

**San José State University: Department of English and Comparative Literature
ENGL 60: The Emergence of “British” and “American” Literatures
(1680 to 1860)**

Section 1, Fall Semester, 2020

Course and Contact Information

Course Code:	43767
Instructor:	Allison Johnson
Email:	allison.johnson@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	TR 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	T R 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM
Prerequisites:	ENGL 1A

Course Format

Remote lecture, discussion.

Course Description

Our class will explore the circulation of ideas and people across the Atlantic and the formation of distinctly British and American literary traditions from the late 17th century to the middle of the 19th century. We will pay special attention to the transatlantic slave trade, communication networks, and conceptions of the nation.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (3 hours per unit per week) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities. Because this is a 4-unit course, students can expect to spend a minimum of twelve hours per week preparing for and attending classes and completing course assignments.

NOTE: This course includes the following 1-unit enhancement: Increased course content and collateral readings, including additional research and writing. You will select and read a nineteenth-century novel, develop a research plan, and write a research paper.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO 1: Read closely in a variety of forms, including poetry, the early novel in English, and the short story and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature.

CLO 2: Show familiarity with major British and American literary works and genres from the period of 1680 to 1860.

CLO 3: Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately

to the content, the context, and nature of the subject and in a range of forms, including in-class writings, a proposal, annotated bibliography, and a research-backed interpretive essay.

CLO 4: Develop and carry out an extended research project, locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.

CLO 5: Articulate the relation between particular texts and their cultural, historical, and geographical contexts.

CLOs 1, 2, and 5 will be acquired via the reading assignments and class participation, while CLOs 2-5 will be acquired and demonstrated through each and every one of the written course assignments.

Required Texts/Readings

The Broadview Anthology of Literature of the Revolutionary Period, 1770-1832 (page numbers listed in parentheses)

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko* (Norton Critical Edition)

Susanna Rowson, *Charlotte Temple*

Other Readings:

Nineteenth-century novel of your choice for research project. See Appendix for list of suggestions.

All other readings are available on Canvas (C)

Required Watching and Posting

I will post all lecture videos to Canvas. Before class, watch the video lecture about the text(s) for that day and then post to the discussion board (you can ask a question about the lecture or the text(s), make an observation, or respond to another student). Quizzes will cover information from lecture videos and from the readings.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Explication Assignment, 9/25: 5% [CLOs 1-3, 5]

Midterm, 10/1: 20% [CLOs 1-3, 5]

Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography, 10/23: 10% [CLO 3-4]

Research Paper (5-7 pages), 12/6: 25% [CLO 3-4]

Final Exam, 12/10: 20% [CLOs 1-3, 5]

Participation and Discussion Board Posts: 15% [CLOs 1-2, 5]

Quizzes: 5% [CLO 2]

See Appendix A: Grading Policy for further information

Paper Regulations: Write your papers in double-spaced 12pt. Times New Roman font, and format them according to MLA guidelines. The OWL site produced by Purdue (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>) provides good examples of MLA citations. **Late papers will be marked down 1/3 letter grade per day (including weekends).**

Participation: Every student will come to class prepared for a critical discussion. **Every student will read all of the assigned readings**, come to every class meeting, engage with the texts and participate in the discussion, offer interpretations, ask and answer questions, and be respectful to other students. Please email me if you are unable to attend. Detrimental and disruptive behavior (i.e., text-messaging, instant-messaging, snapchatting) will result in the loss of participation credit. **There will be 5 pop quizzes on the reading throughout the semester. You cannot make them up.**

Office Hours and Email Policies: I encourage you to meet with me during my virtual office hours to receive assistance on assignments and papers, and ask me questions. You can email me if you are unable to meet me during my designated hours.

Plagiarism Policy:

If you plagiarize, you will receive an automatic 0 grade. Please make sure you cite your sources using proper MLA format! See Appendix B: Academic Honesty.

Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography: Your proposal should describe the question you hope to answer, listing five library resources (academic books or journal articles) in an annotated bibliography.

Research Paper: Your research paper, seeking to answer a question about the book you have read, should be five to seven pages in length, and include a “Works Cited” with at least three library sources (academic books or journal articles). It should be written in clear, correct English with logical paragraph breaks, an introduction that frames your argument, and a conclusion. Appropriate use of textual evidence from the novel and from your research are key to successful research papers.

Week 1:

8/20 – Thursday

Introduction

Week 2:

8/25 – Tuesday

Editorial Preface (xxxii-xxv, skip acknowledgements)

8/27 – Thursday

Mary Rowlandson, *A True History of the Captivity of Mary Rowlandson* (C), First Remove to Tenth Remove

Week 3:

9/1 – Tuesday

Mary Rowlandson, *A True History of the Captivity of Mary Rowlandson* (C), finish

9/3 – Thursday

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko* (read until Oroonoko reaches Suriname)

Week 4:

9/8 – Tuesday

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko* (finish)

9/10 – Thursday

from Thomas Southerne, *Oroonoko*

Week 5:

9/15 – Tuesday

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, selected letters, “Epistle from Mrs. Yonge” (C)

Alexander Pope, “An Essay on Criticism” (C)

9/17 – Thursday

Jupiter Hammon, “An Evening Thought: Salvation by Christ, with Penetential Cries,” “An Address to Miss Phillis Wheatley” (C)

Phillis Wheatley, from *Poems on Various Subjects* (218-220)

Week 6:

9/22 – Tuesday

Olaudah Equiano, *Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (140-148)

Mary Prince, *History of Mary Prince* (1131-1142)

9/24 – Thursday

Edmund Burke, from *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (22-32)

Mary Wollstonecraft, from *A Vindication of the Rights of Men* (375-384)

9/25 – Friday

Explication Assignment due by 11:59 p.m.

Week 7:

9/29 – Tuesday

Midterm Review

10/1 – Thursday

MIDTERM due by 11:59 p.m.

Week 8:

10/6 – Tuesday

John Adams and Abigail Adams, letters (61-63)
Philip Freneau, selected poems (198-201)
Joel Barlow, from "The Hasty Pudding" (227-229)

10/8 – Thursday

Mary Wollstonecraft, from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (387-428)

Week 9:

10/13 – Tuesday

Charlotte Smith, from *Elegiac Sonnets*, 1, 3, 4, 7 (162-162); from *The Emigrants, A Poem* (166-179)

10/15 – Thursday

Conducting research

Week 10:

10/20 – Tuesday

William Blake, from *Songs of Innocence* (265-268); from *Songs of Experience* (293-298)

10/22 – Thursday

William Wordsworth, "Advertisement" (618), "Goody Blake, and Harry Gill, a true story" (619), "We Are Seven" (623-624), "The Idiot Boy" (629), "Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey" (638-640), "Preface" (640-51), "Lucy Gray" (653)

10/23 – Friday

Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography due by 11:59 p.m.

Week 11:

10/27 – Tuesday

John Keats, "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer" (1338), "La Belle Dame Sans Merci" (1340), "The Eve of St. Agnes" (1351-1357), "Ode to a Nightingale" (1357-1359), "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (1359)

10/29 – Thursday

Charles Brockden Brown, "The Difference Between History and Romance" (C), *The Memoirs of Mary Selwyn* (C)

Week 12:

11/3 – Tuesday

Susanna Rowson, *Charlotte Temple*, volume I

11/5 – Thursday

Susanna Rowson, *Charlotte Temple*, volume II

Week 13:

11/10 – Tuesday

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, chapters 1-5 (C)

11/12 – Thursday

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, chapters 6-11 (C)

Week 14:

11/17 – Tuesday

Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Roger Malvin’s Burial (1492-1502), “Young Goodman Brown” (C)

11/19 – Thursday

Edgar Allan Poe, “The Philosophy of Composition” (C), “To Science” (1508), “To Helen” (1513), “The Raven” (C), “The Black Cat” (C)

Week 15:

11/24 – Tuesday

Writing research papers

11/26 – Thursday

No class

Week 16:

12/1 – Tuesday

Herman Melville, “Benito Cereno” (C)

12/3 – Thursday

Review

12/6 – Sunday

Paper due by 11:59 p.m.

12/10 – Tuesday

FINAL EXAM due by 11:59 p.m.

Appendix A: Grading Policy

The following statement has been adopted by the Department of English for inclusion in all syllabi: *In English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System"). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A = excellent; B = above average; C = average; D = below average; F = failure.*

In written assignments for English 60, this scale is based on the following criteria:

A [90-92=A-, 93-96=A, 97-100=A+] = Excellent: The "A" essay is articulate and well developed with fluid transitions and a clear and persuasive use of evidence, which is drawn from the literary text itself, lecture materials (when appropriate), and research materials. An "A" essay contains a fresh insight that teaches the reader something new about the subject matter.

B [80-82=B-, 83-86=B, 87-89=B+] Above average: The "B" essay demonstrates a good understanding of its subject, a clear and persuasive use of evidence, a certain level of ease of expression, and solid organization. However, it usually lacks the level of originality and creativity that characterizes the insight found in an "A" essay.

C [70-72=C-, 73-76=C, 77-79=C+] = Average: The "C" essay makes a good attempt at all the assignment's requirements. It has a reasonable understanding of its subject matter but its ideas are frequently simplistic or over-generalized. The writing style is also more bland and repetitive than the style shown by "A" and "B" essays and it often contains flaws in grammar, punctuation, spelling and/or word choice. It may also use textual evidence out of context.

D [60-62=D-, 63-66=D, 67-69=D+] = Below average: The "D" essay is poorly organized and generally unclear. It has inappropriate or inadequate examples, is noticeably superficial or simplistic, and/or contains some serious mechanical and grammatical problems. A "D" essay may also reveal some misunderstanding of the assignment requirements.

F = Failure: An "F" essay has not addressed the requirements of the assignment and is unacceptable work in terms of both form and content.

Appendix B: Academic Honesty

“San José State University defines cheating as the act of obtaining credit, attempting to obtain credit, or assisting others to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means.”

“San José State University defines plagiarism as the act of representing the work of another as one’s own without giving appropriate credit, regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements.”

For full definition, see <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.pdf>

Appendix C: 19th-century Novel Suggestions

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818)
 Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (1847)
 Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* (1850)
 William Wells Brown, *Clotel* (1853)
 Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* (1860-1)
 George Eliot, *Silas Marner*
 Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women* (1868)
 Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885)

Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890)
Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (1891)
Kate Chopin, *The Awakening* (1899)

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>