

## Description

This course will introduce you to the rich variety of literature produced in Britain from 1730 to 1800, a time of great cultural and political change. We'll study poems, plays, and prose works written by men and women who were fascinated by issues that concern us still, such as the relation of the individual to society and to the natural world. Their work testifies to an increasing awareness during a period known as the Enlightenment that inequalities based on differences of gender, class, and race were unjust and no longer tenable. As we consider questions of politics, ethics, and aesthetics, I'll encourage you to read as well for the pure pleasure of it, for many of the works we'll take up are beautifully written, develop psychological depth, and provide engaging perspectives on what it is to be a thinking, feeling person in a complex world.

The course is organized into thematic Modules, which you can take at your own pace.

## Course Materials

### Course Texts

The one text you'll need to purchase for the course includes most of the primary texts we'll be reading:

- **British Literature, 1640-1789: An Anthology.** 4th edition. Edited by Robert De Maria. Blackwell Publishers, 2016.  
ISBN: 978-1-118-95248-1 *(make sure you order this edition)*

You'll want to own a print copy of this book so you can look up and complete the readings for each Module. (And of course you'll want to take notes in the margins as you go – remember that "an unmarked text is an unread text")

\*See the [student handbook](#) for ordering information.\*

The other important text you'll be using is provided here on Moodle in an electronic edition:

- **A Glossary of Literary Terms**, by M.H. Abrams (10th edition)

### Other Resources

Additional course readings will be available as you progress through each module – each of these will have a hyperlink that will allow you to open and download the text in question.

## Expectations

### Course Content

The information provided by the professor in the course lesson pages and presentations is designed to give the student the opportunity to develop expertise as a literary critic and literary historian. In addition to learning such content, it is always important that you look up any terms that are **bolded**. These are standard literary terms that a successful English student needs to know in an upper-level course such as this one. (Where to look up these terms? Included in Module 1 is a full e-text of one of the best sources for definitions of literary terms: Abrams' [A Glossary of Literary Terms](#). Download this and have it open and ready to consult anytime you are reading through one of the lessons in the course – you'll find it an invaluable resource.)

It is expected that a diligent student will master much of what is presented in the course. Any of this content may be tested on the Final Exam.

### Assigned Readings

- All readings are from the De Maria course anthology unless a hyperlink is provided to an online resource, either on Moodle or on the web. Students are expected to read all assigned texts, and to read as well the biographical note that introduces each author we study (this comes at the top of the section on the author in the anthology).
- A student is responsible for demonstrating they're developing the skills and techniques and work ethic expected of a successful senior student. They are expected to complete all exercises, and to respond to all question-and-answer prompts in a lesson, even those not specifically for marks. This is the way to thrive in a course that does not include the benefits of classroom discussions or of face-to-face consultations with the professor.
- A student is expected to look up any term or concept that is emphasized in the lesson as being significant, and to work to remember these: to collect them and add them to their knowledge. This is the way to develop expertise, and also to succeed in later modules, and on the research essay, and on the final exam. (You'll want to show what you know: to bring in terms in new situations when you see they're relevant.)
- A student is expected to spend time absorbing the feedback of the professor when they get back graded course work, such as the Critical Reading assignments. It is expected that errors made on one piece of work will not appear in the next piece of work – or at least that an attempt is being made to learn how to do a particular task right (this takes time).

## Completing Coursework

The Acadia University *Calendar* stipulates that “No credit is given for a course unless all requirements for it have been completed.” Please keep in mind that in order to write the Final Exam in this course, a student first must have submitted every assignment that has a grade value, and have received back from the instructor a grade and feedback on every assignment. To learn more about when and how to apply to write the Final Exam, consult the section below on “Writing the Final Exam.”

## Evaluation

Here are the Assignments you'll complete to finish this course, and in the process develop real expertise in this important period in cultural and literary history:

Critical Readings (x 5)	30%
Research Paper Prep	5%
Research Paper	25%
Final Exam	40%

You'll learn more about what's expected for each of these assignments as you progress through the course. It is important that you complete and submit the assignments in the order in which they come in the course lesson modules.

The assignments are delivered to the instructor via assignment drop-boxes. Remember to put your name at the top of each assignment, and to keep a copy in the event the original goes astray.

The last assignment – the Research Paper – should be received at least 2 weeks prior to the date you wish to write the exam. This will allow adequate time for setting up the exam, and for the instructor to grade and return that last assignment to you.

## Writing the Final Exam

Once you have submitted all assignments that have a grade value (the Critical Readings and the Research Paper), you are welcome to apply to write the Final Exam. You can apply as soon as you've submitted that last assignment, so that the process can get moving even while the instructor is grading the assignment.

Click the **Apply to write the Final Exam** link under **Module 8**. The exam is online but requires an in-person proctor to supervise it.

When you are ready to apply to write the Exam, you can do so by going into Module 8, where you'll also find helpful guidance about what to expect and strategies for writing a successful Exam.

As a final note, you should keep in mind that this course is designed to have a student move through it in order, learning as they go and submitting assignments in order. Anyone who instead hands in more than one assignment all at once at the end and wants to write the Exam within the regular two week time-frame may see their progress slowed down, as the instructor has to get all graded work back to the student before they write the Exam. (As well, this isn't a good way to progress and to learn, as there's no opportunity to improve performance for the next assignment....)

### Exam Policies:

- Course requirements must be completed to the satisfaction of your instructor before writing your exam, as per your course syllabus.
- Please consult with your course instructor about your intention to write any midterm or final exam before submitting an exam request.

### Graduating Students Note:

If you are graduating in Acadia's Spring Convocation you must write your final exam by April 15th. If you are graduating in the Fall you must write by September 15th. You must apply to write your final at least 5 business days in advance.

### Applying to Write an Exam:

- Instructor permission is required before writing the exam.
- Fill out the form 'Apply to write the Final Exam' in the final module of your course.

### Exam Format:

- Online
- Closed-book
- 3 Hours

**Proctoring:**

Some exams are proctored. This means that you will be supervised while writing your exam to ensure academic integrity and to assist with any technical challenges you may have. For more information about scheduling a proctored exam, please visit [Open Acadia's Exam Website](#).

- In-person at Acadia or in-person offsite

**Proctored at Acadia**

- Examination requests must be received 1 week (7 days) prior to the date you wish to write your examination.
- We offer two standard sessions on Wednesdays beginning at 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. for in-person exams proctored at Acadia. To submit an exam request and schedule an exam, please use the appropriate link available in your course on Moodle.

**Proctored at Another Location**

If it isn't practical to take your exam at Acadia, off-campus exams can be written at another university or college. Arrangements for an examination may be made through the Registrar's Office or the Continuing Education office of most universities and colleges. If it is not possible to write your exam at an approved institution, please contact [openacadiaexams@acadiau.ca](mailto:openacadiaexams@acadiau.ca) for assistance.

- All fees associated with examinations written at other locations are your responsibility.
- Some courses may require specific software or internet accessibility at the off-campus examination location.

**Student Handbook**

You are responsible for becoming familiar with the contents of the Student Handbook. It contains important information about scheduling examinations (if applicable), applying for extensions, withdrawing from your course, ordering books, and computer and library services available to you. If you have questions about the policies outlined in the [handbook](#), contact:

Open Acadia  
21 University Avenue (Rhodes Hall)  
Wolfville, NS B4P 2R6  
Phone: 1-800-565-6568  
Fax: 902-585-1068  
Email: [openacadia@acadiau.ca](mailto:openacadia@acadiau.ca)

**Academic Integrity**

**In this course students are expected to submit work that is the product of their own thinking and their own writing ability.**

Academic integrity is compromised by academic dishonesty such as cheating and plagiarism. A student who is uncertain whether or not a course of action might constitute cheating or plagiarism should seek the advice of the instructor involved before handing in work.

- Cheating is copying or the use of unauthorized aids or the intentional falsification or invention of information in any academic exercise.
- Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas or words of another as one's own. Students are required to acknowledge and document the sources of ideas that they use in their written work.
- Self plagiarism is also a form of plagiarism. It is the presentation of the same work in more than one course without the permission of the instructors involved.

In this course, **students may not use generative AI, such as Chat GPT, or paraphrasing software, such as QuillBot, to help them complete assignments.** Any student writing that appears to have been completed with the aid of one of these tools is subject to the procedure for investigating academic integrity infractions (see pages 40-41 of Acadia's *Academic Calendar* at <https://registrar.acadiau.ca/AcademicCalendars.html>).

**Course Schedule**

You have **6 months** to complete this course. You may set your own schedule, but if you intend to complete the course in less than 3 months, you should let me know so we can arrange a schedule. (This is to ensure you can finish in time, as you'll need to submit an assignment and then I'll have to be able to grade and return it before you move to the next stage.)

Please do not leave all of your course work until a few weeks before your completion date. Although I will make reasonable efforts to accommodate your schedule, I need time to grade assignments and mark exams.

**Recommended Schedule**

Week 1-2	Module 1
Week 2-3	Module 2
Week 4-5	Module 3

etc..	
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