

Texas A&M University—San Antonio
English 2321-001: Themes and Genres of British Literature (Fall 2026)
Meeting Sessions: Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 am – 10:45 am
Classroom location: Business Library Hall 366

Instructor: Dr. Jackson Ayres

Office: Classroom Hall, room 314L (for now)

Email: Jackson.Ayres@tamusa.edu

Zoom Room link: <https://tamusa.zoom.us/my/jackayres>

Office Phone: 210-784-2229

Office Hours*: Mon and Wed, from 11:00am-12:00pm, and f2f or virtual meetings by appointment

*Office hours are times that I designate to be available to meet with students about coursework.

Course Description

Compares a variety of texts from the British Isles, its former colonies, and Commonwealth nations, and considers the ways that literature has shaped and reflected images of British cultural identity. Topics and approaches to this course may vary by semester and instructor, but remain consistent with disciplinary norms, practices, and developments.

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, and 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

Student Learning Objectives

On completion of this course, students will:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the major themes, genres, and critical issues of British literature (CT, SR, PR);
- read and analyze, critically, a range of texts, with attention to the relationships between the texts and their historical and cultural contexts (CT, COM, SR, PR); and
- hone written and oral communication skills (COM, SR, PR).

Required Materials

Readings available online (Blackboard)

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818 edition) – widely available at book vendors and [full text online](#)

Attendance & Participation

I take attendance at each class session. Starting with Unit 1, I allocate 1 point per day as attendance credit. No point is given on days when class is not held (e.g. Labor Day). The attendance point can be lost due to non-participation, disruptive activity, or tardiness / early departure.

Assignments

The course uses a points-based grading system. **Cumulatively, the course assignments total 200 points.** We have two categories of assignments: 1) engagement and 2) depth assignments.

Engagement Assignments (lower-stakes)

- Course introduction and conclusion blog posts (5 points apiece, 10 points total)
- Attendance grade (1 point per session, 25 points total)
- Post-unit reflection exercises (5 points apiece, 15 points total)

Engagement assignments collaboratively facilitate our understanding of our readings and help us formulate critical responses to them. Assessment of engagement assignments centers on completion.

Depth Assignments (higher-stakes)

- Textual Analysis Assignment, poetry (maximum of 50 points)
- Character Analysis Assignment, drama (maximum of 50 points)
- Thematic Analysis Assignment, novel (maximum of 50 points)

Depth assignments enable you to engage British literature in sustained, focused, and substantive ways. Assessment of depth assignments uses a hundred-point scale, accompanied by explanatory comments.

How to Submit Your Work

Submit assignments electronically to Blackboard. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the Blackboard system prior to submission/posting, and contact me if you have questions. Use MLA format.

Late Papers

Please refer to our schedule for the final submission dates of assignments. Late submissions accrue a 1-point deduction for each calendar day past the assigned due date. In exceptional circumstances, I will accept work after its submission period ends. If you anticipate not completing an assignment before its acceptance window closes, I encourage you to speak to me about an extension.

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.

JAGS

Additional academic skill resources can be found in The JAGS (Jaguar Academic Guides to Success) Program. JAGS offers academic skill building strategies and can assist you in developing an effective academic success plan. If you are interested in the JAGS program, please contact the Student Academic Success Center at (210) 784-1352.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disability. If you believe you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. DSS is located at the Main Campus on the 2nd floor of the Central Academic Building in room 210. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dsupport@tamusa.edu.

Counseling Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. After-hours crisis support is available by calling 210-784-1331. Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (to the extent permitted by law), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Safer Spaces

We will work together to create a safer classroom for every student enrolled in this course. We will treat each other with common decency and respect. Derogatory or abusive comments made regarding race, class, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, size, appearance, age, religion, ethnicity, political orientation, or nationality are grounds for dismissal from the classroom community. Enthusiasm is encouraged; hostility is not. These expectations apply to online interactions as well as face-to-face ones. If you experience any discomfort, please contact me and we will redress it.

Meeting Essential 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 contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Student Misconduct

Appropriate conduct is essential to the effective functioning of the University. University policy defines unacceptable conduct, both academic and non-academic misconduct, and penalties for such behavior in [The Student Handbook](#) and The Student Code of Conduct.

Academic Rights and Responsibilities

As a member in an academic community, students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education, be mature, be self-directed and be able to manage their own affairs. Students who are unwilling to abide by these basic expectations will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Students are expected to share in the responsibility and authority with faculty and staff to challenge and make known acts that violate the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Code of Conduct. For more information please [this site](#), which includes information on policies for the use of AI tools. Students, moreover, are expected to contend with the content of the course and the academic field from which that content emerges. Please refer to [the Student Handbook](#) for more information.

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 includes 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 the first week of class. Any student receiving Federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have his/her aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may need to return a portion of his/her federal aid.

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at sahelp@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-4357.

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.

Schedule (complete readings *prior* to their assigned class sessions)

Week 1

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

Basic course introduction and review of syllabus, Blackboard, and course documents

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

Introduction to British literature as a subject, and how this class will proceed

Blog post due by Friday, 08/28 at 11:59 – please provide your expectations for the course.

Unit 1: Poetry

Week 2

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

Christina Rossetti, “Goblin Market” (day 1)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 02

Christina Rossetti, “Goblin Market” (day 2)

Week 3

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 07

No class – Labor Day holiday.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09 (Census Day)

Felicia Hemans, “The Homes of England” and “Casabianca”

Week 4

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

William Blake, “The Ecchoing Green”, “London”, and “Jerusalem”

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Seamus Heaney, “Digging”

Philip Larkin, “Church Going”

Week 5

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Review Textual Analysis assignment, in-class drafting and preparations

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Textual Analysis workshop

Please bring a 1-2 page working draft of your Textual Analysis (print or device)

Textual Analysis due to Blackboard by 11:59pm on Sunday, September 27

Unit 2: Drama

Week 6

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

In-class reflection activity

Introduction to Unit 2

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Act 1)

Week 7

MONDAY, OCTOBER 05

Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Acts 2 and 3)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 07

Character Analysis workshop

Please bring a 1-2 page working draft of your Character Analysis (print or device)

Character Analysis due to Blackboard by 11:59pm on Sunday, October 11

Unit 3: Fiction

Week 8

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

In-class reflection activity

Introduction to Unit 3

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Frankenstein day 1 (Volume I, Letters I – IX)

Week 9

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

Frankenstein day 2 (Volume I, Chapters I-III)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21)

Frankenstein day 3 (Volume I, Chapters IV-V

Week 10

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

Frankenstein day 4 (Volume I, Chapters VI-VII)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Frankenstein day 5 (Volume II, Chapters I-III)

Week 11

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02

Frankenstein day 6 (Volume II, Chapters IV-VII)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 04

Frankenstein day 7 (Volume II, Chapters VIII-IX)

Week 12

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 09

Frankenstein day 8 (Volume III, Chapters I-IV)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Frankenstein day 9 (Volume III, Chapters V-VI)

Week 13

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Frankenstein day 10 (Volume III, Chapters VII)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Review Thematic Analysis assignment, in-class drafting and preparations

Week 14

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Class canceled – Thanksgiving holiday

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Class canceled – Thanksgiving holiday

Week 15

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Thematic Analysis workshop

Please bring a 1-2 page working draft of your Thematic Analysis (print or device)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 02

In-class reflection activity

Debriefing the course

Thematic Analysis due to Blackboard by 11:59pm on Friday, December 04

Blog post due by Sunday, 12/06 at 11:59 – please reflect on your experience of the course.

Final Period: Saturday, December 05 – Friday, December 11

No final exam.