

**ENG 241**  
**BRITISH LITERATURE I**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Prerequisites: ENG 112 or ENG 113

Corequisites: None

This course covers selected works in British literature from its beginnings to the Romantic Period. Emphasis is on historical background, cultural context, and literary analysis of selected prose, poetry, and drama. Upon completion, students should be able to interpret, analyze, and respond to literary works in their historical and cultural contexts. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for the general education core requirement in humanities/fine arts.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students will be able to do the following:

- a. Discuss the works of major British writers in the context of such literary, historical, cultural, and intellectual periods as the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Neoclassicism;
- b. Trace the development of themes and genres within their historical contexts;
- c. Analyze literary works for their aesthetic features and thematic patterns;
- d. Identify styles, themes, and works of major writers;
- e. Understand and apply a variety of critical approaches to literature;
- f. Understand critical and popular reception of major works of the period;
- g. Communicate critical insights about British literature in writing and orally.

**OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:**

- I. Overview of issues in British literature
  - A. Cultural, intellectual, and historic background
  - B. Genres and literary movements
- II. English literature in the Middle Ages
  - A. Old English
  - B. Middle English
  - C. Medieval culture
  - D. Literary characteristics

### III. English literature of the Renaissance

- A. The political and cultural context of the Tudors
- B. The political and cultural context of the early Stuarts and the Commonwealth
- C. Literary characteristics

### IV. English literature of the Restoration and early eighteenth century

- A. The rise of neoclassicism
- B. Literary characteristics

### V. Selected authors and works in each period

- A. Biographical overview
- B. Critical and popular reception
- C. Stylistic and thematic characteristics
- D. Contribution to British literature

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

Texts to be selected by instructor

### **STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.