

English 2201: British Literature, Medieval to 1800

Fall 2023

Online (at carmen.osu.edu)

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Office hours: Thursdays 1-4 p.m. (via Zoom or in person at Ovalwood 227, Mansfield campus)

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 but excellent writers (such as Marie de France and Hester Pulter). 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 general education requirements, including the new GEN for “Literary, Visual and Performing Arts” (see [the goals and expected learning outcomes here](#)), and the old GEL for “Literature” and “Diversity: Global Studies” (see [the goals and expected learning outcomes for both here](#)).

Prerequisite

English 1110 (first-year writing) or equivalent

Course learning 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 the values and beliefs of early British culture to our own, as well as your own values and beliefs to those of others.
- Reflect on your experience reading and discussing this literature.
- 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 and *asynchronous*, which means that there are no class meetings. You will need to schedule time to complete required activities. These activities will consist of: (1) reading and video-watching; (2) written discussions at our course website (carmen.osu.edu); (3) collaborative mark-ups of texts; (4) weekly quizzes, which are open-book, open-notes, and untimed; and (5) three larger projects requiring written work and videos.

Pace of activities: This course is divided into **weekly modules (see schedule below)** with deadlines on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Every week you will complete these tasks:

BY MONDAY, 11:59 p.m.

- Read the assigned text(s) and complete activities on that day's Carmen page.

BY WEDNESDAY, 11:59 p.m.

- Read the assigned text(s) and complete activities on that day's Carmen page.
- Contribute one post to the week's conversation at Carmen Discussions.

BY FRIDAY, 11:59 p.m.

- Post at least once more in the week's discussion, this time responding to a peer.
- Take the week's reflection quiz.

Credit hours and work expectations: This is a 3-credit-hour course. According to [Ohio State policy](#), students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (such as instructor content, Carmen activities, and my responses to quizzes) in addition to 6 hours of homework (such as reading and assignment preparation) to receive a grade of (C) average.

Attendance requirements: To "attend" class, you are expected to log in to [the course in Carmen](#) **twice a week at minimum**. (Most weeks you'll probably log in three times, to coincide with deadlines.) Although some modules will require more or less of your time, you can expect to spend an average of nine hours per week on this course. If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week, discuss it with me as soon as possible.

How to read for this class: This course focuses on early literature that is challenging 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, do your best to use proper grammar and spelling. Even more importantly, proofread for clarity, and let us hear your voice.
- **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. We're trying to reimagine social media without the trolls.

- **Citing your sources:** Use quotations when relevant and cite your sources. (For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the author and page or line 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 \$32.20 and is available through [the Mansfield campus bookstore](#). Yes, you need to buy it. The texts in this anthology are all required and *not* available in good, free copies online.* Other course materials will be available for free on Carmen.

*Please note that other versions might not be the same translations or editions as ours. Please read the specific versions I assign.

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. More information and support hours are available at <http://it.osu.edu/help>, 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)
- Recording a slide presentation with audio narration
- Recording, editing, and uploading video
- Using Carmen Zoom (for office hours)

Equipment

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection
- Mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for BuckeyePass authentication
- Microphone and webcam: built-in or external (useful, though not required; phone camera can work for short videos)

Software

- Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus: All Ohio State students are eligible for this software for free 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>.

Carmen access

You will need to use BuckeyePass (buckeyepass.osu.edu) multi-factor authentication to access our course website in Carmen. Do the following:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the “BuckeyePass – Adding a Device” help article for step-by-step instructions (go.osu.edu/add-device).
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the Duo Mobile application (go.osu.edu/install-duo) to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357(HELP) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

Required assignments

Assignment	Points
Participation (discussion posts and meet-the-instructor)	30
Quizzes	25
Close reading project	15
Pop culture presentation	10
Reflection essay	10
Take-home final exam (creative project)	10
Total	100

Assignment information

Participation: This semester you have many opportunities to engage with your peers and me.

Online discussions and activities: You can earn up to 28 points by submitting posts to our Carmen Discussion forum and completing assigned collaborative activities. There are

30 assigned points, so you can skip two posts with no penalty to your grade, or I will drop your lowest two.

Meet the instructor: Online classes can feel isolating, but in this course, your instructor is a real person who hopes to get to know you. You can earn 2 points toward your participation grade by coming to my office hours and introducing yourself. We can talk about the course, career options for English majors, or whatever else is on your mind. You can stop by my virtual office on Zoom or my Mansfield campus office if you live nearby. This assignment should be completed before fall break.

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

Quizzes: Weekly quizzes will be administered through Carmen. Quizzes test reading comprehension and analysis, ask you to reflect on what you learned, and help you prepare for the three major assignments. Here are some important details:

- Quizzes open Tuesday at midnight and are due Friday at 11:59 p.m. I offer a two-day grace period for all quizzes, which means that you can take a quiz late with no penalty until Sunday at 11:59 p.m. At that time, the quiz will close for good.
- Quizzes are untimed, but most students spend about 30-60 minutes on each.
- Each quiz consists of 10 short-answer and multiple-choice questions covering that week's reading and material.
- You are expected to complete quizzes on your own.
- You may take each quiz only once.
- These are open-book, open-notes quizzes. That means you may consult materials on Carmen, our textbook, and your notes as you take them, but do not use Google or the Internet more broadly.
- Each quiz is worth 2.5 points toward your final grade, and your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

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 presentation.

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 (such as a movie, song, or video game).

Reflection essay and final project: Instead of a traditional final exam, the course ends with these two activities. In a reflection 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.

All work submitted in this course—including discussion posts, quizzes, close reading project, pop culture presentation, reflection essay, and final project—must be your own. If you take any ideas, quotations, or images from other sources, you must give credit to your source.

Late assignments

There is a **two-day grace period for all assignment deadlines**. Quizzes and the take-home final (creative project) cannot be submitted any later than that grace period. Other graded work submitted later than the grace period will incur a 15% penalty for each subsequent day. If you anticipate trouble meeting a deadline, contact me as soon as possible to discuss the possibility of an extension.

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 OSU 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 don’t expect a quick response.

What are “office hours”?

My office hours are regularly scheduled periods (1-4 p.m. Thursdays) 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, discussion of an issue that affects your success, conversations about course materials, or a brief introductory chat. I have access to many resources and am happy to help.

You may join my office hours without an appointment any of these ways:

- CarmenZoom, using my office hours link.
- By phone at 419-755-4281. My office number cannot accept texts.
- In person at Ovalwood 227, Mansfield campus.

If you are not available on Thursday afternoons, you can email me to schedule a CarmenZoom or phone meeting at a different time.

Class announcements

I will send all important class-wide messages through the Announcements tool in CarmenCanvas. Please check [your notification preferences](https://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

You can expect feedback on quizzes and most assignments within seven days. For the close reading and pop culture assignments, I might need a little longer (up to ten days) to grade.

Discussion board

I will check and reply to messages in the discussion boards at least twice each week. I won't always respond to every message individually, but I will read all of them and join the conversation. I often prefer to write summary posts so I can respond to several of you at once without taking over the discussion.

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.

Assignment help

All work you submit in this course must be your own. You cannot pay someone to do your work (using an online tool, such as Chegg, or any other method). I also prohibit the use of Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT, to complete graded assignments. Do not use AI to summarize our texts. Do not incorporate any part of an AI-generated response in an assignment, unless you receive permission from me and cite the AI tool.

Instead, you CAN do the following:

- Email me if it's a question I can answer in a short paragraph.
- Visit my office hours or schedule a Zoom appointment.
- Seek feedback on written assignments at the Mansfield [Writing Center](#) or the Columbus [Writing Center](#), both of which provide free individual writing (and reading/analysis) consultation for students of all abilities. Both centers offer in-person and online options.
- Use and cite AI tools in early stages of prewriting and discussion. For example, you might ask ChatGPT what it knows about a subject or text, for the purpose of generating a funny conversation starter for our discussion. Or use ChatGPT to brainstorm ideas, so long as you do not use any statements it composes in your work. Always give credit to tools you use, and always fact-check AI!

Copyright for instructional materials

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.

Learning accommodations

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. For more information about SLDS, contact Michelle at mcgregor.40@osu.edu or 419-755-4304.

Religious accommodations

It is Ohio State's policy to reasonably accommodate the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of all students. The policy permits a student to be absent for up to three days each academic semester for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief. Students planning to use religious beliefs or practices accommodations for course requirements must inform the instructor in writing no later than 14 days after the course begins. The instructor is then responsible for scheduling an alternative time and date for the course requirement, which may be before or after the original time and date of the course requirement. These alternative accommodations will remain confidential. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all course assignments are completed.

Campus and university policies

For important information on mental health resources and issues related to diversity and safety, please read [these syllabus statements](#).

Semester schedule

This chart provides a semester overview; please refer to our Carmen page (carmen.osu.edu) for detailed instructions and deadlines. Assignments and due dates might change based on class needs. Texts identified with “Carmen” are linked on our Carmen page. All other texts can be found in the *Broadview Anthology* custom text in the order that they appear on the schedule. I use the numbers that appear at the bottom of the pages and in the table of contents.

Week and topic	Required reading and assignments
Week 1: Beginnings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W 8/23: Read syllabus and course policies; introduce yourself (discussion post) • F 8/25: Meet your classmates (discussion response); Quiz 1
Week 2: Old English poetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 8/28: “The Wife’s Lament” and “The Wanderer” • W 8/30: <i>Judith</i> (6-14); discussion post • F 9/1: Discussion response; Quiz 2
Week 3: Anglo-Norman poetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 9/4: Labor Day (no assignment) • W 9/6: Marie de France, “Bisclavret” and “Lanval”; discussion post • F 9/8: Discussion response; Quiz 3
Week 4: Anglo-Norman and Middle English romance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 9/11: Finish “Lanval”; discussion post • W 9/13: <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>, parts 1-2; discussion post • F 9/15: Discussion response; Quiz 4
Week 5: Middle English romance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 9/18: <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>, part 3 • W 9/20: <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>, part 4; discussion post • F 9/22: Discussion response; Quiz 5
Week 6: Focus on close reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 9/25-W 9/27: Work on close reading project • F 9/29: Close reading project due

<p>Week 7: Middle English poetry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 10/2: Chaucer, <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>: “The General Prologue”: lines 1-42, 208-32 (“Frere” or Friar), 381-389 (Cook), and 547-68 (“Millere” or Miller) (Carmen) • W 10/4: Chaucer, “The Miller’s Prologue” and “The Miller’s Tale”; discussion post • F 10/6: Discussion response; Quiz 6
<p>Week 8: Shakespeare in love</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 10/9: Shakespeare, Sonnets 15, 29, and 55 (Carmen); annotation post • W 10/11: Shakespeare, Sonnets 130 and 147 (Carmen); annotation post and response • F 10/13: Fall break (no assignment)
<p>Week 9: Renaissance drama</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 10/16: <i>Witch of Edmonton</i>, Act 1 • W 10/18: <i>Witch of Edmonton</i>, Act 2; discussion post • F 10/20: Discussion response; Quiz 7
<p>Week 10: Renaissance drama</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 10/23: <i>Witch of Edmonton</i>, Acts 3-4 • W 10/25: <i>Witch of Edmonton</i>, Act 5; discussion post • F 10/27: Discussion response; Quiz 8; optional close reading revisions due
<p>Week 11: Seventeenth-century women and science</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 10/30: Pulteney, “Upon the Death of My Dear and Lovely Daughter” and “Why Must I Thus Be Forever Confined” (Carmen); discussion post • W 11/1: 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); annotation post • F 11/3: Quiz 9; work on next week’s presentation
<p>Week 12: Focus on pop culture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 11/6: Pop culture presentation due • W 11/8: Watch and comment on peers’ presentations (2 discussion posts) • F 11/10: Veterans Day (no assignment)

<p>Week 13: Seventeenth-century religious poetry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 11/13: Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i>, excerpts of Book 1; discussion post • W 11/15: Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i>, first half of Book 9; discussion post • F 11/17: Discussion response; Quiz 10
<p>Week 14: Seventeenth-century religious poetry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 11/20: Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i>, second half of Book 9; discussion post • W 11/22-F 11/24: Thanksgiving break
<p>Week 15: Eighteenth century liberty and satire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 11/27: Equiano, <i>The Interesting Narrative</i>, Chapters 1-2 and “In Context: Reactions to Olaudah Equiano’s Work” • W 11/29: Swift, “The Lady’s Dressing Room” and Montagu, “The Reasons”; discussion post • F 12/1: Discussion response; Quiz 11
<p>Week 16: Reflection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 12/4: Reflection essay due • W 12/6: Work on your creative project • F 12/8: Take-home final exam (creative project) due