BRITISH LITERATURE

Liberty Common High School
Course Syllabus
Instructor: J. Tullius
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Liberty's course in British literature is a survey conducted through the close study of exceptional and representative works from the broader literary movements. Our particular aim is to produce a meaningful familiarity with the cultural and intellectual heritage imparted to us through the masterful writers of Britain. Nevertheless, like all of our literature courses, this one also seeks to foster greater depth of thought, increased proficiency in the use and appreciation of the English language, and serious moral reflection. Good works of literature serve both as beautiful lenses through which to receive the universal truths of our world and as sounding boards for our own presuppositions about human significance and interpersonal engagement.

EXPECTATIONS

All students are expected to conform to the behavioral and academic standards of Liberty Common High School. Students in the British Literature course are also required to abide by any and all specific class policies listed in additional handouts regarding papers, homework, quizzes, and participation.[i]

GRADING[ii]

Papers	45 %
Reading Questions	25 %
Participation	10%
Assessments	15%
Grammar Notes/Other	5%

Papers: I will provide explicit instructions for each paper assignment. All papers must conform to the standard format and citation guidelines supplied in class. Students must follow our self-monitoring plan (SMP) to measure growth and reflect on areas for improvement.

Reading Questions: Students will receive a set of questions corresponding to assigned readings. Answers must demonstrate suitable depth and understanding, as well as adequate grammar and penmanship. These questions play a significant part in measuring the quality of a student's diligence and comprehension, and they are useful pegs on which to hang our discussions.

Participation: I will informally assess students throughout the period. Good participation means one is actively involved in class discussion, always prepared for class, always organized and on task, and diligent in pursuing academic improvement. Students should demonstrate a concern for the interests of their classmates as well as their own. Recitations and certain other tasks may fall in this category.

Assessments: These include quizzes on grammar, mechanics, vocabulary, and occasionally poetics.

Grammar Notes/Other: Exercises in vocabulary, grammar, poetics, and other related sub-disciplines will be reflected here.

COURSE OUTLINE[iii]

Quarter One

AUGUST – OCTOBER

- Grammar Review
- Old English: *Beowulf*
- Middle English: Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales* (General Prologue and selections).
  Paper on Chaucer due in October.

Quarter Two

OCTOBER – DECEMBER

- Renaissance: Shakespeare's sonnets; *Hamlet*.
  Paper due in mid-November.
- 17th Century: Poetry (Spenser, Herbert, Donne, et al.)
  Begin John Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

Quarter Three

JANUARY – FEBRUARY

- 17th Century: John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (cont.)
- Romantic Era: Burns, Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Keats, et. Al
- Reflections on Science and Progress: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*
- In-class, timed essay administered mid-February

Quarter Four

MARCH – MAY

- Victorian Era: Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*
  Poetry: Browning, Tennyson, Chesterton, et al.
  Paper on Dickens due in April.
- Modern Era: Hardy, Hopkins, Thomas, Yeats, Eliot, Arnold, Graves, et al.
- The Threat of Modernity: William Golding, *The Lord of the Flies*

PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism of any kind or degree will not be tolerated in this class. Plagiarism means presenting the work (ideas, words, graphs, tables, images, etc.) of someone else as one's own.

A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge an indebtedness whenever:

1. Directly quoting another person's actual words, whether oral or written;
2. Using another person's ideas, opinions, or theories;
3. Paraphrasing the words, ideas, opinions, or theories of others, whether oral or written;
4. Borrowing facts, statistics, or illustrative material; or
5. Offering materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgement.[iv]

Anyone who is caught plagiarizing will automatically fail the assignment as well as face disciplinary action.

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[i] School policies can be found on the website for LCHS or in the parent/student handbook. Mr. Tullius's policies are available online or by request. https://sites.google.com/a/libertycommon.org/tullius/home

[ii] Please check PowerSchool regularly to monitor your academic progress.

[iii] The exact schedule may be subject to change based on practical necessity or unforeseen conflicts. Nevertheless, the general outline will remain true in its content, scope, and sequence.

[iv] Definition and parameters of Plagiarism derived from the Indiana University website.