

English 2500 – Intro to British Literature I

Overall English Department Mission Statement

The English Department at Dixie State College strives to instill in students an appreciation for the centrality of language and literature in human culture, particularly their function in social, historical, and political contexts. Students who major in English master skills in analyzing and evaluating texts and other media, as well as learning how to produce focused critical essays.

Emphasis Mission Statement (Literature)

Our literature courses seek to broaden and deepen students' understanding of the unique value of literary expression as an aesthetic form that challenges the senses, the intellect, and the imagination. Students also learn to appreciate the complex relationship between the aesthetic and intellectual aspects of literature and the culture and time in which it was produced.

Course Description

Fulfills a General Education Humanities requirement. This course will introduce students to some of the major writers of the British Isles through careful study of a variety of literary works from the Anglo-Saxon period through the 18th century. Engages students with common practices in reading, interpreting and writing about literature, and it will address questions of literary form and genre, the relationship between literary works and the cultures that produce them, and how and why we read. FA, SU

Course Goals:

Goals to be reached in this course:

- A knowledge and awareness of the importance and scope of British literature for the time period covered.
- An understanding of the major authors and major movements of British literature for the time period covered.
- An ability to analyze world literature through written and oral responses.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will have improved their ability to:

- Explain, critique, and identify major authors and movements covered in this survey.
- Analyze elements of fiction, including plot, setting, characterization, theme and point of view.
- Illustrate an understanding of fiction/poetic elements and techniques, including figurative language, symbols, imagery, metaphors, similes, and sound.

Methods of Assessment:

Formative Assessment Methods

Quizzes: Students will periodically take quizzes, preparation checks, and/or tests to assess whether or not they are reading the material.

Mid-term Exam: Students will also take a mid-term exam to assess their understanding of literary concepts, and to test their ability to apply those concepts to the specific works they have read. Exams will be returned promptly with instructor feedback.

Essay: Each student will also write a critical essay illustrating how major authors use aspects and techniques of fiction/poetic elements. Essays will be returned promptly with instructor feedback.

Summative Assessment Methods

Final Exam: At the end of the semester, students will take a final exam to assess their ability to synthesize concepts and course material.

Value-Added Assessment Method

Pre/Post Test: Students will take a course-specific pre- and post-test, to assess the ways in which their learning has increased during the semester. This will be a multiple-choice (scantron) test.