

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO
ENGL 2321: THEMES AND GENRES OF
BRITISH LITERATURE
Tue/Thurs: 12:30 pm-1:15 pm
Venue: CAB 333

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Elizabeth Olaoye

PHONE

210 -784-2675

OFFICE HOURS

Tues: 2:00 pm-3:00 pm

Thurs: 2:00 pm-3:00 pm

OFFICE LOCATION

Classroom Hall #104F

EMAIL

eolao01@tamusa.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to our introductory course on British Literature! Here, we'll compare a variety of texts from the British Isles and its former colonies and consider the ways literature has shaped and reflected images of British cultural identity.

COURSE OVERVIEW

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 as they navigate 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. 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?

1 blue book

1 Scrapbooking Notebook

RESOURCES:

The Norton Anthology of English Literature (Eleventh Edition)

Wole Soyinka: *Death and the King's Horseman*

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this course, students will:

1. demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the major themes, genres, and critical issues of British literature;
2. read and analyze, critically, a range of texts, with attention to the relationships between the texts and their historical and cultural contexts; and
3. hone written and oral communication skills.

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

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

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

Weekly Quizzes/Writing Tasks — 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) Norton Anthology
- “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight” (Medieval Romance) Norton Anthology
- *King Solomon's Mines* by Rider Haggard (Novel) Link in Blackboard
- Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman* (Drama) Link in Blackboard
- Benjamin Zephaniah's “The British” (Poetry) Link in Blackboard

TENTATIVE Course Schedule

Week 1

(Aug 25 & Aug 27)

- Introduction to Literature/ Reading and Writing about Literature
- Intro to British Literature/ Timeline

Readings – Introduction (3-27)

Assignments: Reading Response/Quiz, Scrapbook Entry

Week 2

(Sep 1 & Sep 3)

Life as a journey

- **Text(s):** “The Seafarer”

Readings – Norton Anthology, Introduction (3-27)

Assignments: Reading Response/Quiz, Scrapbook Entry/ Translation lab

Week 3

(Sep 8 & Sep 10)

Life as a journey

- **Text(s):** “The Wanderer” Norton Anthology (110-13)

Readings – Norton Anthology Introduction (3-27)

Assignments: Reading Response/Quiz, Scrapbook Entry

Week 4

(Sep 15 & Sep 17)

Journeys and Chivalry I

- **Text(s):** from “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight” (247-302)

Assignments: Reading Response/Quiz, Scrapbook Entry

Start working on Film/Game Review Assignment due in Week 6

Week 5

(Sep 22 & Sep 24)

Journeys and Chivalry II

- **Text(s):** “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight” (247-302)

Assignments: Reading Response/Quiz, Scrapbook Entry

Continue working on Film/Game Review Assignment due in Week 6

Week 6

(Sep 29 & Oct 1)

Journeys and Chivalry III

- **Text(s):** Modern Appropriation of the journey motif in “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight”
- Movies and Games
- *The Green Knight* game in class

Assignment: Film/Game Review Assignment due by Sunday, 11:59 pm

Start working on close reading assignment

Week 7

(Oct 6 & Oct 8)

Travel during The Romantic Period

Text: (Chapter 3) from *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African*

Assignments: Reading Response/Quiz, Scrapbook Entry

Continue working on close reading assignment due in Week 8

Week 8

(Oct 13 & Oct 15)

Travel During the Victorian Period

Text: from *King Solomon's Mines*

Assignments: Reading Response/Quiz, Scrapbook Entry

Submit your close reading assignment by Sunday night.

Week 9

(Oct 19 & Oct 22)

The Modern Period

- Meddling with Cultural Journey to the World of No Return
- Introduction to Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*

Group 1 presentation

Assignments: Reading Response and Scrapbook Entry

Start working on a proposal for your final essay (Submit by Week 11)

Week 10

(Oct 27 & Oct 30)

The Modern Period

- Meddling with Cultural Journey to the World of No Return
- Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*
- Group 2 presentation

Assignments: Continue working on a proposal for your final essay

Week 11

(Nov 3 & Nov 5)

The Modern Period

- Meddling with Cultural Journey to the World of No Return
- Text: Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*
- Group 3 Presentation

Assignment: Proposal for a topic and text for Critical Analysis due Sunday by 11:59 pm.

Week 12

(Nov 10 & Nov 12)

The Modern Period

- Text: Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*
- Group 4 Presentation

Start working on your "Draft of Critical Analysis" (approx. 2-3 pages) due by Sunday night in Week 13

Week 13: Language, Identity, and the Cultural Journey

(Nov 17 & Nov 10)

- Benjamin Zephaniah's "The British"
- Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*
- Group Presentation 5
- **Working Draft of Critical Analysis (approx. 2-3 pages) due by 11:59 pm on Sunday**

Week 14

Nov 24 (Work on your critical analysis) & Nov 26

Thanksgiving Holiday- No class

Week 15

Dec 1 & Dec 3 (Last Class)

- **Physical Scrapbook due in class on Tuesday**
- Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*
- Group Presentation 5
- **Critical Analysis is due on Thursday at 11:59 pm.**



IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

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 at the [website](#) or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. 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. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

Day of the Week	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm

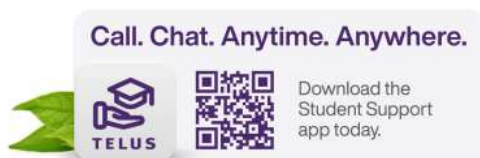
Day of the Week	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

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, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

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. *Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.*

The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, 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 on emergency response may be found at: Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan. 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.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC)

The WLDCC provides support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing 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. The WLDCC offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the WLDCC in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an “Online Appointment.” Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an “eTutoring” appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website . The WLDCC can also be reached by emailing wldcc@tamusa.edu.

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 report for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; [click here](#) for hours and contact information.

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 wide variety 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 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 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 accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a 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

Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. Hours of operation is Monday-Thursday 3:30pm-9:00pm. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (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, 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 student 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, 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](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#)

Important Fall 2026 Dates

Dates	Event
August 20	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
August 24	First day of class
September 7	Labor Day Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
September 9	Census Date – Students not paid in full or enrolled in a payment plan by 4:59 pm may be dropped for non-payment
October 5 – October 16	Midterm grading period
November 13	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 25	Study Day – No classes
November 26-November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
November 30	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
December 4	Last day of classes
December 5 – December 11	Final exams
December 15	Commencement

The complete [academic calendar](#) is available online.

AI Policy

There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explore how they can be used. Outside of those circumstances, you should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student’s work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor’s permission and/or proper

attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.