

**Carleton University**  
**Fall 2023 Preliminary Course Outline**  
**Department of English**

**ENGL 3500A: Literatures and Cultures 1700-1900**

**Prerequisite: third year standing or permission of the department**  
**Precludes additional credit for ENGL 3502 (no longer offered).**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays: 1:05pm-2:55pm**  
**Format: In-person, not suitable for online students**

**Instructor: Professor J. Murray**  
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*Carleton University is located on unceded Algonquin territory*

**Course Description:**

This course offers students an introduction both to a range of British literary and cultural texts from the early 18<sup>th</sup>-century to the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century, and to basic methodologies of literary study. Situating the literature we read in its historical, cultural, and political contexts, we will analyse in detail the language and forms in which our authors articulated and critiqued some of the key issues of their day. From the “rise” of the novel to the “rise” of empire, from the abolition of slavery to the extension of voting rights to women, from rapidly expanding urban centres and colonial outposts to rapidly expanding reading audiences, we will examine these issues in detail. At the same time, we will pay close attention to conventions of genre and their transformations across the period, in order better to understand the ways in which the formal properties of texts shape both the expression of particular social-historical formations, and our interaction with those formations.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- you will learn to read a range of literary texts in Britain from the early 18<sup>th</sup>-century to the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century and establish a sense of the chronology of British literature.
- you will learn to situate literary texts in the context of their historical and cultural moments.
- you will develop a vocabulary of key critical terms that are commonly used in literary study.
- you will improve your essay-writing skills. Students will work on their ability to construct engaging, concise, and persuasive arguments.

**Required Texts:**

Custom Coursepack from Broadview Press (click [here](#) to buy the e-book from Broadview)  
Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (Broadview Press)  
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Broadview Press)

Print editions of these books are available for purchase at Octopus Books, which is located at 116 Third Ave (in the Glebe). For information about Octopus Books, click [here](#).

**Course Requirements:**

\*This is a **tentative** list of requirements. The final version will be posted near the start of the course.

Quizzes (4 quizzes, written in-class, 5% each – total = 20%)

Mid-term test (35%)

Research Essay proposal (10%)

Research Essay (25%)

Participation (attendance, participation in class - 10%)