

Carleton University
Spring 2024 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English

ENGL 2302 B: *Literature and Cultures, 1500–1700*

Prerequisites: second-year standing or permission of the department

Preclusions: ENGL 2300

Instructor: Dr. Morgan Rooney

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***** *This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change.***
A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term. ***

Course Description:

At the outset of the sixteenth century, England was a relatively minor player on the world stage. Like its continental counterparts, it had recently undergone considerable socio-political turmoil in the wake of Protestant reformist pressures, and while these did not fundamentally undermine England's monarchical system or its court politics, they did introduce new religious factions that would increasingly divide its citizens. Those pressures were released, in dramatic fashion, in the mid-seventeenth century, when England entered into a civil war that resulted in a short but memorable political experiment in the form of the "Commonwealth," the first era in the nation's history when England had no monarch. While the monarchical system was restored in 1660, the divisions from the previous decades soon resurfaced, culminating in James II's deposition and, in the wake of the post-1688 settlements, the birth of constitutional monarchy. At the same time, England considerably expanded its influence around the world, and at home its hierarchical class system was being destabilized by the growing wealth and influence of the middling classes, as the infrastructure required to support a capitalist system began to take shape. Not surprisingly, the literature of these centuries reflects back on and participates in the dramatic changes England experienced, and was itself shaped and influenced by these events. In this course, we will explore a representative selection of authors the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, whose writings provide us with a window into some of the more significant literary, cultural, and socio-political developments of this period.

Course Modality:

This is an online synchronous course. This means the course happens in real-time, with the instructor and students meet via web conferencing tools (Zoom), at scheduled days and times. Students must be available during the scheduled day and time. Instructors and students share information, ideas and learning experiences in a virtual course environment. Participation in synchronous sections requires students to have reliable, high-speed internet access, a computer (ideally with a webcam), and a headset with a microphone.

e-Proctoring:

Please note that tests and examinations in this course will use a remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. You can find more information at <https://carleton.ca/ses/e-proctoring/>.

The minimum computing requirements for this service are as follows:

- Hardware: Desktop, or Laptop
- OS: Windows 10, Mac OS 10.14
- Internet Browser: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, or Microsoft Edge
- Internet Connection (High-Speed Internet Connection Recommended)
- Webcam (HD resolution recommended)

Note: Tablets, Chromebooks, and Smartphones are not supported at this time. Windows-based tablets are not supported at this time.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students will have demonstrated their ability to:

1. **Explain the core concerns, key debates, and landmark developments of the periods under study, as well as points of convergence / divergence between them.** This skill includes the ability, for each period, to explain in some depth
 - a. significant generic innovations and literary developments;
 - b. major historical, political, and cultural events;
 - c. core concerns and ideological positions expressed by the authors; and
 - d. relationships between the authors' ideological positions.
2. **Distinguish between and apply the various literary and socio-historical terms explored in the course.** This level of understanding entails the ability to
 - a. define and explain those terms;
 - b. identify relevant examples and use them to illustrate the meaning of those terms; and
 - c. use those terms appropriately in analyses in assignments and the exam.
3. **Create analytical readings of texts that are informed by the socio-political, cultural, and aesthetic developments of their authors' moment in history.** This skill involves, for the texts studied, constructing readings that
 - a. relate texts to contexts;
 - b. create linkages between developments in a period and authors' aesthetic and ideological expressions; and
 - c. analyze the ways that literary texts intersect with real developments in their authors' society.
4. **Work collaboratively as a member of a group.** This skill includes the ability to
 - a. Identify and define relevant tasks and timelines for completion;
 - b. Identify and divide tasks up among group members according to each other's strengths;
 - c. Provide and receive feedback in a constructive fashion; and
 - d. Identify and collectively resolve any breakdowns in group dynamics.
5. **Assess the utility of artificial intelligence chatbots for literary studies.** This skill includes the ability to

- a. use ChatGPT to generate preliminary analyses to literary essay prompts;
- b. analyze the quality of the text it generates (i.e., its strengths, omissions, and errors); and
- c. make recommendations regarding the strength and limitations of AI chatbots for literary studies.

Texts:

1. Broadview e-Course Pack (a selection of poetry and non-fiction prose primarily from vols. 2 & 3 the *Broadview Anthology of British Literature*, as well as Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*, Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and Behn's *The Rover*)

Evaluation:

Note: the Tests, the Final Project, and the Final Exam are mandatory assignments. That is, you must submit them to be eligible to receive a passing grade for the course.

Assignment	Type	Percentage
Sight Passage Analyses (3% per, best 2 of 3)	Group	6%
Introductory Activities (Syllabus Quiz, 2%; Plagiarism Quiz, 2%; AI Honour Pledge, 1%; Test Preparation Quiz, 2%)	Individual	7%
Final Project (4 parts – Topic Selection, 1%; Essay Response & Annotations, 15%; Reflection, 10%; Self & Peer Evaluation, 1%)	Group (Parts 1-3) Individual (Part 4)	27%
Tests (2 in total, 1.5 hrs each – Test 1, 10%; Test 2, 15% – e-proctored)	Individual	25%
Final Exam (3 hrs – e-proctored)	Individual	35%