

Carleton University  
Department of English

WINTER 2027 Preliminary Outline

*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.*

ONLINE SCHEDULED

ENGL 3500B: Literatures and Cultures 1700-1900

Instructor: Professor J. Murray  
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"Dido Belle and Lady Elizabeth Murray." By David Martin, 1778.

### **Course Description:**

This online scheduled course offers students an introduction both to a range of British literary and cultural texts from 1700-1900, 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. 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.

**Note:** This is an online scheduled course for English majors. To mitigate some of the challenges of being online, we will build in analog and other forms of engagement: we will spend time talking about the concept of “slow reading” and students will keep a Slow Reading Journal. This journal will be the focus of the midterm, which will involve a 20 minute one-on-one Zoom “conversation” with me. Instructions, rubrics, and expectations will all be detailed on the full syllabus. If you are taking this course because you think it will be asynchronous and that you won’t need to participate or engage regularly with me or your classmates, then this might not be the course for you.

### **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 ability to read with attention: reading slowly and closely is a key focus of this course.

### **Required Texts:**

Broadview Custom Text (approx. \$40)

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Broadview Press, approx. \$16)

Andrea Levy, *The Long Song* (Penguin Random House, approx. 20\$)

Course texts will be available from the Campus Bookstore.

### **Course Requirements and Evaluation:**

**NOTE:** The course assignments are mandatory. You must complete all of them in order to receive a final grade in the course. You must also write the in-person final exam in order to pass the course.

Short Answer Tests

**15%** (3 in total – 5% each) Tests will consist of 5-10 short answer questions and be based on course material and lectures. They will be completed on Brightspace. Dates will be on the weekly schedule.

Slow Reading Journal

**20%** (4 entries – 5% each) An analog assignment in which you will annotate class readings (instructions

will be on the full syllabus) and upload to Brightspace your handwritten commentary on the readings.

Mid-term

**25%** A 20 minute one-on-one conversation with me on Zoom, related to material in your Slow Reading Journal. Camera **MUST** be turned on. No exceptions.

Final Exam

**30%** The final exam is in-person, during the formal examination period, and will consist of short answer questions, passage analysis, and one essay question.

Engagement Grade

**10%** “Engagement” includes attendance in online scheduled classes (attendance will be taken), willingness to participate in class discussion – either on camera or in the chat – and “in-class” (ie, online) writing and related activities.