

## Preliminary Web Course Description

\*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

### School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*1080*02	Course Title: Literatures in English I: Reading the Past	Date of Offering: <b>Fall 2019</b>
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Course Instructor: D. O'Quinn	Course Format: Lecture/Seminar
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#### **Course Description:**

This course offers an introduction to the study of English literature at the undergraduate level. We will be considering different critical and theoretical approaches to verse, prose, and performance from a wide range of time periods and from different regions and traditions. The course does not operate as a survey as such, but students will be introduced to areas of study that will be elaborated upon by the larger English curriculum in later years.

By the end of ENGL 1080, students will have:

1) Read and discussed texts

- from at least three of the following genres: lyric and narrative poetry, drama, fiction, and non-fiction prose.
- written in English in various parts of the world, including but not limited to Britain, Canada, and the United States.
- that include the perspectives of traditionally marginalized voices, including but not limited to those of women, people of colour, and sexual minorities. Such texts should be drawn from as wide a historical scope as possible.
- written from the Middle Ages to the present with approximately equal weight given to each of the traditionally-defined literary periods (even if this course may tend to destabilize historical periodization)—the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the 18th century, the 19th century, and the 20th century—without a requirement that this course provide a traditional survey of literary history.

2) Learned and practiced the art of close reading.

3) Learned a set of 30 or so basic literary terms to describe genre, style, prosody, etc.

4) Considered different theoretical positions that inform reading practices.

5) Explored the virtues and limitations of categorization of literatures by genre, geographic origin, authorial identity, and historical period.

6) Worked to express their ideas about literature precisely in both discussion and written assignments, using appropriate terminology.

7) Written approximately 8-10 pages of polished prose, in which considerable attention has been paid to the formation and development of a sophisticated argument, the appropriate and effective use of textual evidence (primary text only), and the structure and generic conventions of literary criticism.

8) Been provided ample opportunity to work—individually, in workshops, and with the professor—on revising their writing, concentrating especially on argument, style, and precision in academic prose, as well as on the mechanics of formal prose (grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.).

**Required Texts:**

Mark Strand and Eavan Boland, *The Making of a Poem* (Norton)

Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (trans. Ted Hughes)

Andre Alexis, *Fifteen Dogs*

Sophocles, *Antigone*

Kamila Shamsie, *Home Fire*

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

*Bridget Jones's Diary* (DVD)

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

- Literary Term Exercises (best 5 of 7): 15%
- Close reading (350-500 words): 15%
- Midterm Assignment: 20%
- Essay pre-writing (300-350 words): 5%
- Essay (900-1200 words): 20%
- Final exam: 25%

Total amount of writing will be between 2500 and 3500 words

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):