English 102B: Novels and Poetry
(Winter 2003, Section 02)

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envelope addressed “Kevin Magri re: English 102B”)
Classes: Tues/Thurs 10:00-11:20 DWE 3519
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 11:30-12:30 PAS 2212 or by email appointment

Issues
This course will examine the development of English novelistic and poetic forms. We will attempt to answer
some complex questions. What is poetry? What is prose? What is a novel? What are their differences? What
are their similarities? Furthermore, we want to explore how these forms produce meaning. Some other topics to
consider will include the relation of oral/aural texts to written texts, and constructions of history, gender, and
race. To achieve our goals, we will read and analyse a variety of English-language texts mostly from British,
Irish, and American writers from most major literary periods. Classes will consist of lectures and discussions.

Goals
By the end of this course, you should:
(a) have a basic knowledge of some major and minor English-language authors and texts from the medieval to the
modern literary periods;
(b) be able to name and identify some conventions and sub-genres of poetry and novels;
(c) be able to name and identify some of the used literary devices and rhetorical strategies;
(d) be able to provide “close readings” of any literary text to support an argument;
(e) acquire some basic library and Internet research skills.

Academic Offences
All essays are to be submitted in formal MLA style without committing an academic offence such as
plagiarising. Those committing an academic offence will be punished with the possibility of expulsion.

“Note on avoidance of academic offences: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are
expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take
responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary
penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on
categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is
supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at
http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/info/curriculum/policy_71.html). If you need help in learning how to avoid offences
such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline
policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your
academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.”

If you are having difficulties with understanding what constitutes as academic offences and how to avoid them, I
can provide assistance outside of class after you have referred to “How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written

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Attendance and Participation

I strongly encourage attendance and active participation in every scheduled class. “Active participation” includes bringing the assigned readings to class read and pondered before the class begins, posing and answering relevant questions and comments, and being respectful of others. Failure to do these will greatly reduce not only your grade, but also the quality of your (very expensive) education.

Assignment Submissions and Late Policy

Essays are to be submitted in the assigned class and must conform to MLA style (typed, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt., 1 inch margins, page numbers on upper right-hand corners, separate works cited page, etc.). Essays which consistently do not conform to MLA style will be penalized up to 10%. Late essays will receive 5% deduction per day including weekends (that is, -10% total for Saturday and Sunday). Late essays can be submitted in the English department mail box after being stamped and signed by one of the English department secretaries (between 9am and 4:30pm).

Tests (including exam) must be written at the assigned time. In extreme cases, “make-up” assignments and/or rescheduled due dates may be warranted at the instructor’s discretion.

Grading and Due Dates

10% Test #1 (prosody) — 15 minutes, on 21 January
20% Essay #1 (“close reading” of a sonnet) — 750 words, due 6 February
10% Test #2 (“close reading” of a ballad, an ode, and a monologue) — 80 minutes, on 13 February
30% Essay #2 (comparative on novels) — proposal: 100-200 words, due 6 March
— final: 1000 words, due 3 April
30% Exam (covers all materials from semester) — TBA

Assignments

Essay 1: Write a 750 word essay (about 2-3 pages) in which you provide a “close reading” of a sonnet assigned by the instructor. You must (a) explain the situation and/or argument of the poem, (b) prove that your poem is a sonnet, and (c) explain how the poem uses relevant literary devices and/or sonnet conventions to support your thesis. You must have a clear thesis statement, paragraph topic sentences, and sufficient quotation from your sonnet in addition to following MLA style conventions. Define any literary terms you use in your essay (i.e. metaphor, pathetic fallacy, pathos, blazon etc.). Library research is not required; however, you may find it useful to refer to the “Versification” section in your Norton Anthology (pp. 1103-22) AND to a dictionary of literary terms such as Harmon and Holman’s A Handbook to Literature (online dictionaries of literary terms are also available, though less reliable).

Essay 2: Write a 1000 word essay (about 3-4 pages) in which you compare/contrast a relevant issue, theme, convention etc. in two novels from the syllabus (Neville, DeQuincey, LeFanu, and/or Woolf). You must have a clear thesis statement, paragraph topic sentences, and sufficient quotation from your novels in addition to following MLA style conventions. You may use secondary sources if you wish.

You must write and submit a one page proposal (about 100-200 words) for approval by 6 March. Failure to submit a proposal will automatically reduce your final essay grade by 10%. In your proposal, you must (a) state your proposed argument or thesis, (b) state your novels of study, (c) briefly explain what major passages and concepts you will discuss from the novels (and why you choose them), (d) provide in MLA works cited format the primary and secondary sources you plan to use. I strongly encourage you to speak with me during my office hours about your work-in-progress as early as possible.
Required Texts

- 102B Courseware Package includes:
  - Coleridge, Samuel T. “Metrical Feet.”
  - Neville, Henry. “The Isle of Pines.”
  - Pope, Alexander. “Sound and Sense” (Excerpt from *An Essay on Criticism*).
  - Petrarach. “Sonnet 140.”
  - Rossetti, Christina. *Monna Innominata*.
  - Various. Selection of vampire verses.

Recommended Texts (Not required)

- *The Canadian Oxford Paperback Dictionary* or another good quality dictionary. (The full-length *Oxford English Dictionary* or *OED* is best, but beyond most people’s budgets.)
- *The Little, Brown Compact Handbook*. (Royalties from sales will be donated to the English Department scholarship fund.)

**Schedule**

*** underlined texts in schedule found in Courseware Package

**Week 1: Introduction & Major Concepts**

7 Jan – introduction to course (administration, syllabus, overview of English literary history); lecture/class discussion: what is literature? poetry? verse? prose? a novel?

*** [read syllabus thoroughly; buy text books]

9 Jan – classifications: genre, sub-genre, mode;
forms of poetry (narrative, dramatic, lyric, epic)

**Week 2: Prosody**

14 Jan – “scansion” and “rhyme scheme” demonstration (Frost’s “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”); Pope’s “Sound and Sense” from *An Essay on Criticism*; Thomas’ “Do Not Go Gentle” (brief lesson on villanelle)


16 Jan – take up practice work; Coleridge’s “Metrical Feet”; Ginsberg’s “Howl”

**Week 3: Medieval/Renaissance Sonnets & Essay Writing**

21 Jan – “close reading” demonstration (Shakespeare’s “Sonnet 18”);
Wyatt’s “Whoso List to Hunt” (compare with Petrarach’s “Sonnet 140”);
Sidney’s “Sonnet 1” and “Sonnet 71” from *Astrophil & Stella*;
TEST #1 (on prosody -- 15 minutes)

23 Jan – Essay writing workshop

**Week 4: Victorian Sonnet Sequence**

28 Jan – C. Rossetti’s *Monna Innominata*
(Visit the *Monna Innominata* section of the Christian Rossetti Archive at <http://www.cs.uwindsor.ca/units/english/projects/rossetti/mainpage.htm>). The site provides translations to Rossetti’s Italian epigraphs (headings), includes excellent commentary and visual pre-Raphaelite art.)

30 Jan – C. Rossetti’s *Monna Innominata* cont.
**Week 5: Ballad & Ode**
6 Feb – Ode: Collin’s “Ode on Poetical Character,” Keats’ “Ode to a Nightingale”; ESSAY #1 due

**Week 6: Monologue & Poetry Test**
11 Feb – Monologue: Donne’s “The Flea,” R. Browning’s “My Last Duchess”
13 Feb – TEST #2 (ballad, ode, monologue, -- 80 minutes)

[17-21 Feb: READING WEEK – NO CLASSES; NO OFFICE HOURS]

**Week 7: Restoration/Late 17th c. Novel**
25 Feb – introduction to novel; Neville’s “The Isle of Pines”
27 Feb – Neville’s “The Isle of Pines” cont.

**Week 8: Romantic/Early 19th c. Novel**
4 Mar – DeQuincey’s Confessions
6 Mar – DeQuincey’s Confessions cont.; Essay 2 Proposal due

**Week 9: Romantic/Early 19th c. Novel cont.**
11 Mar – DeQuincey’s Confessions cont.
13 Mar – TBA

**Week 10: Modernist/Early 20th c. Novel**
18 Mar – Woolf’s Orlando
20 Mar – Woolf’s Orlando cont.

**Week 11: Modernist/Early 20th c. Novel & Victorian/Late 19th c. Novel**
25 Mar – Woolf’s Orlando cont.
27 Mar – LeFanu’s Carmilla

**Week 12: Vampires**
1 Apr – LeFanu’s Carmilla cont.; Liddell’s “The Vampire Bride”; Symons’ “The Vampire”; Fitzgerald’s “The Vampires Won’t Vampire for Me”
3 Apr – Review; ESSAY #2 due

TBA -- EXAM (ESSAY #2 to be returned at exam OR to be obtained from my office next semester)

**Important University Dates**
6 Jan – classes begin
24 Jan – last day to drop a course without penalty
17-21 Feb – reading week
4 April – classes end
7-22 April – exam period