



Frank Cowper, *La Belle Dame Sans Merci*

English 3352: English Literature after 1800

Professor: Dr. Monica Smith

Office: 115 Fine Arts Center

Office Hours: Monday 8:30-9:30, Wednesday 12:00-2:00, or by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: An upper-division survey of English literary culture from 1800 to the present and its relationship to social and historical context.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand the fundamentals of prosody, narrative structure, and dramatic structure;
- Discuss and write critically about genre, period, and authors;
- Select and incorporate appropriate secondary sources into critical essays;
- Employ literary terminology correctly;
- Appropriately integrate social and historical context into critical analysis of literary works;
- Independently produce a narrative that accounts for the variety, scope, and relative importance of different writers, texts, forms, and modes across the period.

CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE: This is an active, discussion-oriented class with substantial, demanding, daily readings. Each day, students should come to class prepared to articulate and defend their own readings, both on paper and in person, in large group and small group discussion.

REQUIRED TEXTS: **Purchase the editions specified below.** Other editions of the novels are unacceptable, for they will not contain necessary introductions and appendices. Take the syllabus to the bookstore and verify that you have the correct edition before purchasing. I'd certainly check online for price deals, but be careful to check shipping costs and delivery times (sometimes up to three weeks if shipped via media mail).

- *Norton Anthology of English Literature* 8th edition, Vol. 2.
- Abrams, M. H. *Glossary of Literary Terms*.
- Brontë, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. Norton Critical edition.
- Rhys, Jean. *Wide Sargasso Sea*. Norton Critical edition.
- Materials available on WTclass.

To access course materials online:

- Go to <https://wtclass.wtamu.edu>.
- Login with your WTAMU username and password.
- Find our course. Click on this link.
- On our course page, click on Lessons on the left-hand toolbar.

ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Daily Readings are substantial and demanding. All readings should be completed before coming to class. **Do not come to class without your books and/or copies of any assigned supplementary readings.**

Quizzes and In-class Writings will vary from a quick, four or five line response to a question or prompt to a short reading comprehension quiz to a detailed analysis of a particular passage. These writings will be assessed according to the degree of engagement the student demonstrates with the question or assignment. Quizzes and in-class writings cannot be made-up and may be administered at any point during the class period.

Response Papers will be due three times during the semester.

- Papers should be typed, one full page, single spaced (using Times New Roman 12 pt. font and 1" margins). Responses may cover one work in detail, or the response may address compelling connections between several texts. Some topics will be assigned, while others will be at the student's discretion.
- Responses will earn points for demonstrating the following: the student's significant and close engagement with the reading(s); detailed, notable textual analysis; original thought and critical reaction grounded in the text; observations that build on and go beyond class discussion.
- Responses will be penalized for the following: weak, sloppy, or insubstantial analysis; repetition of class discussion; lack of engagement with work; analysis based on vague assertions rather than close reading; remarks off-topic or not grounded in the text.
- The only materials that should be used in preparing the response papers are the assigned readings and a dictionary. No secondary sources of any kind, whether from journals, books, or the internet, should be used. I am interested in your interpretations, not someone else's.

Critical Essay should be 5-8 pages. Paper topics will be distributed several weeks before the due date. The critical essay should adhere to all the conventions of formal academic prose, following the guidelines specified by MLA, and must include at least one secondary source. The essay must be your own original work and must be written specifically for this class. If you have questions about the ethics or mechanics of acknowledging another person's writings or ideas, please see me. Papers are due at the beginning of class.

Examinations: Exams will consist entirely of identifications. The final exam will be a comprehensive essay examination. Alternate testing dates are not available, and make-ups will only be allowed under the most extreme circumstances—circumstances documented and verified by the Office of Student Services.

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is essential; flawless attendance is expected. I will take roll every day. All absences will be treated the same, i.e. no differentiation between "excused" or "unexcused" absences. Two tardies will count as an absence. Excessive absences (more than three) will be reflected in the final course grade. I reserve the right to fail any student who misses more than four class periods.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments are due in class and are to be delivered in person unless prior arrangements have been made with me. Any assignment that does not adhere to this requirement is considered late. Late assignments will lose one letter grade per business day, **not** class day. Assignments are not considered submitted until I receive them. To be safe, then, papers should never be left in my mailbox or sent via email attachment. Each student is held responsible for all assignments, regardless of her/his class attendance on the day the assignment is made. If a previously scheduled event coincides with an exam or due date, a written request for an extension or make-up date will be considered. All such requests must be submitted prior to the date in question. Any requests for extensions based on illness or family emergency must be accompanied by written documentation verified by the Office of Student Services. All make-ups and extensions are at the instructor's discretion.

COMPUTER ACCESS: Students are expected to check email daily and the course webpage several times a week or as indicated on the daily schedule. Students are responsible for securing working computer equipment; labs are available on campus. Please note that since “The printer wouldn’t work,” “Something’s wrong with my disk,” and “I don’t know what happened—I saved it but now it’s not there” have become the 21st century versions of “The dog ate my homework,” computer, software, or printer malfunction/failure of any kind will not constitute a valid excuse for missed, late, or incomplete work. Remember: save early, save often; print early, print often.

CONFERENCES: Office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus. You are always welcome to drop by during office hours.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All students are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. Any instance of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Head of the English Department and the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Students are responsible for informing themselves of all university regulations concerning academic honesty. For more information, please see the Code of Student Life, Appendix III (<http://www.wtamu.edu/administrative/ss/code/index.htm>)

ACCESS STATEMENT: If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a disability (i.e., physical, mental, psychological, learning), have emergency medical information to share with me, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. West Texas A&M University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity.

GRADING:

Response Papers	20%
Quizzes, In-Class Writings	15%
Critical Essay	15%
Exams (2 exams at 15% each)	30%
Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale:

Excellent work will earn an A (90-100).

Good work will earn a B (80-89.99).

Average work will earn a C (70-79.99).

Fair work will earn a D (60-69.99).

Poor work will earn an F (0-59.99).

A = 95

A- = 90

B+ = 88

B = 85

B- = 80

C+ = 78

C = 75

C- = 70

D+ = 68

D = 65

D- = 60

F = (as marked; work not submitted assessed as a 0)

A note about grade reporting: I will record your grades on WTClass. It is your responsibility to check that I have recorded your grade accurately; therefore, you should keep copies of all graded work until the end of the semester. If I enter something incorrectly, I will correct it—as long as you have the original graded work for me to verify. Without that original graded copy, the grade stands as entered.

DAILY SCHEDULE: Subject to change. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. The most up-to-date version will be available via WTClass. It is the student's responsibility to stay informed and up-to-date with any changes.

Standing Daily Assignment: Although not specified by page number on the syllabus, students are expected to read and should anticipate quizzes over the introductory sections on each author we study.

Week One	Monday, January 14	Wednesday, January 16: The Romantic World Required: "The Romantic Period" (1-22); Charlotte Smith, "Written at the Close of Spring" (40), "On Being Cautioned against Walking on an Headland [. . .]" (41)
Week Two	Monday, January 21 No classes; MLK Holiday	Wednesday, January 23: The Visual World Required: William Blake, "Introduction," "The Chimney Sweeper," and "Infant Joy" from <i>Songs of Innocence</i> (81, 85, 87), "Introduction," "The Chimney Sweeper," "Infant Sorrow," and "London" from <i>Songs of Experience</i> (87, 94, 95) Recommended: <i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i> (110)
Week Three	Monday, January 28: The Natural World Required: William Wordsworth, "Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey" (258); "The Thorn" (252); Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> (262) Recommended: Percy Bysshe Shelley, "To Wordsworth" (744)	Wednesday, January 30: The Political World Required: "The Revolution Controversy and the 'Spirit of the Age'" (148-167) First response paper due
Week Four	Monday, February 4: The Supernatural World Required: "The Gothic and the Development of a Mass Readership" (577-607) Recommended: Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Christabel" (449); John Keats, "Lamia" (909)	Wednesday, February 6: The Regency World Required: Jane Austen, <i>Love and Friendship: A Novel in a Series of Letters</i> (515) Recommended: George Gordon, Lord Byron, "She walks in beauty" (612); "Darkness" (614); "Stanzas Written on the Road between Florence and Pisa" (734); "January 22nd. Missolonghi" (735); John Keats, "On Seeing the Elgin Marbles" (883)
Week Five	Monday, February 11: The Victorian Era Required: "The Victorian Age" (979); Felicia Hemans, "Casabianca" (868), "England's Dead" (865); Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "Mother and Poet" (1106); Tennyson, "The Charge of the Light Brigade" (1188)	Wednesday, February 13: The Dramatic Monologue Required: Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess" (1255); "Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister" (1253) Recommended: "Porphyria's Lover" (1252); Second response paper due
Week Six	Monday, February 18: The Medieval Influence Required: Tennyson, "The Lady of Shallot" (1114); Browning, " 'Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came'" (1266) Recommended: William Morris, "The Defence of Guenevere" (1483)	Wednesday, February 20: TBA
Week Seven	Monday, February 25: Exam One <i>February 29 is last day to drop or withdraw with guaranteed "X"</i>	Wednesday, February 27: The Victorian Novel Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i> , Volume I
Week Eight	Monday, March 3 The Victorian Novel Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i> , Volume II	Wednesday, March 5: The Victorian Novel Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i> , Volume III
Week Nine	Monday, March 10 Library orientation; location TBA. Critical Essay topics available via WTClass; print and bring to class.	Wednesday, March 12: The Pithy Aphorism Required: Oscar Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>

	Monday, March 17 SPRING BREAK	Wednesday, March 19 SPRING BREAK
Week Ten	Monday, March 24: Crime and Degeneration Required: Robert Louis Stevenson, <i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>	Wednesday, March 26: TBA
Week Eleven <i>March 31 is last day to drop or withdraw</i>	Monday, March 31: Imperialism, Colonialism, and the West Indies Required: Jean Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> , Part One	Wednesday, April 2: Imperialism, Colonialism, and the West Indies Required: Jean Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> , Parts Two & Three
Week Twelve	Monday, April 7: Ireland Required: William Butler Yeats, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" (2025), "The Wild Swans at Coole" (2033), "Easter 1916" (2031), "The Second Coming" (2036)	Wednesday, April 9: Scotland Required: Robert Burns, "Auld Lang Syne" (137), "To a Mouse" (135); Ellen Johnston, "The Last Sark," "Nelly's Lament for the Pirnhouse Cat," (WTClass); Hugh MacDiarmid, "The Splendid Variety of Languages and Dialects" (2465), "A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle" (2466) Third response paper due
Week Thirteen	Monday, April 14: Regional Pressures Required: Tony Harrison, "Heredity" (2531), "National Trust" (2531), "Book Ends" (2532), "Long Distance" (2533), "Turns" (2534), "Marked with a D." (2534)	Wednesday, April 16: From Czechoslovakia to Singapore to India to Yorkshire to the West End . . . Required: Tom Stoppard, <i>Arcadia</i> Recommended: Salman Rushdie, "English Is an Indian Literary Language" (2540), Ngugi wa Thiong'o, excerpt from <i>Decolonising the Mind</i> (2535)
Week Fourteen	Monday, April 21 Critical Essay workshop; bring two typed copies of a complete draft (including works cited page) to class; anyone without complete drafts will be dismissed from class and counted absent for the day	Wednesday, April 23 Critical Essay DUE
Week Fifteen	Monday, April 28 Exam Two	Wednesday, April 30 Review for final exam

Final Exam: Monday, May 5 at 3:00 p.m.