



ENG 540.01: Development of the British Novel
Fall 2010
(W 7:20-10:00, HL 304)

Instructor: (Hunter Hayes, PhD – Associate Professor)
Office Location: Hall of Languages 140
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 10:00-12:00; and by appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:

Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (Penguin, 2003): 9780141439792
Danie Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* (Penguin, 2003): 9780141439822
Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield* (Penguin, 2004): 9780140439441
Stella Gibbons, *Cold Comfort Farm* (Penguin, 2006): 9780141441597
George Gissing, *New Grub Street* (Penguin, 1985): 9780140430325
Ian McEwan, *Atonement* (Anchor, 2003): 9780385721790
Ian Watt, *Rise of the Novel* (U of California P, 2001): 9780520230699

Please Note: Students are welcome to use other editions, including electronic books, but it is each student's responsibility to contend with any issues involving pagination or textual differences should the student opt for another edition.

Course Description:

Catalogue Description: *A study of the origin and development of the novel in Great Britain from the eighteenth century to the present. Novels by authors such as Fielding, Austen, Dickens, Hardy, Woolf, and Joyce may be included.*

This semester ENG 540 examines key developments in the British novel by looking at representative examples from the eighteenth century to the present. Throughout this course we will follow a trajectory that adumbrates what Ian Watt identifies as “the development of of the possibilities of formal and [. . .] the portrayal of society” (*Rise of the Novel* 295). In doing so we must by necessity exclude many influential novels and novelists. Nevertheless, students will examine the use of genre conventions such as the Gothic and satire as well as the emergence of psychological and social realism. In lieu of writing an article-length essay, students will instead write five brief explications and present on an assigned topic. Because the pace of this course will be quick, students must work diligently to remain current with the course syllabus and all requirements.

Course Goals:

1. Students will gain a broad understanding of how the British novel has developed from the eighteenth century to the present.
2. Students will develop an appreciation of stylistic and genre conventions in the novel.
3. Students will acquire a broad understanding of historical and cultural developments related to each period the course covers.
4. Students will improve their critical skills through close-reading assignments.
5. Students will gain experience researching a topic and presenting their findings to an audience of their peers.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will develop her/his analytical skills in close readings/explications as measured by a review of an example taken from each student's explication assignments.
2. The student will understand critical issues raised in scholarship of the novel as measured by an evaluation of each student's assigned presentation.
3. The student will possess a satisfactory level of understanding of the British novel from the 18th century to the present as measured by each student's performance in class discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives of this course and instructional units/modules. By the end of this course the class will read and discuss ten novels and selected supplementary readings, and discussions will take in other aspects of Modernism and modernity beyond literature.

- Weekly Readings and Discussions: Over a period of fifteen weeks this class will read and discuss six novels, at least one work of criticism, and possible selected shorter readings. Due to the pace of the course, students must attend regularly and engage in discussions. Performance in weekly discussions and acceptable demonstration of keeping current with all assignments will determine the student's class participation grade. (20% of overall course grade)

Student Learning Outcome #3: *The student will possess a satisfactory level of understanding of the British novel from the 18th century to the present as measured by each student's performance in class discussions.*

- Explications (5-7 pp.): Because close-reading skills, involving careful selection as well as interpretation and argument, are important to scholarship, students will focus their writing

assignments primarily on explications. There will be five required critical explications, at least one of which the student will share with the class members for feedback. Each explication must be well-focused and contain an original argument; follow acceptable stylistic conventions, including use of citations for direct quotations and paraphrase; and be five to seven double-spaced pages in length.

(50% of total course grade; 10% each)

Student Learning Outcome #1: *The student will develop her/his analytical skills in close readings/explications as measured by a review of an example taken from each student's explication assignments.*

- Researched Presentation: Students will work independently on an assigned presentation topic. Each student will be given the name of a critical work, and the student must read the book, examine its critical impact (if any), provide to the course a fair overview of the work and author's critical reputation. All presentations will be delivered in class on the assigned date.

(30% of total course grade)

Student Learning Outcome #2: *The student will understand critical issues raised in scholarship of the novel as measured by an evaluation of each student's assigned presentation.*

Grading

Assignment and course grades will be determined by the student's performance on the following assignments:

Explications (50% of total course grade; 10% each)

Assigned Presentation (30% of total course grade)

Class Participation (20% of total course grade)

The instructor will determine grades on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 0%-59%

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Academic Honesty Policy

Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate **plagiarism** and other forms of **academic dishonesty**. Conduct that violates generally-accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another person and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension and expulsion (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1, 2, 3]). Cheating, including plagiarizing papers in whole or part, will result in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment for the first offense and failure of the course for any subsequent offenses.

Attendance Policy

Because your active participation in discussions is expected, attendance is vital for success in this course. Attendance requires more than simply be present in class. You must engage productively in thoughtful discussions on relevant matters.

Assignment Policy

I will provide specific details during class meetings and possibly by email.

Students must stay current with all readings, including the course lectures and discussions. Students must complete and submit all assignments by their respective due dates.

Late Work

I will not accept any assignment after its due date. Assignments submitted after the due date may receive a score of zero (0).

Drop a Course

A student may drop a course by logging into his/her myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled "Drop a class" from among the choices found under the myLeo section of the Web page.

Incompletes

Incompletes (grade of "X") are granted only under rare and extraordinary circumstances.

Administrative Withdrawal

I reserve the right to drop a student from the course administratively for excessive absences or violations of student conduct codes.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

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 disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

The following course schedule is subject to revisions and other modifications as the instructor deems necessary for the course. Any changes to the course schedule will be announced on the course website in advance of the week in which the change will occur.

Lecture/Discussion 1 (August 29 th):	Course Introduction
Lecture/Discussion 2 (September 5 th):	Watt, <i>Rise of The Novel</i> (Ch. 1-2)
Lecture/Discussion 3 (September 12 th):	Watt, <i>Rise of The Novel</i> (Ch. 3, 6)
Lecture/Discussion 4 (September 19 th):	Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>
Lecture/Discussion 5 (September 26 th):	Austen, <i>Northanger Abbey</i> • <i>Explication 1 (Austen) due</i>
Lecture/Discussion 6: (October 3 rd):	Dickens, <i>David Copperfield</i>
Lecture/Discussion 7 (October 10 th):	Dickens, <i>David Copperfield</i> • <i>Explication 2 (Dickens) due</i>
Lecture/Discussion 8 (October 17 th):	Gibbons, <i>Cold Comfort Farm</i> • <i>Explication 3 (Gibbons) due</i>
Lecture/Discussion 9 (October 24 th):	Class workshop and discussion: explications
Lecture/Discussion 10 (October 31 st):	Gissing, <i>New Grub Street</i>
Lecture/Discussion 11 (November 7 th):	Gissing, <i>New Grub Street</i> • <i>Explication 4 (Gibbons) due</i>
Lecture/Discussion 12 (November 14 th):	McEwan, <i>Atonement</i> • <i>Explication 5 (McEwan) due</i>
Lecture/Discussion 13 (November 21 st):	No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday
Lecture/Discussion 14 (November 28 th):	No Class: Conference
Lecture/Discussion 15 (December 5 th):	course wrap-up