

English 201
British Literature I
3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

British Literature I

Examines British literature beginning with Anglo Saxon works and continues through the eighteenth century (Neoclassical literature); highlights the cultural, historical, and literary influences on each work.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 101 with a “C” or better

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Trace the broad outline of this historical development of the English language. (1, 3, I, III, V).
2. Identify the cultural, historical, and literary influences on works studied (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, II, V).
3. Identify writers and describe the works of the various periods of literature: Old English, Middle English, Elizabethan/Renaissance (sixteenth century), Jacobean and Metaphysical, Neoclassical (1, 2, 3, V).
4. Recognize and define stylistic characteristics (1, 2, 4, 5, V, VI).
5. Assess the ways in which the selected literature reflects and also contributes to its particular historical moment and cultural context (III, V, 1, 4, 6).
6. Analyze recurring themes reflected in literary works of each period (5, 6, 7, VI, V).
7. Write a well-informed literary analysis using appropriate terminology and textual support (II, III, VI, VII, 1, 7).
8. Engage in critical/collaborative discussion about a text’ relevance to life today and whether and how contemporary readers can benefit from it (III, IV, V, VI, 3, 4, 5, 6).
9. Work collaboratively on questions and problems related to the texts and on developing and refining their written work (II, I, 3).
10. Access and apply relevant literary criticism found both in traditional sources and through the Internet (III, IV, VI, 2).
11. Analyze the ways in which issues of race, gender, and class shape works of literature (III, IV, 3, 4, 5, 6).

Major Topics

Old English Literature—*Beowulf*, “Caedmon’s Hymn,” “The Dream of the Rood,” “The Wanderer”
Middle English Literature—Chaucer, The Romance
Elizabethan/Renaissance Literature—Shakespeare, Spenser
Jacobean/Metaphysical Literature—Shakespeare, Johnson, Milton, Donne, Herbert, Marvell, Bunyan
Neoclassical Literature—Swift, Pope, Johnson, Congreve

Course Requirements

Grading procedures, exams, and writing assignments will be determined by the instructor. However, all students will:

1. Participate in class discussions.
2. Write an analytical essay(s) totaling at least 1250 words that develops a thesis, refers to a text, synthesizes and cites using MLA style, at least two critical sources.
3. Collaborate with peers on a project that will be presented to the class.