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ENLT 223.02: British Literature in the 19th & 20th Centuries

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McClintock
223.2

ENLT 223.2 British Literature in the Nineteenth
and Twentieth Centuries
Fall 2000 MWF 10:10-11:00 LA 306
Course Schedule

Texts: Abrams, et al., eds., *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, Vol. 2, 7th ed.

- September 6 Introduction
8 William Blake, "The Lamb," "The Chimney Sweeper,"
"Holy Thursday" [Innocence], "Holy Thursday"
[Experience]
11 Blake, "The Sick Rose," "The Tyger," "London,"
"And did those feet"
13 William Wordsworth, "I wandered lonely as a cloud"
15 Wordsworth, "The Solitary Reaper," "The world is
too much with us"
18 Wordsworth, "Ode: Intimations of Immortality"
20 " " "
22 " *The Prelude*, Book Sixth
25 " " Book Fourteenth
27 John Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale"
29 " "Ode on a Grecian Urn"
October 2 " "Lamia"
4 Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, *Frankenstein*, Vol. 1
6 " " " Vol. 2
9 " " " Vol. 3 1st PAPER DUE
11 Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "To George Sand: A
Desire," Sonnet 43
13 Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess"
16 " "A Toccata of Galuppi's"
18 " "Andrea del Sarto"
20 Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "Ulysses," "Tithonus"
23 " " "The Coming of Arthur"
25 " " "The Passing of Arthur"
27 Thomas Hardy, "Hap," "Neutral Tones"
30 " "Drummer Hodge," "The Darkling Thrush"
November 1 " "The Convergence of the Twain"
3 Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*, [chapter] 1
6 " " " [chapter] 2
8 " " " [chapter] 3
[10 holiday]
13 William Butler Yeats, "Who Goes with Fergus?", "The 2ND PAPER DUE
Wild Swans at Coole"
15 Yeats, "Easter 1916," "The Second Coming"
17 " "A Prayer for My Daughter," "Among School
Children"
20 Yeats, "Sailing to Byzantium," "The Circus Animals'
Desertion"
[22-24 Thanksgiving]

November	27	James Joyce, "Araby"	
	29	" " "The Dead"	
December	1	" "	
	4	Katherine Mansfield, "The Garden-Party"	
	6	Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> , Part One	
	8	" " " Part Two	
	11	" " " Part Three	REWRITES DUE
	13	Seamus Heaney, "Digging," "The Forge"	
	15	" " "Casualty," "The Sharping Stone"	
	22	Final Examination	8-10 a.m.

If we restrict "British Literature" to things written (mostly) in the British Isles and (mostly) in some form of English, its history begins about thirteen centuries ago and hasn't ended yet. Our text, hefty as it is, presents only half of a selection from a selection, not even close to one per cent of all we might choose from. And we won't be reading even a large fraction of the Norton. What can one semester mine from such riches? We extract a kind of chronological scan; not a slice or a cross-section, not a representative sample, but a kind of compressed inspection that, despite its brevity, will offer a fair sense of some important matters in the literature ancestral to as well as coeval with American and the history that leads to--among other things--us.

There are some rules for the course. Read the assigned texts. Also--this is strong advice--read the period and author introductions. Write the assigned papers (partially described below), and turn them in one time. Don't cut class, at least not often. Be prepared to answer questions, and be willing to say, out loud, what you think. Don't miss the Final Examination. Never plagiarize.

Reading and discussing contribute to achieving two of the three major goals of the course: to broaden and deepen your familiarity with the historical scope and variety of British literature and to enhance your confidence (as well as competence) in analyzing or interpreting literary works. Writing helps meet those goals, especially the second, and is directed specifically, of course, at the third: to improve your ability to write critical essays.

Each paper should be about a thousand words (roughly four pages) long, on a topic you choose from among some I'll suggest. When you get a paper back, you'll find comments and marks in the left-hand margin related to the writing as writing; right-side comments will have to do with what you've said about your topic. At your option, you may revise one paper.

Your grade for the course will depend mainly but not exclusively on your written work; I'll keep track of attendance and pay attention to the extent of your participation in discussions.

Michael W. McClintock