

## Delta College

### LIT 242W-FA310: Introduction to British Literature

Fall Semester, 2010 (September 1 through December 15)

**Instructor:** Dr. Spiller

**Class Sessions:** Wednesday, 6:00-8:55 pm

**Office:** S-18

**Classroom:** S-034

**Phone:** (989) 686-9159

**Adverse Weather Info:** (800) 686-9179

**E-mail:** [lerovspiller@delta.edu](mailto:lerovspiller@delta.edu)

**Office Hours:** Wednesday, 5:00-5:55 pm and by

appointment.

#### **Textbooks:**

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Major Authors* (Eighth Edition).

*Reading Chaucer: An Interlinear Translation of Selections in The Norton Anthology of English Literature* (Packaged at no cost with the anthology.)

*No Fear Shakespeare: Othello.*

*Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen.

*A Christmas Carol and Other Christmas Stories* by Charles Dickens.

#### **Supplies:**

A pocket dictionary for in-class use.

Access to a more complete dictionary for out-of-class use.

Two manila folders with tabs to use when turning in assignments.

A three ring loose-leaf binder OR a notebook for taking lecture notes.

Pens, pencils, and stapler.

Two or more highlighter pens of different colors.

3x5 and 4x6 index cards.

A thumb drive and access to a computer.

The course information handout AND the course syllabus.

**Course Description:** LIT 242W provides an introduction to British Literature by focusing on “major” authors and some of their most famous literary works. One focus of the course will be to examine some of the evolving criteria that result in the label “major” authors. Another focus will be in the evolving concept of what constitutes British literature, or at least what constitutes

English literature, that is, literature written in some form of the English language. Note that LIT 242 is a “W” course, that is, a course that fulfills three hours of the Writing to Learn requirement for graduation. (See Outcome 5, below.)

**Course Outcomes:** The outcomes for LIT 242W can be summed-up as follows:

1. To become acquainted with major authors and characteristics of British literature.
2. To develop the ability to interpret British literary works produced by various major authors in diverse genres during different time periods.
3. To develop appreciation and enjoyment of British literary works produced by various major authors in diverse genres during different time periods.
4. To recognize and analyze a number of important themes evident in British literary works produced by various major authors in diverse genres during different time periods.
5. To use Writing to Learn activities as aids for achieving the preceding outcomes.

**Attendance Policy:** Regular attendance is necessary in order to be successful in this course. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class session. Being late or leaving early will count as partial attendance. If you miss—for any reason—more than two class sessions, you may be dropped from the class. **This is an English Division Policy.**

**Conferences:** Individual appointments to discuss course-related matters can be scheduled during Office Hours and at other times by appointment. You may also contact the instructor via E-mail to have questions answered. Note: Do not expect an immediate reply; usually a reply will be given within twenty-four hours.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is stealing someone else’s work and then lying about the theft, either intentionally OR unintentionally. It is a serious offense in both college and the workplace. See the Delta College website for the College’s official policy regarding plagiarism. Note: Plagiarism can be punished by a failing grade on an assignment and/or dismissal from the course for repeated offenses.

**Course Policies:**

- All assignments are due on the day listed in the syllabus. If you are absent when an assignment is due, please contact the instructor that day or sooner to see IF the instructor would be willing to accept the assignment late. DO NOT assume that you can turn in an assignment late!
- You should expect to be treated respectfully and fairly by the instructor and by your classmates, and you should make it a priority to treat the instructor and your classmates with respect and fairness. If you ever experience a problem relative to this issue, please contact the instructor in person, by phone, or by E-mail to discuss the problem. Note: Delta College has a policy regarding disruptive students. This policy provides for removal of a student from a class or expulsion from the College if that person persists in behavior that adversely affects the learning and safety of other students and the instructor’s ability to conduct the class. See the Delta College website for further details.

- Relative to the previous point and, also, necessary for your own success in the course, you must observe the following practices: Turn off ALL cell phones and other electronic devices during class sessions. NO EXCEPTIONS will be permitted. Note: We will have at least one break every evening, and you should be able to check messages, etc., during this time. If the instructor has to speak to you about this issue in class more than once, you will be asked to leave the class and not return until you can abide by this policy. Remember that absences matter. See the information regarding attendance earlier in this document.

### **Grading Info:**

- All assignments will be graded using a point system. For example: each of the brief Reflective Essay assignments will be worth 30 points while the final paper will be worth 120 points.
- A Grading Sheet will be given out for each assignment so that you can work toward filling all the requirements for that assignment and earning the best grade possible.
- The total number of points earned will determine your final grade. Total points possible: 410 points. (See below.)

### **Assignments to Be Graded:**

- Three Reflective Essays, two to three typed pages in length, that present your thoughts and reactions to a specific literary work that has been assigned. The essay must be submitted at the class session when it is due; the essay will not be accepted after that class session. Note: Two of the three essays must be submitted by mid-semester. (30 points for each essay)
- Two major tests, one at mid-semester and one at the end of the semester. These tests will include both short and long answer questions e.g., definitions, identifications, quotations from works read, paraphrases, and multi-paragraph essays. The tests will be taken at the College's Testing Center. (100 points for each test)
- One major paper, seven to ten typed pages in length that explores some aspect of British Literature from a list of general topics provided by the instructor. This paper must incorporate at least five reputable sources that provide solid support for your thesis. In-text citations and a Works Cited page using the MLA system of documentation are required. (120 points for the paper)

**Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability that affects your academic performance and need an academic accommodation, please get in touch with the Office of Disability Services in D-102 or call the office at (989) 686-9560.

**Library Learning Information Center (LLIC):** Librarians may help you with research and assist you in locating sources of information. The Reference Desk number is (989) 686-9560. Computers are available in the LLIC for your use. Assistance is available at the circular desk in the computer area.

**Teaching Learning Center (TLC):** The professional staff and peer tutors provide free tutoring in all academic areas, including reading and writing. The TLC is located in the LLIC.

**Writing Center:** The Writing Center is located in the LLIC, and its staff can help you in all phases of the writing process. Check with the Writing Center for its current schedule.

### **Some Final Thoughts:**

The reading load for this course is fairly heavy, but not impossible. In order to be prepared to participate in class discussions, to write the three Reflective Essays and the Major Paper, and to do well on the two major tests, you **MUST** do the assigned reading on time.

Following are some suggestions to help you to stay on schedule:

1. Start early rather than late: begin reading soon after the assignment is made; don't put off doing the reading and other assignments.
2. Budget time in your schedule to do the reading—and all of the other assignments, as well. (See the Syllabus for due dates.) Note that you should expect to read at least three hours per week; you will also have to make time to compose four Reflective Essays during the first fourteen weeks of the semester, study for two major tests, and research and write a Major Paper that will be due in the fifteenth week of the semester.
3. Focus on the literature, not the introductory material in our textbooks. The introductory material is worthwhile, but it is not a substitute for having read the literature. Also, the instructor will incorporate information from the introductory material in our textbooks in his lectures, so you will have access to a great deal of that information without having to read it. Use your reading time to read the literature.
4. Read aloud. Your ear can help your eye to understand what you are reading.
5. Be prepared to reread lines, passages, even chapters of some of the material. We will be reading material produced over an eight hundred year span. Inevitably, some of the language, the style, and/or the content will be unfamiliar. It is not stupid to reread; it is smart.
6. Read with a pencil or pen in hand. Annotate as you read. Make comments to summarize, to react, to question.
7. Use a highlighter if that is helpful to identify things you want to remember.
8. Use Post-It Notes to create tabs for accessing different sections of the texts.
9. Use the resources available at [www.norton.com/literature](http://www.norton.com/literature)

Finally, I hope that you will find this course interesting and worthwhile. If at any time you have questions or you need some assistance in order to get the most that you can out of the course, please contact me, Dr. Spiller. Remember: You will not earn any points for being confused or frustrated. Good luck with everything!