

Carleton University
Fall 2024 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).

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

***** 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:

This course offers students an introduction both to a range of British literary and cultural texts from the early 18th-century to the late 19th-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 18th-century to the late 19th-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 E-book from Broadview Press (available from Carleton Campus Bookstore)

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).

Course Requirements:

NOTE: The course assignments are mandatory. You must complete all of them to receive a final grade in the course.

*Further details about the course requirements will be posted in Brightspace.

Quizzes	20% (4 in total – 5% each) Quizzes will consist of short answer questions and be based on course material and lectures. Quizzes will be completed on Brightspace.
Final Exam	40% The final exam will consist of two short passages that you will analyze and interpret according to specific criteria (point of view, tone, voice, genre, theme, etc) and two essay questions. The exam will be written during the final exam period in December 2024.
Final Project	30% The final project will be a creative project in which you engage with one or more texts on the course by adapting it to a different format: podcast, blog, video, etc.
Participation/Attendance	10% Participation includes attendance, and participation in class discussion.