

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Course: EN 201 British Literature I

Credits: 3

Prerequisites

Students taking English 201 shall have successfully passed English 102.

Description

EN 201 is a survey course of English/British literature from the Medieval Period through the Period of the Restoration and the 18th Century. Since the purpose of a survey course is to study those authors contributing the most significantly in the widest possible range, the focus in this course is on the major authors of each period.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Evaluate the reasons for the significance of the major literary works in British literature from the Anglo-Saxon Period through the Period of the Restoration and the 18th Century;
- Recognize the relationship between the literary works and the periods in which they were written including reflections of cultural and aesthetic influences present in those works;
- Identify the structure, sound, and sense of the literary genre forms of those authors contributing most significantly in the widest range possible;
- Apply in the written assignments the critical and logical thinking skills initiated in EN 101 and reinforced in EN 102.

Related General Education Outcomes

Humanistic Perspective

- Students will describe commonly used approaches and criteria for analyzing works.
- Students will analyze works and applying commonly used approaches and criteria.

Topical Outline

To implement achieving the goals of this course, the student will be held responsible for the following work: daily reading assignments and class discussion on these; a long critical analysis **or** a short research project; a minimum of **3** critical reaction papers; any content quizzes that may be given

A tentative working schedule might be as follows:

- Unit 1: introduction to Shakespearian theatre and a critical analysis of one of Shakespeare's plays (that will be the basis for the long writing assignment for the semester);
- Unit 2: introductory discussion of the Old English Period and a critical discussion of Beowulf;

- Unit 3: introductory discussion of the Medieval Period and the England of Chaucer; a critical discussion of Everyman and of “The General Prologue: to The Canterbury Tales; explication #1; project thesis card;
- Unit 4: introductory discussion of the 16th Century and the Age of the Sonnet; critical discussion of sonnets by Surrey, Sidney, Spenser, Shakespeare;
- Unit 5: introductory discussion of the 17th Century; critical discussion of the Cavalier poets (Johnson, Herrick), Marvell, the Metaphysical poets (Donne, Herbert); explication #2; project tentative outline;
- Unit 6: Milton; discussion of the Restoration and the 18th Century; critical discussion of Swift, Pope, Johnson; project paper, explication #3.

Required Texts and Other Materials

Main Text:

The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol. I. by Christ, C. 9th edition: W. W. Norton.

Support Text: if a play by Shakespeare in the main text is not used, then one of Shakespeare’s plays from the Norton Critical Edition series will be used.

Student Assessment

Since there will be no comprehensive final examination in this course, the evaluation procedure will include the following: in-class participation and any content quizzes = about 5% of the semester grade; the long critical analysis **or** the short research project = about 20% of the semester grade; the brief critical explications = about 75% of the semester grade. **NB:** however, the assignments of the second half of the semester will weigh heavier so that the final grade reflects any improvement the student may have made in his/her writing and critical thinking skills.

Entrance and Exit Criteria

Entrance Criteria for English 201

Students who have passed English 102 shall have

- (1) acquired the ability to write a logically organized, fully developed critical analysis of a work of literature, a critical explication in which a thesis statement is specifically supported in at least three paragraphs of illustration;
- (2) written a minimum of three such critical reaction papers one each for the following genre forms: short story, drama, poetry;
- (3) written a 6-0 typed paged research paper on a literary topic, a research project that utilizes the MLA format.

Exit Criteria for English 201

Students shall have

- (1) successfully written at least three logically structured, coherently argued critical reaction papers;

(2) successfully written a logically structured, coherently argued long critical analysis of an assigned work **or** written a short research project on the assigned topic, a paper that follows the MLA format.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation.

Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a “criminal” offense.

As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of **ZERO** and the student may receive a grade of **F** for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Available Resources

If you are having difficulty with work in this class, tutoring is available through the Success Center. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600, x1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

(List availability of open labs and/or writing center)

Before Withdrawing From This Course

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) **BEFORE** withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.