

# ENGLISH 2120

Professor Amy L. Ellison

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Office Hours: MW 11:00-3:00; T 10:00-11:00 and 4:00-5:00 (other days/times by appointment)

Faculty Page: [http://www.westga.edu/english/show\\_bio.php?emp\\_id=23583](http://www.westga.edu/english/show_bio.php?emp_id=23583)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

“I would read. I would explore.”—Neil Gaiman, *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*

This course introduces students to the mysteries of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon age to the twentieth century, and the horrors found within! In addition to exploring questions of genre, literary periodization, and historical context, we will study the myths, monsters and magic influencing the literature of the British Isles.

Course Description and Learning Outcomes: <http://www.westga.edu/~engdept/fr/CourseGuid/2120.htm>

## COURSE MATERIALS, ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

### Materials

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Major Authors*, the 9<sup>th</sup> edition edited by Stephen Greenblatt (ISBN 978-0393919639)

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (ISBN 978-0199537150)

*The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman (ISBN 978-0062255662)

*Much Ado About Nothing* directed by Joss Whedon

*Doctor Who* episode entitled “Midnight,” available on Amazon:

[http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B003K9LZSO/ref=dv\\_dp\\_ep11](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B003K9LZSO/ref=dv_dp_ep11)

### Assignments

- Homework, Quizzes and Class Participation (15%)  
Students will come to class having read the material as well as **prepared questions and comments for the group**. I suggest keeping a reading journal for these purposes. The majority of class will be discussion, so prepare accordingly. You may not sit in class like a stump; unpreparedness will result in a quiz. If you show up to class regularly, keep up with the reading, engage in the course discussions, and apply yourself seriously to your work, these are points that are here for the taking.
- Modern Mashup Presentation (25%)  
You will undertake more intensive background research on a particular text or genre during the semester, using a modern text of your choice as a comparative example. You will present your findings in a 10 minute oral presentation with the presentation and Works Cited page submitted to the CourseDen Discussion Board. Topics are located on the syllabus and written in red.

- Short Response Papers (6 papers totaling 30%)  
Each response should be a 400-500 word exploration of one text within the corresponding assignment group, focusing on the text's cultural relevance within British Literature.
- Final Exam (30%)  
This is an objective, comprehensive exam covering the terms, texts and contexts from the course.

Grade Chart: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; Below 60 = F (Not turned in = 0)

## **POLICIES**

### **Expectations**

Imagine me as your manager for this course. When you are hired, the manager has high expectations for your abilities as well as your professionalism; each time you disappoint your manager, his opinion of your professionalism goes down. As your manager, I expect you to:

- Display a working knowledge of the syllabus
- Attend all classes, arriving on time with relevant materials in hand
- Participate fully and respectfully in class discussions
- Remain attentive and engaged throughout the class period
- Avoid repeating mistakes addressed in feedback
- Submit quality work, complete and on time
- Communicate promptly with me about any concerns

Ultimately, your success depends on how much time, energy, and effort you are willing to put into the class. I want to help you make the grade you desire; I promise that you will receive the grade you earn.

### **Submitting Assignments**

All assignments must be submitted through TurnItIn ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)). Students must use their UWG email addresses for their accounts. There are no waivers for computer, program or user errors. Essays are the only assignments accepted late, losing one letter grade per 24-hour late period beginning immediately after the scheduled submission time.

### **Office Hours**

I encourage you to visit me during my office hours (or to make an appointment if you cannot make my regular times). Please feel free to come by to say hello, to introduce yourself, to ask questions about the readings, or to discuss any element of your writing and research (at any stage of the process). See me the *same day* you begin to have a question or concern. Please do not wait until the day before an assignment is due to seek assistance—give yourself time to think and write, and ask questions early and often.

### **Attendance**

Regular participation in this class is vital to its success. You are expected to attend every class session regularly. What we cover in class is what you need to know. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to

contact another student for an explanation of what was covered. I offer you **4** absences to do with as you like—use them wisely for the inevitable "stuff" that will mess up your semester: illness, traffic, death in the family, etc. **If you miss 5 classes for whatever reason, you will not pass this class.** Two late arrivals count as one absence, and leaving early applies in the same manner. No distinction exists between excused and unexcused absences, and assignments are still due on the day assigned.

## **Disruptive Behavior and Electronic Devices**

Students will be dismissed from any class meeting at which they exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes—but is not limited to—arriving late for class, allowing cell phones to ring, speaking disrespectfully to the instructor and/or to other students, checking email or surfing the web, and using personal audio or video devices. Laptops and tablets may be used for class-related work only; use for other purposes will result in your dismissal from class. Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and will be applied toward the attendance policy. Sleeping—for a minute or an hour—counts as an absence. For the sake of transparency, my biggest pet peeves are off-task electronic usage and class disruption.

## **Email Policy**

The official communication method for this class occurs through campus email or CourseDen. You remain responsible for regularly checking both UWG Email and CourseDen. In order to guarantee your privacy, I do not respond in detail to emails sent from alternate email providers. Additionally, please understand that even my life is sometimes hectic, and allow me at least twenty-four hours to respond to any attempts at communication. If for some reason you do not hear from me within twenty-four hours, assume the technology has failed and try again. I want to help and will always respond.

## **Paper Formatting**

Although papers will be submitted and receive comments online, they should still be properly formatted. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1" top and bottom margins and 1" right and left margins. Page lengths are not arbitrary. Using large margins and playing with font size to fulfill the page requirement fools no one, so follow these guidelines and come to me for extra help or use the writing center to learn how to present a full, well-supported argument that meets the page requirements. Formal essays require title pages. All papers require page numbers. Assignments not adhering to format requirements will receive a maximum grade of D.

## **The Writing Center**

The role of the Writing Center is to offer consultation in which tutors question, respond to, offer choices, and encourage revision in student essays. Tutors do not evaluate or prescribe solutions to problematic areas to student essays, and tutors are specifically trained to avoid appropriating the student's work.

1. For more information, visit the Writing Center online: <http://www.westga.edu/writing/>.
2. To schedule an appointment, call 678-839-6513 or email [writing@westga.edu](mailto:writing@westga.edu).
3. The UWC is located in TLC 1201.

## Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

The university considers plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty to be a serious breach of academic ethics. Section 207 of the University of West Georgia Faculty Handbook, which defines plagiarism as “Improper academic conduct...the purchase and use of ghost-written papers and reports, or incorporating into a report, term theme, research paper, or project, ideas and information obtained from another person without giving credit to the person from whom such information was obtained.”

**Excessive Collaboration:** By the end of the term in both ENGL 1101 and 1102, students should demonstrate the ability to produce independent writing (writing without collaborative assistance of peers, writing tutors, or professionals in the field) that shows an acceptable level of competence. Although classroom activities and out-of-class assignments may highlight collaborative learning and collaborative research, excessive collaboration (collaboration that results in the loss of a student’s voice/style and original claims to course related work) is considered another form of academic dishonesty and therefore will not be permitted.

Each incidence of plagiarism is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of penalties including but not limited to failing the assignment, failing the course, and referral to the disciplinary review board (which may ultimately result in the expulsion, suspension, or disciplinary removal of the student from the university). In order to facilitate the prevention and detection of plagiarism the Department of English and the University of West Georgia will maintain records of plagiarized assignments and those who prepare and/or submit them.

I have a no-tolerance plagiarism policy. If plagiarism occurs, the student receives an automatic F for the course. ***In short, please do not plagiarize.*** If you are struggling with time constraints for any reason, see me before making a poor decision like plagiarizing. For further information:  
<http://www.westga.edu/~engdept/Plagiarism/index.html>.

## University of West Georgia Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student’s conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student’s account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions.

## **Students with Special Needs/Disability Pledge**

Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given.

Any student who has a special need should inform me during the first week of class. We will then set up a conference to discuss the specifics of the official paperwork from Accessibility Services. Students with documented special needs may expect accommodation in relation to classroom accessibility, modification of testing, special test administration, etc. For more information, please contact Accessibility Services at the University of West Georgia: [http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index\\_8884.php](http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index_8884.php)

## **Departmental Policy on Severe Weather**

The University of West Georgia is committed to the personal safety of its students, faculty, and staff in the event of severe weather. University policy regarding severe weather and emergency closings is posted at [http://www.westga.edu/police/index\\_2277.php](http://www.westga.edu/police/index_2277.php) and official announcements about class and/or examination cancellations will be made only by the President and/or the Department of Public Relations. Although it is not possible to develop policy to address every weather-related emergency, these guidelines are intended to provide some general direction about such situations. For immediate severe weather situations, especially when classes are in session, faculty, staff and students are advised to follow the emergency procedures identified below:

1. Direct occupants to remain in the building and to seek shelter immediately on the lowest level of the building in interior rooms (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls.
2. Instruct occupants to not leave the building.
3. Evacuate all offices, rooms or hallways with windows and glass or with exterior walls.
4. Provide assistance to persons with disabilities.
5. Accompany occupants to the nearest designated shelter area in the building.
6. Comply with departmental severe weather policies/procedures.
7. Wait for an “all clear” signal” before resuming activity.
8. Occupants will: a) proceed to the nearest designated shelter area in the building by the closest route; b) move quickly but in an orderly manner so that all will arrive safely; c) will not attempt to vacate the premises, drive or seek shelter in cars; d) take a seat in the shelter area; e) remain cooperative with those in charge; and f) wait for an “all clear” signal before resuming activity.

In the event that classes are cancelled or disrupted for less than one calendar week, each professor, at his or her discretion, will make adjustments as needed to cover material missed during those cancelled sessions. This may or may not involve the use of rescheduled or online classes. If the closures exceed a single calendar week, students should contact the Chair of the Department of English and Philosophy at 678-839-6512 or the professor of the class for updated information regarding changes to the schedule in the Department. It is the intention of the Department of English and Philosophy to handle every concern seriously and as effectively as possible.

# Spring 2015 Reading and Assignments Schedule

All assignments are due *before class* on the day they appear.

## WEEK 1: Welcome to Our Fears!

- Monday 1/5: Introduction
- Wednesday 1/7: In-class reading exercise

## WEEK 2: Hags & Dragons

- Monday 1/12: Read *Beowulf* (41-76)
- Wednesday 1/14: Read *Beowulf* (76-106) **FAQ Due**  
**Ellison Presentation: Your Mom's a Hag**

## WEEK 3: Stranger Danger

- Monday 1/19: No Class
- Wednesday 1/21: Read *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*  
**Presentation: Chivalry, Codes, and Sticky Situations**  
**Presentation: The Hero's Journey**

## WEEK 4: Witches

- Monday 1/26: Read Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's Tale* (249-58) **RESPONSE #1 DUE**  
**Presentation: Men, Women and Gender Stereotyping**
- Wednesday 1/28: Read the *Wife of Bath's Prologue* (231-49)  
**Presentation: What is the Wife talking about?**

## WEEK 5: Necromancy

- Monday 2/2: Read *Doctor Faustus* (scenes 1-6, 501-520)  
**Presentation: Early Modern Witchcraft Fears**
- Wednesday 2/4: Read *Doctor Faustus* (scene 6 to end)  
**Presentation: Knowledge as Sin**

## WEEK 6: Tricksters

- Monday 2/9: Watch *Much Ado About Nothing* **RESPONSE #2 DUE**  
**Presentation: Comedy and Farce**  
**Presentation: Emerging Ideas of Romance and Marriage**
- Wednesday 2/11: Read Marvell "To His Coy Mistress" and Donne "The Flea"  
**Presentation: Hilariously Unromantic Attempts to Woo**

## WEEK 7: Zombies(ish)

- Monday 2/16: Read *Frankenstein* (1-106—Volumes I and II)  
**Presentation: Godless Morality**  
**Presentation: The Double Self**
- Wednesday 2/18: Read *Frankenstein* (107-end—Volume III)  
**Presentation: What is a monster?**  
**Presentation: Modern Translations of the Creature**

## WEEK 8: Savages

- Monday 2/23: Read *Oroonoko* (1010-1027) **RESPONSE #3 DUE**  
**Presentation: Early Depictions of Race**
- Wednesday 2/25: Read *Oroonoko* (1027-1054)  
**Presentation: The British Empire**
- Friday 2/27: Last day to withdraw with a grade of W. Students withdrawing from full term courses after midnight will be awarded a grade of WF. Note: A WF grade is calculated as an F in the GPA.

## WEEK 9: Goblins

- Monday 3/2: Read Rossetti "Goblin Market"  
**Presentation: Does "fruit" mean what I think it means?**  
**Presentation: Feminism and Gender Equality**
- Wednesday 3/4: *Doctor Who*, "Midnight"  
**Presentation: Science Fiction in British Literature**  
**Presentation: Why quote some old poem?**

**WEEK 10: Change**

- Monday 3/9: Read Eliot, “The Waste Land” **RESPONSE #4 DUE**  
Presentation: Modernism  
Presentation: The Grotesque
- Wednesday 3/11: Read Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”  
Presentation: Do you have to be heroic to go on a heroic journey?  
Presentation: The Modern and the Mythic

**WEEK 11: Take a break!**

- Monday 3/16: Spring Break
- Wednesday 3/19: Spring Break

**WEEK 12: Nothingness**

- Monday 3/23: Read *Waiting for Godot*, Act I  
Presentation: Tragicomedy and Absurdity
- Wednesday 3/25: Read *Waiting for Godot*, Act II  
Presentation: Exchanging Violence: Victim, Victimizer and Witness  
Presentation: Waiting for God?

**WEEK 13: Past & Future**

- Monday 3/29: Read Larkin, “Church Going” and “High Windows” **RESPONSE #5 DUE**  
Presentation: Postmodernism  
Presentation: Where are we going?
- Wednesday 4/1: Read Heaney, “Digging” and “The Grauballe Man”  
Presentation: Where did we come from (and why does it matter)?

**WEEK 14: The Unknown & The Unknowable**

- Monday 4/6: Read *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*  
Presentation: Allusions to Novels and Musicals
- Wednesday 4/8: Continued discussion on *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*  
Presentation: Folklore? *Still?*

**WEEK 15: Wrapping Up**

- Monday 4/13: Evaluations, final exam review **RESPONSE #6 DUE**
- Wednesday 4/15: Last chance for final exam questions!

**WEEK 16: Exam Week**

- Wednesday 4/22 : Final Exam from 8:00-10:30am \* NOTE TIME CHANGE \*