

BRITISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

DOE course number: 23.05200; one core credit
See MargaretShuman.com for Honors option.

Course Description: British Literature and Composition emphasizes appreciation for this body of literature, analysis of various forms of literature, application of historical and philosophical backgrounds, group and individual communication skills, and practice of pre-college composition and analysis skills.

General Course Objectives:

1. The student will be able to summarize verbally and in writing the basic characteristics of each major British literature time period.
2. The student will be able to recognize and discuss “quotable quotes” and themes from better known British works.
3. The student will analyze orally and in writing many stylistic elements of prose and poetry.
4. The student will be able to devise a thesis based on analysis of a work and develop points to support the thesis using text analysis and critical thinking.
5. The student will analyze a novel for its context, style, and theme.
6. Students will work successfully in groups as well as presenting individually.

Texts and Resources:

England in Literature (Medallion Edition-Hamlet), Scott Foresman, 1979, ISBN 0673129225, and Dover Thrift edition of *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. Text and *Frankenstein* available from instructor. Class also employs media and guest speakers, providing historical context of literature.

Content and Evaluation:

1. The student will be able to list from memory:
 - a) Each literary time period in chronological order.
 - b) At least one major writer and work from each period.
 - c) The major world view supported at each time.
2. The student will be able to recognize and define literary terms from an extensive list.
3. Each student will work within deadlines for all assignments.
4. The student will write essay and discussion answers which reflect critical reading of a text and application of stylistic, historical, and thematic perspectives.
5. The student will be able to articulate written and oral answers to questions dealing with literary analysis.
6. The student will work individually and in small groups to bring works of literature such as *Beowulf*, *Hamlet*, and *Canterbury Tales* to life.
7. The student will research a contemporary author and major work, prepare a research paper with an annotated bibliography in MLA style, and orally teach his findings to the class in a creative manner.