

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO
ENGL 2321: THEMES AND GENRES OF
BRITISH LITERATURE
Tue/Thurs: 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Venue: Classroom Hall 303

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Elizabeth Olaoye

PHONE

210 -784-2675

OFFICE HOURS

Mon: 9:30 pm-11:30 pm

Tuesday: 12:30 pm-1:30 pm

OFFICE LOCATION

Classroom Hall #104F

EMAIL

eolao01@tamusa.edu

COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome to our introductory course on British Literature! I'm delighted to invite you on a journey into literature and, more specifically, into the rich and complex tradition of British writing. Together, we will not only trace the history of British literature but also examine it through the lenses of travel, place, and identity. As readers, we will follow seafarers, explorers, wayfarers, conquerors, colonialists, and disillusioned travelers navigating both external landscapes and inner worlds. Through poetry, drama, and prose, we'll consider how the journey motif has shaped—and been shaped by—British identity across different periods. As an immigrant, I find these questions of identity, belonging, and movement particularly compelling, and I look forward to exploring them with you as we encounter major themes and eras in British literature. So, saddle your horses (or fasten your seatbelts) and let's set out on this 16-week adventure together. Aye!

What would I need on this journey?

Padlet access: Create an account for free

Two blue books

1 Scrapbooking Notebook

RESOURCES: The instructor will provide printed course materials on a weekly basis. Others will be available on our blackboard page.

INSTRUCTOR'S VALUED SKILLS

1. **Think for yourself, ta very much.**
Original ideas, no matter how weak they sound, beat lightning-fast, copy-and-paste answers from Generative AI every time! Show me your own brainwaves, not a bot's.

2. **Put pen to paper – literally.**

I want to see your scribbles, crossings-out, and “oops!” moments. Most tasks and every weekly quiz will be done long-hand. If your handwriting’s gone a bit rusty, now’s the time to give it a polish.

3. **Grumbles welcome.**

If the reading leaves you baffled, cheesed off, or muttering “What on earth...?”, that’s grand. Wrestling with tricky passages means your mind’s doing something exciting. Please feel free to share the struggle.

4. **Go the extra mile (or kilometre, if you prefer).**

In some cases, we’re only sampling excerpts in class, but if you nose around the text beyond what’s set and weave that into your work, I’ll be absolutely delighted, and you’ll bag extra credit.

Transferable Skills

Skills practiced in this class that are valuable elsewhere include critical thinking and reading, persuasive writing, analytic writing, synthesis of information, and collaboration.

Core Curriculum Learning Objectives

Critical Thinking Skills (CT) - creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information

Communication Skills (COM) - effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

Social Responsibility (SR) - intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Personal Responsibility (PR) - ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

Grading

Class Participation/Physical Scrapbook – 50 points

5 Blackboard/Padlet Forums – 20 points each/100 points total

1 Film/Game Review (1-1.5 pages) – 50 points

1 Close-Reading Presentation in pairs or groups – 50 points

Weekly Quizzes – 150 points

1 Critical Analysis Essay with Sources (4 to 5 pages) 100 points

Total: 500 points

Decorum Policy

Since university coursework requires focused study and open exchange of ideas, the Language, Literature, and Arts (LLA) Department expects the classroom to be a place where people interact with each other courteously. The demonstration of mutual respect between teachers and students includes arriving and leaving class on time, participating in classroom activities, and adapting to new and varied learning styles and tasks. Academic communication requires all of us to listen carefully to each other (whether we agree or not), and to state our positions with clarity and our disagreements with tact. Classroom standards for academic courtesy apply to group work and student-centered conferences.

Late Papers

I accept late work. However, if you submit work late, I may not have time to provide narrative feedback, undermining course benefits and outcomes. Furthermore, please see the Course Schedule for late submission cut-off dates. In appropriate circumstances, request an extension in advance.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

ENGL 2321 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center:

The Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can schedule appointments with the Center in JagWire under the student services tab. The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center can be reached by emailing wldcc@tamusa.edu. Students can also make appointments with the Writing, Language, and Digital Composing under the Student Services tab in JagWire.

Course Texts

Note: Soft copies of course materials are provided on the course Blackboard page. Where appropriate, print copies are made available for annotation and scrapbooking

- “The Wanderer” and “The Seafarer” (Poetry)
- “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight” (Medieval Romance)
- William Shakespear’s *The Tempest Act 1 & 5 (Drama)*
- The Pilgrim’s Progress by John Bunyan, “Vanity Fair” (Fiction)
- Jonathan Swift’s Gulliver’s *Travels* from “A Voyage to Lilliput”(Fiction)
- “Kubla Khan” by Samuel Taylor Coleridge (Poetry)
- “Ozymandias” by P B Shelley (Poem)
- from *King Solomon’s Mines* by Rider Haggard (Novel)
- From *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte (Novel)
- Doris Lessing’s “To Room Nineteen” (Short Story)
- Benjamin Zephaniah’s “The British” (Poetry)
- The Company of Wolves” by Angela Carter and “Little Red Riding Hood” (Short Stories)
- Wole Soyinka’s *Death and the King’s Horseman* (Drama)

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

(Aug 26 & Aug 28)

- Introduction to Literature/ Reading and Writing about Literature

Week 2

(Sep 2 & Sep 4)

- Intro British Literature/ Timeline

Week 3

(Sep 9 & Sep 11)

- The Anglo-Saxon Period:
- Life as a journey
- Text(s): “The Wanderer” and “ The Seafarer”

Week 4

(Sep 16 & Sep 18)

- The Medieval Period 1
- Journeys and Chivalry
- Text(s): from “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight”
- **Film/Game Review Assignment due by Sunday, 11:59 pm**

Week 5

(Sep 23 & Sep 25)

- The Medieval Period 2
- Text(s): Modern Appropriation of the journey motif in “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight”
- Movies and Games

Week 6

(Sep 30 & Oct 2)

- English Renaissance
- Life’s Journey as a Tempest
- Act 1 & 5 of William Shakespear’s *The Tempest*
- **Close Reading Assignment due by Sunday, 11:59 pm.**

Week 7

(Oct 7 & Oct 9)

- Journey as Allegory/Spiritual Progress
- The Seventeenth Century
- Text(s): from *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan, "Vanity Fair"
- Text(s): "To Lucasta, On going to the Wars" by Richard Lovelace

Week 8

(Oct 14 & Oct 16)

- The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century (Three Literary Ages)
- Journey as Satire
- From Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* from "A Voyage to Lilliput"

Week 9

(Oct 21 & Oct 23)

- The Romantic Period
- Text(s): "Kubla Khan" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge,
- "Ozymandias" by P.B. Shelley

Week 10

(Oct 28 & Oct 30)

- The Victorian Period I
- Empire, Domesticity and Travel
- Text: from *King Solomon's Mines*
- Text: From *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë
- Group Presentation 1

Week 11

(Nov 4 & Nov 6)

- The Victorian Period II
- Movie Adaptations
- Text: from *King Solomon's Mines*
- Text: Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*
- Group Presentation 2

Week 12

(Nov 11 & Nov 13)

- The Modern Period
- Journey as Obsession/Mental Illness
- Text: Doris Lessing's "To Room Nineteen"
- Text: Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*
- Group Presentation 3
- **Proposal for a topic and text for Critical Analysis due Sunday, by 11:59 pm.**

Week 13 Language, Identity, and the Cultural Journey

(Nov 18 & Nov 20)

- Readings: Benjamin Zephaniah's "The British"
- Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*
- Group Presentation 4
- **Working Draft of Critical Analysis (approx. 2-3 pages) due by 11:59 pm**

Week 14

Nov 25 & Nov 27

Thanksgiving Holiday- No class

Week 15

Dec 2 & Dec 4 (Last Class)

- Physical Scrapbook due in class on Tuesday
- Feminism, Escape and Fluid Identities
- Text: “The Company of Wolves” by Angela Carter and “Little Red Riding Hood”
- Wole Soyinka’s *Death and the King’s Horseman*
- Group Presentation 5
- Critical Analysis due Thursday by 11:59pm.



IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madlla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are **free and confidential** (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit <http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331.

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found [here](#).

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their

performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Office Hours: All faculty with teaching assignments should include regularly scheduled office hours on each syllabus in addition to "by appointment." Please review your appointment letter for the number of weekly office hours you are expected to set. Regularly scheduled office hours should also be posted outside your office door (where applicable).

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable modifications to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K). Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Young Jaguars: can support parenting students with daycare who meet this criteria: Must be enrolled in classes at TAMUSA in the current semester. Must be Pell eligible or a single parent. They serve children ages 3 to 12-years-old. Children must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. youngjaguars@tamusa.edu (210) 784-2636

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

Important Dates: Fall 2025 Regular 16-Week Session

August 25	First day of class
September 1	Labor Day Holiday - No classes
September 10	Census Date
November 14	Last day to drop with an automatic "W"
November 25	Last day to withdraw from the University
November 26	Study Day - No classes
November 27-29	Thanksgiving Holiday - No classes
December 4	Last day of classes
December 5	Study Day - No classes
December 6-12	Final exams
December 16	Commencement

The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>