

# **British Literature**

Course Syllabus

2010-2011

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

KGSmith, Instructor

## **Our British Heritage**

**British Literature** is designed for the college preparatory student to expand his/her knowledge of, and to develop appreciation for, examples of traditional literature drawn from the British tradition throughout all periods of history. Students will study major works, and will devote considerable time to reading, analyzing, and discussing themes, characters, plot, etc. Students will demonstrate their mastery of material by means of written examinations, essays, oral presentations, and thorough in-class discussions. A personal stance toward literary works and themes, as well as the ability to articulate this stance, will be fostered.

Statement of Goals for the Course: **British Literature's** goals include, but are not limited to, each of the following:

- A. The student shall become exposed to a wide variety of excellent British authors and writings of all known literary periods.
- B. The student shall be encouraged to look beyond simple plot considerations and to look at the greater issues covered within a piece of literature.
- C. The student shall develop a sense of shared experience and common development with his/her predecessors in Western society.
- D. The student shall develop an attitude of greater inner confidence, springing from the knowledge that he/she can write well, provided he/she has a personal investment in the work.
- E. The student shall experience encouragement regarding his/her originality and creativity in written and spoken expression.
- F. The student shall consider written expression as a means of creativity and emotional venting.
- G. The student shall develop an internal, personal standard by which he/she evaluates his/her own work and the work of others.
- H. The student shall increase his/her sense of responsibility toward classroom commitments to him/herself, his/her peers, and his/her instructor.
- I. The student shall increase his/her self-confidence and poise when presenting information in front of his/her peers.
- J. The student shall experience the thrill of the gospel of Jesus Christ and determine the perception that all we do (even in English) is a way to serve Him.

**Examinations.** The best way to assess whether a student is completing his/her assignments and understanding the concepts involved is through the use of examination. Many formal examinations are scheduled for each semester and are duly noted on the course's *Semester Calendar*. Examinations for the course will usually feature a combination of objectively- and subjectively-evaluated materials.

The ability to articulately express knowledge and opinion will count heavily toward the student's overall grade.

**Quizzes.** Students should anticipate **daily** reading quizzes covering material assigned for that class period. At the instructor's discretion, quizzes may occur **before** or **after** class discussion of the material.

**Research Paper.** As always, a student-produced research paper is an expectation of this course. It should serve as the culmination of the student's English training to date. Once again, anticipations as regards to contextual, stylistic, and mechanical excellence are rather high. More specific details with regards to this assignment will be forthcoming.

**Projects.** Occasional projects will be assigned to encourage each student to delve deeper into the material than a simple reading can allow. Due to the in-depth nature of these assignments, large grades will be assigned. It is, therefore, in the students' best interests to complete these assignments on time and at a level commensurate with his/her ability.

**Discussions.** Literature is meant to be discussed as well as read. Class discussions, therefore, are essential. To this end, students may be assessed a subjective "participation grade" as a normal portion of their academic evaluation.

**Films.** As a portion of the course, films will occasionally be shown. These films are chosen to complement the theme under study. As a result, they **are** considered as worthy of testing as the books that will be read. In short, pay attention!

**Extra Credit.** Although minor levels of extra credit are available throughout the course of the year, students who are missing an "Honors" component are encouraged to make use of the opportunity to earn significant extra credit by reading an additional text each semester. More details are coming!

Chaucer! Shakespeare! Dickens! My favorite authors form the foundation of this course. How could I not continue to have high expectations for what we will discover this year in **British Literature**? I am excited to teach the course again. Let's have fun...and learn something along the way!

Kevin G. Smith, Instructor  
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