

A medieval manuscript illustration featuring several figures. At the top, a figure in a blue robe is seated, holding a book. To their right, a figure in a red robe is seated, also holding a book. Below the blue-robed figure, a figure in a red robe is depicted, possibly in a state of distress or being held. In the lower right, a figure in a red robe is standing, holding a large, curved blade or sword. The background is a light, textured surface with some architectural elements like a yellow archway on the right.

ENGL 2530 OL2 | CRN 10657 | Online | Fall 2023

Survey of English Literature 1

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Department of English and Philosophy
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

In-person Office Hours: TR 10:45am–12:15pm*

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Course Description

Catalog description: English literature from the medieval period through the 18th century.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- (1) acquire broad knowledge of important texts and authors from the medieval, Renaissance, and seventeenth- and eighteenth-century literary eras
- (2) identify and apply basic literary genres, terms, and concepts
- (3) analyze and discuss thematic concerns in literature
- (4) develop ability to read literary works closely and to practice analysis of literary texts in well-written assignments
- (5) demonstrate understanding of the ways literary works challenge and are shaped by their historical and cultural contexts, with specific attention paid to representations of diversity, including but not limited to race, class, gender, sexuality, disability and/or ethnicity

Required Texts

PDF readings (online - free)

COVE anthology (online - free)

Course Website

<https://britlitaum.weebly.com>

Course Requirements

Course prerequisites: C or better in ENGL 1010/1020

Expectations and Tips for Success

- You will do a lot of reading for this class—it's an English course! You should keep up with the readings and assignments each week, and you should submit everything on time. However, if something is not working for you, please let me know—I'm flexible and will consider changing my approach if you are struggling.
- Make sure you have a strong and reliable Internet connection. This is an online course, so it's vital that you have consistent access to the Internet.
- Check your AUM email at least once each day.
- Spend at least one hour each day on course readings and assignments.
- Take notes on every reading, lecture, and class session.
- Organize your time so that you can complete the work throughout the week rather than trying to cram everything in on one day.
- Begin working on major assignments well in advance of the deadline.
- Make some time to meet with me on a regular basis to talk about the readings, assignments, and class more generally on a one-to-one basis (this is what my office hours are for).
- Ask questions early and often—lots and lots of questions!

Email Etiquette

The primary form of communication for this class is email. I will do my best to respond to your emails within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours over the weekend.

When you email me (and any other professor):

- Use your AUM email address
- Add a subject line so I know what you're writing about and so I can keep track of our email conversation
- Address me as Professor Reno or Dr. Reno (pronouns he/him/his)
- Sign off your email with your full name
- In general, follow professional email etiquette and structure—if you're not sure what this means, Google it for some examples
- NOTE: I may not respond to your email if you don't follow etiquette, especially if there's no subject line, no salutation, and no name.





Assignments

Note: You will receive individual assignment sheets and grading rubrics for most of these assignments.

Writing Exercises (20%): You will complete four writing exercises throughout the semester, which increase in difficulty. These exercises are due during the first month of the course, and directions are included in the course textbook. The purpose of these exercises is to reinforce the writing skills you learned in ENGL 1010 and 1020, as well as to introduce you to some new skills specific to reading and writing about literature. You can revise and resubmit these exercises throughout the semester until you get full credit, if necessary. Each exercise is worth 5%.

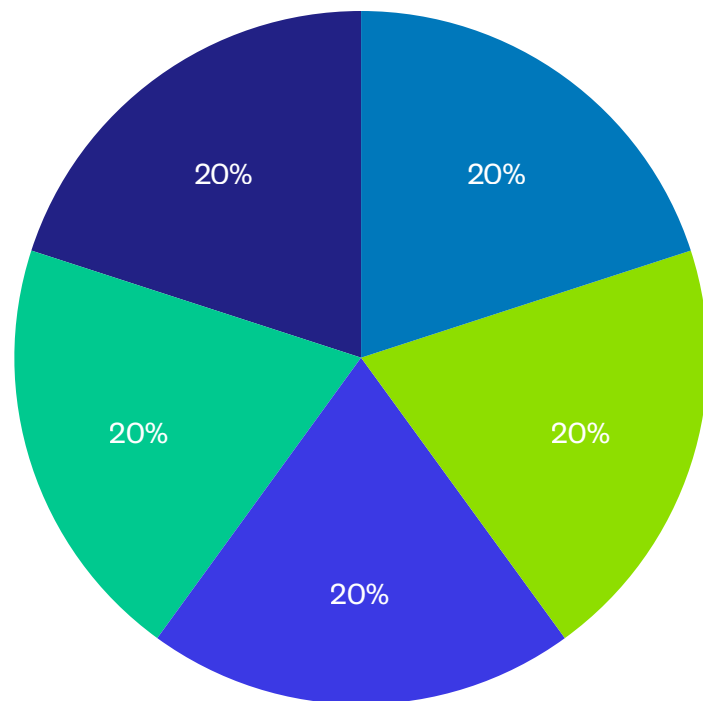
Close Reading Paper (20%): You will write one short paper (~500 words) where you will practice your close reading skills by analyzing a particular passage from a longer work or an entire short poem. This paper will help to hone your analytical reading and writing skills.

Diversity Essay (20%): You will write one short essay (~500 words) where you will analyze and reflect on a specific representation of diversity in an assigned reading. This paper will help to hone your analytical reading and writing skills, as well as your ability to reflect on the diversity of perspective and communities.

Creative Project (20%): Your creative project can be anything, really. I am open to you taking the project in any direction that you'd like. Perhaps you will create a podcast on some aspect of the course; a video project, like a YouTube show or short film; a poem/story/song/musical composition inspired by a reading; or anything else you'd care to create. This project will focus on creativity, imagination, adaptation, and fun.

Final Portfolio (20%): Your final assignment will be a portfolio consisting of four components: (1) a revised and expanded version of your close reading paper (~750 words); (2) a revised and expanded version of your diversity essay (~750 words); (3) a short review of one of the films we viewed this semester (~250 words); and (4) a reflection on what you've learned this semester/how you've grown, and how you will apply your new thinking and skills in the future (in your life, your classes, your job, etc.) (~250 words)

● Writing Exercises ● Close Reading Paper ● Diversity Essay
● Creative Project ● Final Portfolio



Course Policies

Assignment Deadlines and Make-up Policy

All assignments are due when they are due. If something comes up and you need an extension, please talk to me in advance of the due date. If you have a job or other commitments that make the deadlines difficult, we can discuss alternative submission dates on a case-by-case basis. But for the most part, plan to turn in assignments when they are due.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is the unauthorized use of the words or ideas of another person and/or AI programs like ChatGPT. All writing for this class must be your own and must be written exclusively for this class. Any use of quotation, paraphrases, or ideas from outside sources, including Internet sources, must be properly documented. You may not reuse or recycle papers you've written for other classes. You may not copy a sentence or paragraph from a paper someone else wrote. In cases where you have clearly plagiarized, or committed some other act of academic dishonesty, you will automatically fail the assignment. In other words: **don't cheat**. If you are confused or struggling with an assignment, talk to me about it. If you are unsure of whether you've quoted a source properly, talk to me about it. If you put off writing a paper until the night before it's due and you're feeling stressed out and tempted to copy something online, talk to me about it. **A big note here:** plagiarism will result in automatic failure of the assignment.

Grading

For any assignment, and for the course overall, I consider A-work as exceptional. Such work goes above and beyond the requirements. B-work is good, quality work. Such work pushes beyond the requirements. C-work satisfies the minimum requirements of the assignment/course. C is an average grade; most work falls near this range. D or F means you submitted nothing or completely disregarded this syllabus and the assignment prompts. For major assignments, please see the prompts and rubrics. I will ask you to grade some of your own assignments as a way to reflect on your writing skills (but no guarantee I will agree with your grade!).

A = 90-100	B+ = 87-89	B = 80-86	C+ = 77-79
C = 70-76	D+ = 67-69	D = 60-66	F = 59 or lower

I also want to stress: **learning is more important than grades**. Discovering something new about the world or about yourself is more important than a grade. Becoming a better reader and writer is more important than a grade. Becoming a

more informed citizen of the world is more important than a grade. So, think about what you put into the class—what you put into your education—because that is what really matters. You may get an A in a class, and then forget everything about that class within a month. You may get a C in a class, but what you learned changes your life forever. In the end, grades don't matter that much.

You may talk to me at any point in the semester about your standing in the class.

Academic Support

All students have the opportunity to receive free academic support at AUM. Visit the Learning Center in the WASC on the second floor of the Library or the Instructional Support Lab in 203 Goodwyn Hall. They offer writing consulting as well as tutoring in almost every class through graduate school. You can reach the Learning Center at 334-244-3470 and the Support Lab at 334-244-3265.

IT Support

Students may seek technology assistance from the ITS Help Desk located in the computer lab on the first floor of the Taylor Center. You may also call 334-244-3500 or email helpdesk@aum.edu.

Accommodations

Students who need accommodations should contact me by email to discuss specifics. If you have not registered for accommodation services through the Center for Disability Services but need accommodations, please give them a call at 334-244-3631 or email cds@aum.edu.

Evaluations

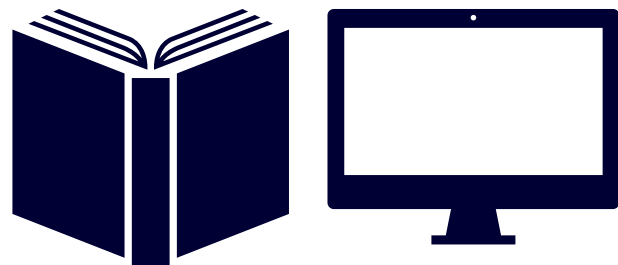
You will receive a link through your AUM email to complete a voluntary, anonymous course evaluation during the last few weeks of the semester.

Important Dates

The last day to add classes is August 22. The registration cancellation date is August 23. The last day to drop is November 13.

Suggested Weekly Timeline

This sample timeline is meant to give you a suggested structure to complete the readings and assignments successfully each week. **All assignments are due on Blackboard by 11:59pm Saturday each week.** But you won't be able to cram in the entire week's worth of reading and writing in one day. So, you must manage your time to ensure that you can meet the weekly deadlines. As a general guideline, **you should spend at least 9 hrs/week on work for this class, including time to watch the video lectures.**



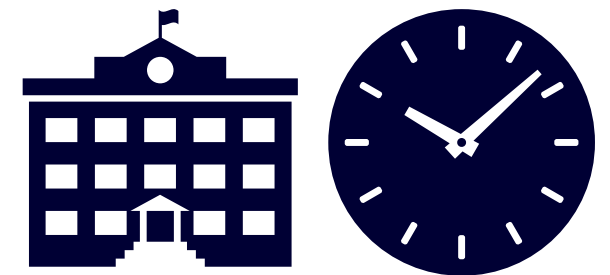
Monday: Class Preparation and Reading

Think of Monday as an opportunity to prepare for the coming week. You should consult the syllabus, course website, weekly checklist, and Blackboard to see what's due in the coming week, make a plan for completing the readings and assignments, and begin on the readings. Take lots of notes as you read and begin on the week's assignments.



Tues–Thurs: Finish Readings and Begin Assignments

You should complete readings no later than Wednesday. Once you've finished the readings, watch the video lectures. Takes lots of notes as you watch the lectures, write down questions for me, and have the readings handy so that you can follow along. You should find a quiet place to watch these lectures—think of watching the lectures as attending class.



Friday: Complete and Submit Assignments

Assignments are due before midnight on Saturday, but it's a good idea to give yourself two days to work on these—and to take the weekend off! You'll need to finish the readings and video lectures *before* completing the assignments—so organize your time accordingly.

Daily Schedule

YOU MUST COMPLETE READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS EACH WEEK.
ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 11:59PM ON SATURDAYS.

Unit One: Introduction to Literature

Week One: August 19: Introduction to the Course

DUE: WRITING EXERCISE #1

Read: textbook chapters 1 and 2

Week Two: August 26: Introduction to Literary Analysis

DUE: WRITING EXERCISE #2

Read: textbook chapter 3

Read: Terry Eagleton's "What is Literature?"

Read: love poems from *Norton Anthology*

Week Three: September 2: Children's Literature

Read: selection of children's literature

Week Four: September 9: William Blake

DUE: WRITING EXERCISE #3

Read: selection of poems by William Blake

Unit Two: Medieval Heroes

Week Five: September 16: Lanval

DUE: WRITING EXERCISE #4

Read: Marie de France's *Lanval*

Read: textbook chapter 4

Week Six: September 23: Sir Gawain I

Read: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Week Seven: September 30: Sir Gawain II

Read: textbook chapters 5 and 6

Watch: *The Green Knight* (film - find on your own)

Unit Three: Renaissance Lovers

Week Eight: October 7: Sonnets I

Read: selection of sonnets

Week Nine: October 14: Sonnets II

DUE: CLOSE READING PAPER

Read: selection of sonnets

Week Ten: October 21: Romeo and Juliet I

Read: William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*

Week Eleven: October 28: Romeo and Juliet II

Watch: *Romeo + Juliet* (film - find on your own)

Unit Four: Transatlantic Slave Trade

Week Twelve: November 4: Oroonoko

Read: Aphra Behn's *Oroonoko*

Week Thirteen: November 11: Wheatley and Shire

Read: selection of poems by Phyllis Wheatley and Warsan Shire

Week Fourteen: November 18: Modern Legacies

DUE: DIVERSITY ESSAY

Listen: [Unreformed](#) podcast episode 1

Listen: NPR interview on "[modern day slavery in the Congo](#)"

THANKSGIVING BREAK: NOVEMBER 18-26

Week Fifteen: December 2: Projects

DUE: CREATIVE PROJECT

Work on class projects

Finals Week: December 7 (note: this is a Thursday)

DUE: FINAL PORTFOLIO



Caption

General University Policies

Attendance Reporting Policy

An attendance verification is in place for students accepting federal grants and loans. Absences from class may affect a student's eligibility for these funds. Students who have not attended/participated in any session by the report date are reported as no shows and their financial aid may be reduced or cancelled as a result. For purposes of financial aid and enrollment, a student will be considered to be in attendance in an online class when the student has met one of the following conditions prior to the report date: (1) submits an academic assignment, exam, or quiz on time; (2) participates in an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction; (3) posts by the student show participation in an online study group that is assigned by the institution; (4) posts by the student in a discussion forum show the student's participation in an online discussion about academic matters; or (5) emails initiated by the student to a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subjects related to the course materials on Blackboard.

Withdrawal

A student who wishes to withdraw from the course or has missed too many classes must complete the standard process for dropping a class by the withdrawal date for the term (November 13, 2023).

Disability Accommodations

Students in face-to-face classes who need accommodations are asked to arrange a meeting during office hours to discuss your accommodations. If you have a conflict with office hours, an alternate time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please contact me by email. If you have not registered for accommodation services through the Center for Disability Services (CDS), but need accommodations, make an appointment with CDS, 147 Taylor Center, or call 334-244-3631, or email CDS at cds@aum.edu

Free Academic Support

All students have the opportunity to receive free academic support at AUM. Visit the Learning Center (LC) in the WASC on second floor Library or the Instructional Support Lab (ISL) in 203 Goodwyn Hall. The LC/ISL offers writing consulting as well as tutoring in almost every class through graduate school. The LC may be reached at 334-244-3470 (call or walk-in for a session), and the ISL may be reached at 344-244-3265. ISL tutoring is first-come, first-served. Current operating hours can be found at <https://www.aum.edu/academics/academic-support/warhawk-academic-success-center/learning-center-isl/>.

Academic Honesty

The Student Academic Honesty Code applied to all student taking Auburn University at Montgomery classes, By act of registration, all students agree to conform to this Code. The regulations are designed to support the interests of AUM and its students and faculty, in maintaining the honesty and integrity essential to and inherent in an academic institutions. Full policy, including potential penalties for violation, can be found in the Student Handbook beginning on page 65. Full text at: <https://www.aum.edu/aum-student-handbook/>.

Technology Assistance

Students may seek technology assistance from the ITS Help Desk, located in the computer lab on the first floor of the Taylor Center. You may also call 334-244-3500 or email helpdesk@aum.edu.

Curtiss Course Critiques

AUM is committed to effective teaching, Students assist in maintaining and enhancing this effectiveness by completing teaching evaluations in a thoughtful and honest manner. We ask that you take time to respond to all questions and write comments. I can use your feedback to know what is working in the course and what is not working and improve the learning experience. The instructor will not be given student comments nor informed of the aggregate results of evaluations until after final grades have been submitted. All individual student responses will be confidential. The evaluations will be available on the following schedule for our class: evaluations open on November 11 and close on November 27. See <https://www.aum.edu/curtiss-course-critiques/>.

Key Dates for Full Term Fall Classes

Last Day to Add Classes	August 22
Last Day for 100% Refund	August 23
Labor Day Holiday	September 4
Last Day for 50% Refund	September 7
Mid-Semester Grades Due	October 10
Last Day to Drop	November 13
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 18-26
Classes End	November 29