activities: This course is divided into **weekly modules (see schedule below)** with three deadlines each week: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Although some modules will require more or less of your time, you might expect to spend an average of at least nine hours per week on this course. Every week you will complete these tasks:

BY TUESDAY, 11:59 p.m.

1. Read the assigned text(s).
2. Watch a brief lecture video and complete any other activities in the module for today.
3. “Attend” class by posting in the day’s discussion forum.

BY THURSDAY, 3 p.m.

1. Read the assigned text(s) and complete any activities in the module for today.
2. Attend our live Zoom meeting 3-4:20 p.m.

BY FRIDAY, 11:59 p.m.

1. Complete an ungraded check-in survey.
2. Take the week’s quiz.

Attendance and participation requirements: You are expected to log in to the course in Carmen at least once a week. (During most weeks, you will probably log in many times.) If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me *as soon as possible*. The following is a summary of your required participation:

- **Independent reading and watching. AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK**
Complete the reading and other assignments in the module. I have divided each week’s assignments into two parts, but you may decide to divide it further or to do *all* of the week’s reading by Tuesday at midnight.
- **Participate in discussion forums. AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK**
Each week you can expect to post once or twice as part of our substantive class discussion on the week’s topics.
- **Live Zoom sessions. ONCE PER WEEK**
I expect you to attend our weekly Zoom meeting, and I ask you to turn on your video when possible. Virtual backgrounds are welcome. If you are uncomfortable turning on your video for whatever reason, please upload a still photo to use as your avatar. You may participate by raising your hand or typing in the chat box. I understand that Internet connectivity issues, illness, and other life happenings might interfere with your ability to attend these sessions. In those cases, don’t worry. No need to email me your excuse. All of our live Zoom sessions will be recorded and posted on Carmen. If you must miss class, you can watch the recorded session later and submit the alternative assignment to mark yourself present. (See below, under “Assignment Information,” for more information.)

How to read for this class:

This course focuses on early literature that can be difficult to read, so expect to spend a lot of time reading carefully. You’ll often want to read twice: once for the gist (or the plot, general point) and a

second time to start analyzing characters, themes, and other elements. As you read, take notes in the margins or in a notebook, and look up any unfamiliar words in the [Oxford English Dictionary](#).

How to communicate in this class:

- **Writing style:** You will write many informal posts and messages in this course. Out of respect for your classmates and me, try to use proper grammar and spelling.
- **Tone and civility:** Please create a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online, and inside jokes can be exclusionary if everyone isn't sure what they mean.
- **Citing your sources:** Use quotations when relevant and make sure to cite your sources to back up what you say. (For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the author and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.)

Required textbook

The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Kolkovich Custom Text. Instead of assigning a large, expensive anthology, I asked the publisher to make an e-book of the specific texts we will read. It costs \$19.10 and is available through the campus bookstore or using the publisher's direct link on our Carmen page's syllabus tab. Yes, you need to buy it. The texts in this anthology are all required and *not* available in good, free copies online. All other course texts will be available for free on Carmen.

Course technology

For help with your password, university e-mail, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the OSU IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at <https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours>, and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** <http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice>
- **Phone:** 614-688-HELP (4357)
- **Email:** 8help@osu.edu
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

Technical skills

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen (carmen.osu.edu)
- Using Carmen Zoom for class meetings and professor office hours

Equipment

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Webcam: built-in or external webcam, fully installed
- Microphone: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- Earphones: helpful for class sessions but not required

Software

- [Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus](https://ocio.osu.edu/kb04733) All Ohio State students are eligible for free Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus through Microsoft's Student Advantage program. Each student can install Office on five PCs or Macs, five tablets (Windows, iPad® and Android™) and five phones. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found at <https://ocio.osu.edu/kb04733>.

Required assignments

Assignment	Points
Participation: discussion posts and Zoom attendance	28
Quizzes	25
Close reading project	15
Pop culture presentation	12
Reflective essay	10
Take-home final exam	10
Total	100

Assignment information

Participation: This semester you have 30 opportunities to earn points by submitting posts to our Carmen Discussion forum and by attending (or watching later) Zoom classes. You will notice that the chart above identifies 28 points as full credit in this category. That means you can skip two posts or Zoom meetings with no penalty to your grade. There is one exception: a two-point draft and peer review of the pop culture presentation in Week 10. You cannot drop that activity.

Online discussions: Posts earn full credit if they follow the instructions and are submitted on time. Late posts will receive a 15% penalty for each day they are late. Incomplete posts will earn partial credit.

Zoom meetings: You earn one point for every Zoom session you attend. If you miss a live session, you may watch the recording and submit a brief post about what you learned. This alternative assignment requires you to answer two questions: (1) What is one thing you learned from watching the recorded session? (2) What idea or question would you like to contribute to our conversation?

Quizzes: Weekly quizzes will be administered through Carmen. Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple-choice and short-answer questions. They are open-book, open-note, untimed quizzes. Quizzes will cover that week's reading and material from the week's module. Each quiz is worth 2.5

points toward your final grade, and your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Each week, the quiz will be available from 4:30 p.m. Thursday until 11:59 p.m. Friday. You will need to reserve approximately 15-20 minutes on one of these days to complete the quiz.

Close reading project: The first major assignment asks you to perform a skill called “close reading,” which we will practice all semester. You will select a passage from one of our texts to analyze in detail, and you may present your ideas about the passage in an essay or a video.

Pop culture presentation: Because the literature we cover is old, some of it might strike you as foreign, but you might be surprised how “modern” certain characters and themes will seem. In a brief video, you will compare one of our literary works to a twenty-first century British or American cultural artifact (e.g. movie, song, video game).

Reflective essay and final project: Instead of a traditional final exam, the course ends with these two activities. In a reflective essay, you will explain what you learned this semester. In a creative final project, you will show off your knowledge about British literature by making something yourself.

Extra credit: You can earn extra points added to your participation grade by watching digital lectures, performances, films, and campus events. Look for options in the modules.

Late assignments

If you anticipate trouble meeting a deadline, please contact me as soon as possible. I frequently grant extensions to conscientious students. Otherwise, quizzes cannot be submitted late, and late discussion posts will incur a 15% penalty for each day they are late. For all other assignments: if you submit a paper or presentation late without an arranged extension, your grade will be reduced by 5% for each day it is late.

Instructor feedback and response time

The following list will give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call **614-688-HELP** at any time if you have a technical problem.)

Preferred contact method

If you have a question, please contact me at my Ohio State email address (kolkovich.1@osu.edu). I prefer direct email rather than Carmen message. To ensure a quicker response, please write “English 2201” in the subject line, followed by the email’s topic (e.g. English 2201: Gawain question). I prefer to be addressed as “Prof. Kolkovich” or “Dr. Kolkovich.” Something like “Dr. K” or “Professor” is fine too. I generally reply to emails within 24 hours M-F. You are welcome to email over the weekend or in the middle of the night, but please don’t expect a quick response.

What are “office hours”?

My office hours are regularly scheduled periods (Tuesdays 11-1) when I am available to individual students for activities that are best conducted in real time. These may include conferences about drafts, review of expectations for past or upcoming assignments, or any academic or personal issue you are having that affects your success as a student at Ohio State. I have access to many academic and personal resources and am happy to help you get the assistance you need. If you are unable to

meet me during my scheduled office hours, email me to arrange another time. It is helpful if you offer 2-3 times you are available.

Class announcements

I will send all important class-wide messages through the Announcements tool in CarmenCanvas. Please check [your notification preferences](http://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) (go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) to ensure you receive these messages. Also check your OSU email at least once a day.

Grading and assignment feedback

For quizzes and other written assignments, you can generally expect feedback within seven days.

Discussion board

I will check and reply to messages in the discussion boards at least once mid-week. I won't always respond to every message individually, but I will read all of them and join the conversation. I usually prefer to write summary posts so I can respond to several of you at once. Otherwise I will take over the discussion!

Where to get help

- Email me if it's a question I can answer in a short paragraph.
- Visit my office hours (or schedule an appointment) if it would involve more conversation.
- Seek feedback on written assignments at the [Writing Center](#), which provides free individual writing (and reading/analysis) consultation for students of all abilities.

Academic integrity

I am required to report to the Committee on Academic Misconduct all instances of “academic misconduct,” including, but not limited to, dishonest practices in connection with exams and cases of plagiarism. Plagiarism is the representation of someone else’s ideas or words as your own. That “someone else” could be a book or article, a friend or classmate, or an online source. It is a serious offense that is easy to spot and never worth it. The severe penalties for plagiarism can damage a student’s academic career; they can include a zero for the paper, probable failure in the course, and possible academic censure or even expulsion. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>, and if you are ever unsure whether or how to cite something, please ask.

Copyright disclaimer

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Course schedule

Assignments and due dates are subject to change based on class needs. BA = Broadview Anthology. Carmen = text or link on our CarmenCanvas page (carmen.osu.edu).

Week 1: Beginnings

- Tu 1/12 Introductions: read the syllabus, post a video introducing yourself to the class.
Th 1/14 “The Wife’s Lament” (BA 46-47). Zoom meeting.
F 1/15 Quiz 1.

Week 2: Old English poetry

- Tu 1/19 Exeter Book Elegies: “The Wanderer,” “The Seafarer,” and “Wulf and Eadwacer” (BA 41-46). Discussion post due.
Th 1/21 *Judith* (BA 118-126). Zoom meeting.
F 1/22 Quiz 2.

Week 3: Anglo-Norman poetry

- Tu 1/26 Marie de France, “Bisclavret (The Werewolf)” (BA 211-218). Discussion post due.
Th 1/28 Marie de France, “Lanval” (BA 219-233). Zoom meeting.
F 1/29 Quiz 3.

Week 4: Middle English romance

- Tu 2/2 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, parts 1-2 (Carmen). Discussion post due.
Th 2/4 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, parts 3-4 (Carmen). Zoom meeting.
F 2/5 Quiz 4.

Week 5: Focus on close reading

- Tu 2/9 Draft your close reading project.
Th 2/11 **Close reading project due.** No Zoom meeting or quiz.

Week 6: Middle English poetry

- Tu 2/16 Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*. Excerpts from “The General Prologue” (BA 430-445): lines 1-42, 208-32 (“Frere” or Friar), 381-389 (Cook), and 547-68 (“Millere” or Miller); “The Miller’s Prologue” (BA 481-482). Discussion post due.
Th 2/18 Chaucer, “The Miller’s Tale” (BA 482-491). Zoom meeting.
F 2/19 Quiz 5.

Week 7: Sixteenth-century love poetry

- Tu 2/23 University break—no assignment.

- Th 2/25 Wyatt, "Whoso list to hunt" (BA 130, the 70th page of the PDF); Spenser, *Amoretti* 54, 67 (Carmen); Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella* 7, 9. Activity (annotate a sonnet) due. Zoom meeting.
- F 2/26 Quiz 6.

Week 8: Renaissance drama

- Tu 3/2 Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, Act 1-Scene 2.5 (Carmen). Discussion post due.
- Th 3/4 Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, Act Scene 2.6-Act 3 (Carmen). Zoom meeting.
- F 3/5 Quiz 7.

Week 9: Renaissance drama

- Tu 3/9 Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, Acts 4-5 (Carmen). Discussion post due.
- Th 3/11 Shakespeare, *As You Like It*. Zoom meeting. Watch one filmed performance (Carmen) and post about it.
- F 3/12 Quiz 8.

Week 10: Focus on popular culture

- Tu 3/16 Prepare presentation. Peer review.
- Th 3/18 **Presentation due.** No Zoom meeting or quiz. Instead, watch and respond to your group's presentations.

Week 11: Seventeenth-century women and science

- Tu 3/23 Pulter, "Upon the Death of My Dear and Lovely Daughter" and "Why Must I Thus Forever Be Confined" (Carmen). Discussion post due.
- Th 3/25 Cavendish, "A World Made by Atoms," "Motion Directs, While Atoms Dance," "The Four Principle Figured Atoms Make the Four Elements," and "Of Many Worlds in This World" (Carmen). Activity (annotate a poem) due. Zoom meeting.
- F 3/26 Quiz 9.

Week 12: Seventeenth-century poetry

- Tu 3/30 Milton, *Paradise Lost*: excerpts from Book 1 (BA 990-1005). Discussion post due.
- Th 4/1 University break—no assignment. No Zoom meeting or quiz.

Week 13: Seventeenth-century poetry

- Tu 4/6 Milton, *Paradise Lost*: Book 9, lines 1-493 (BA 1046-1052). Discussion post due.
- Th 4/8 Milton, *Paradise Lost*: rest of Book 9 (BA 1052-1061). Zoom meeting.
- F 4/9 Quiz 10.

Week 14: Eighteenth-century liberty

- Tu 4/13 Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*, Chapters 1-2 (BA 953-969). Discussion post due.
Th 4/15 Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*, Chapter 7 (BA 10-16 at end of PDF). Zoom meeting.
F 4/16 Quiz 11.

Week 15: Eighteenth-century satire

- Tu 4/20 Swift, “The Lady’s Dressing Room” and Montagu, “The Reasons” (BA 379-389 and 605-606). Discussion post due.
Th 4/22 **Reflective essay due.** Zoom meeting. No quiz.

Final exam

- Tu 4/27 **Take-home final exam due.** [Our assigned final exam time is Monday 4/26 3:30-5:15, but I’m going to give you an extra day to complete it. No late submissions allowed!]

Appendix

GE REQUIREMENTS

As a GE course in Literature, English 2201 has these goals: students evaluate significant texts in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; and critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing. It has these Expected Learning Outcomes: (1) Students analyze, interpret, and critique significant literary works. (2) Through reading, discussing, and writing about literature, students appraise and evaluate the personal and social values of their own and other cultures. The course helps students achieve these outcomes by (1) assigning significant works of British literature and offering key terms and practical methods for analysis and (2) providing ample opportunity through classroom activities and assignments to compare our own culture to that of medieval, Renaissance, and eighteenth-century England.

GRADING SCALE

This course uses the OSU standard grading scale.

A	100%	to	93%
A-	< 93%	to	90%
B+	< 90%	to	87%
B	< 87%	to	83%
B-	< 83%	to	80%
C+	< 80%	to	77%
C	< 77%	to	73%
C-	< 73%	to	70%
D+	< 70%	to	67%
D	< 67%	to	60%
E	< 60%	to	0%

CAMPUS POLICIES

Due to COVID-19, please call or email before going in person to any campus offices, as the person you need may not be available in person. Thank you!

Masks Required in Classrooms

All students, faculty and staff are required to comply with and stay up to date on all university safety and health guidance (<https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu>), which includes wearing a face mask in any indoor space and maintaining a safe physical distance at all times. Non-compliance will result in a warning first, and disciplinary actions will be taken for repeated offenses.

Student COVID-related Accommodation Process

The university is committed to supporting students and program participants with COVID-19 based risk factors. Student Life Disability Services, in conjunction with the Office of Institutional Equity, will work with students who are vulnerable to complications from COVID-19 to ensure that they have the necessary resources to participate in university life as safely as possible. Ohio State students from any campus may submit a COVID-related accommodation request. Students registered with Student Life Disability Services can work directly with their assigned Access Specialist to modify their accommodations or make additional COVID-based accommodation requests.

Disability Service Statement

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: mgregor.40@osu.edu; 419 755-4304.

Academic Misconduct Statement

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee via the Associate Dean's Office at the Mansfield campus. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentconduct.osu.edu>).

Drop/Withdrawal Statement

It is the student's responsibility to know the deadlines for dropping a course or withdrawing from the University. Term drop & withdrawal deadlines can be found at registrar.osu.edu/registration (click on the current term under "Important Dates" and scroll down to ADD/DROP/WITHDRAW DEADLINES). There are different drop/withdrawal dates for the various shortened sessions and full semester classes. If you receive financial aid, you should always talk with a financial aid specialist prior to adjusting your schedule. If you stop attending a course but do not drop it, you risk receiving a failing grade which could negatively affect your GPA and your financial aid status. You can call 419-755-4317 to set up an appointment with an academic advisor or a financial aid specialist.

Retention

The Ohio State University-Mansfield is committed to the success of students. If you are having academic or personal difficulties, you can contact Michelle McGregor, mgregor.40@osu.edu; 419 755-4304; or your academic advisor for specific referral resources.

Mental Health Services

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University at Mansfield offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the New Directions Student Assistance Program (SAP) by visiting newdirectionsforlife.com or calling 419-529-9941 (no cost to students). Local crisis services are available by calling 419-522-4357. Ohio State also has an afterhours service available by calling **614-292-5766 and choosing option 2** after hours, which includes weekends and holidays.

Student Conduct

The code of student conduct is established to foster and protect the core missions of the university, to foster the scholarly and civic development of the university's students in a safe and secure learning environment, and to protect the people, properties and processes that support the university and its missions. Students who violate faculty expectations may be subject to the code of conduct. For behavioral related concerns, contact Student Life at 419-755-4317 and ask for an appointment with Dr. Donna L. Hight, Assistant Dean, Student Success. As a responsible community member, do not allow others to act inappropriately and impact the community.

Discrimination

The Ohio State University at Mansfield is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility and mutual respect in an environment free of discrimination of any type. This includes students creating a hostile environment for other students. To file a complaint, contact Student Life at 419-755-4317 and ask for an appointment with the Assistant Dean, Student Success or Human Resources at 419-755-4047 and ask for an appointment who will connect you with the appropriate Columbus Offices.

Ohio State Mansfield Diversity Statement

The Ohio State University at Mansfield is committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity, believing that it strengthens the organization, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. The Ohio State University at Mansfield prohibits discrimination against any member of the school's community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability status, health status, or veteran status. In addition to birth and/or other self-defined characteristics, we honor and value the lived experiences of all students as they add to constructive conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion in the classroom. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to contact Dr. Donna L. Hight, Assistant Dean, Student Success, 419-755-4317, regarding issues, concerns, or questions related to equity and diversity.

Ohio State Mansfield Identity Affirmation Statement

It is our intent to honor your name and pronouns if they differ from your legal or academic record. Please advise any instructors of this change early in the semester so that we can update class rosters with your preferred name and your correct pronouns. Additionally, please advise us of any updates to your name and/or pronouns throughout the semester so that we can correct our rosters accordingly. A formal name change request can be made through Buckeyelink.

Title IX and Sexual Misconduct

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are civil rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find more information and the appropriate resources at titleix.osu.edu/.

HOW TO REPORT

Reports of sexual misconduct can be made to one of the following individuals:

Donna L. Hight, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean, Student Success
419-755-4317
hight.6@osu.edu

Sgt. Jeff Hoffer
Campus Police
419-755-4210
hoffer.30@osu.edu

Domestic Violence Shelter of Richland County
800-931-7233

Notice of an incident to the officials listed above, other than the Domestic Violence Shelter or a counselor, is considered official notice to the university. You can expect reports received by these individuals to be investigated and properly resolved through administrative procedures. Information will be shared only as necessary with investigators, witnesses, and the accused individual. *The Domestic Violence Shelter and the New Directions Student Assistance Program (SAP) staff are considered confidential reporting resources. Every other faculty or staff member must notify the University of reports made.*