

FW 2023-24

AP/EN 2250 6.0 (A)	Introduction to British Literature	
Course Director:	Prof. Elizabeth Pentland (fall); Prof. Tina Choi (winter) Office: Atkinson 742 (Pentland); Atkinson 720 (Choi) e-mail: pent@yorku.ca; tinayc@yorku.ca office hours: TBA	
Time:	Thursdays, 11:30am – 2:30pm	
Delivery Format:	SEMINAR	
Description:	<p>In this course we trace the history of British literature from its origins in Old English and medieval tales of murder and sexual misadventure, through an early modern culture of public performance and private devotion, to Romantic expressions of revolutionary fervor and a Victorian preoccupation with illegitimacy, criminality, and policing. We'll consider the development of multiple genres (fiction, drama, poetry, nonfiction prose) amid the changing political and social contexts within Britain, and investigate the historical emergence of contemporary discourses of race, nation, gender, and social class over the centuries.</p> <p>This course provides an overview of major literary and historical themes in British writing. Students will learn to read, think, and write critically about a range of genres, develop an awareness of major trends and themes in literary history, and be introduced to representative authors from over six centuries. Their work in this course will provide a solid foundation for further literary study, including more advanced courses in British, Canadian, American, or diasporic literatures.</p>	
Category:	C	
Historical Requirement:	Time Period 1 (pre-1700)	
Requirements (tentative)	Essay 1, fall term (1500 words)	15%
	Short assignments x 3	15%
	Fall in-class test	15%
	Essay 2, winter term (2500 words)	35%
	Final in-class test	10%
	Active, informed participation	10%
Reading List:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Concise Volume A, Third Edition</i>, ed. Joseph Black et. al (Broadview, 2016) - Austen, <i>Persuasion</i> (Oxford UP) - Collins, <i>The Moonstone</i> (Oxford UP) - Selvon, <i>Lonely Londoners</i> (Penguin) 	
Open To:	Year 2/3	