Major British Writers

Class code: ENGL-UA 9060 - 001

Instructor Details
Prof. Michael Hattaway
Office Hour: Tuesdays, 12-30 – 1-30
(Please make an appointment by email at least 24 hours in advance)

Class Details
Major British Writers, Fall 2013
Wednesday, 10-1
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites
None

Class Description
Most of these major texts from the canon of English literature have been selected because they engage with life in London at the time they were written. We shall be concerned not only with topics of place and setting, but also with issues of individual and national identity, as well as with forms of verse, drama, and fictional narratives. We shall be looking at poems about country houses – these serve as moral opposites of the court or the city. We shall be seeing a performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream at Shakespeare's Globe, witnessing justice in action in a London court, as well as visiting the house of Dr Johnson, and Tate Britain, as well as viewing screen versions of a couple of our chosen novels. Texts will be studied in chronological order; the course is weighted towards literature of the last 100 years.

Classes will generally comprise three sessions divided by two 15-minute breaks, and will feature lectures, class discussions, field trips etc.

Desired Outcomes
1. To foster an informed enjoyment of the literature of London
2. To acquire a basic understanding of literary forms and techniques
3. To acquire a sense of the historical and social contexts of the texts studied

Assessment Components
Two short (ca 1500 words) papers, each dealing with a single text: 30%; a longer paper (ca 2500 words) tracing a theme through three novels: 40%; class participation (predominantly NYU Classes postings): 20%; attitude and commitment to the course: 10%.

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations
Grade A: Informed and coherent lines of reasoning deriving from textual and/or contextual evidence or from a sense of form or genre; very good English
**Grade B:** Close engagement with text and/or context; good insights linked to evidence; generally well written

**Grade C:** Adequate knowledge and some degree of argumentation; adequate English

**Grade D:** Errors of fact; slipshod or disorganised thinking; failure to relate generalisations to evidence; careless writing

**Grade F:** Unsubstantiated claims or generalisations; gross errors; lack of organisation; culpably bad writing

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**Grade conversion**

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- **A**=94-100
- **A-**=90-93
- **B+**=87-89
- **B**=84-86
- **B-**=80-83
- **C+**=77-79
- **C**=74-76
- **C-**=70-73
- **D+**=67-69
- **D**=65-66
- **F**=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

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**Grading Policy**

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.

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**Attendance Policy**

NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill–health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines that follow, and can be obtained only from the appropriate member of NYUL’s staff.
Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes - or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester. See also section 11.1 - Make up days.

Absence reporting for an absence due to illness

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expediently at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://bit.ly/NuCl5K. You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

Absence requests for non-illness reasons

Absence requests for non-illness reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

Further information regarding absences

Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.
Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit**, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted **in person** to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) **during office hours** (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

**Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

**Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgements, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

**Electronic Submission**

The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website [http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact academics@nyu.ac.uk if you
have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the website, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. **Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.** NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

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**Required Text(s)**


Seventeenth and eighteenth century poems to be downloaded and printed out from Luminarium:  
<http://www.luminarium.org/lumina.htm>


Supplemental Texts(s)  
(not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library)


Internet Research Guidelines

You are strongly advised to use only those sources that you access through the NYU system, i.e., JSTOR, LION (Literature Online), Cambridge Collections Online (where you will find all the ‘Cambridge Companions’ listed above [find via ‘Research’/’Databases’/‘Cambridge Collections’], etc.

Additional Required Equipment

It would be useful to have a camera with you on visits – a camera-phone would be adequate.

Session 1

Plays and playhouses in Early Modern London; Introduction to Verse and Verse Drama Marlowe, Doctor Faustus

[Wednesday 4 Sept.]

Session 2

Class on A Midsummer Night’s Dream

[Wednesday 11 Sept.]

Performance of A Midsummer Night’s Dream at Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre, 7-30

Session 3

1. Post-Performance A Midsummer Night’s Dream

2. The City and the Country: Country House Poems – by Jonson, Marvell and others – to be printed out from Luminarium http://www.luminarium.org/lumina.htm

[Wednesday 18 Sept. and Friday 20 Sept.]

Friday: Day-trip to Knole, country house near Sevenoaks, Kent. (We’ll be leaving by coach and then walking up to the house for a tour at 11-00 am.)

Session 4

Court and the City: Poems by Rochester, Swift, Pope, Montagu, Johnson etc to be printed out from Luminarium http://www.luminarium.org/lumina.htm

[Wednesday 25 Sept.]

PAPER 1 DUE (Hard copy to me and electronic copy to Turnitin)

Visit to Dr Johnson’s House

Session 5


[Wednesday 2 Oct.]

Session 6


[Wednesday 9 Oct.]

Visit to Tate Britain

Session 7

Reading a Victorian Novel: Oliver Twist (1)

[Wednesday 16 Oct.]

PAPER 2 DUE (Hard copy to me and electronic copy to Turnitin)
Session 8
Reading a Victorian Novel: *Oliver Twist* (2)
[Wednesday 23 Oct.]
Weather permitting: Walk through Dickens’ London, South of the Thames

Session 9
MAKE UP CLASS
[Friday 25 October]
Visit to Westminster Magistrates’ Court
NB We meet at 10-00 am outside the Court opposite Baker St Tube Station: the court is situated at 181 Marylebone Road, NW1 5BR.

Session 10
Modernist Fiction 1: London in *The Secret Agent* (whole text)
[Wednesday 30 October]
FALL BREAK FOLLOWS

Session 11
Modernist Fiction 2: London in *Howards End* (whole text)
[Wednesday 13 Nov.]

Session 12
Modernist Fiction 3: London Society and the Great War: *Mrs Dalloway*, (whole text)
[Wednesday 20 Nov]

Session 13
Postmodern Fiction: *Saturday* (whole text)
[Wednesday 27 Nov.]

Session 14
Final Paper Workshop (to be confirmed)
[Wednesday 4 December]

Session 15
Paper 3 Due:
[Wednesday 11 December]
HARD COPY TO ME IN GO2, 4 BEDFORD SQUARE at 2-00 pm AND ELECTRONIC COPY TO TURNITIN

Classroom Etiquette
Eating is not permitted in any classrooms in Bedford Square. You should bring a notebook for taking notes: laptops, tablets etc. cannot be used during class sessions. Kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided. Please visit the toilets etc. only during the two mid-class breaks.

Required Co-curricular Activities
Visit to Shakespeare’s Globe, Wednesday 11 September, 7-30 pm; Day-trip to Knole House, Friday 20 September
Suggested Co-curricular Activities

Go to as many plays and exhibitions as you can fit in.

Your Instructor

Michael Hattaway is Professor of English at New York University in London and Emeritus Professor of English Literature in the University of Sheffield. He was born in New Zealand and studied in Wellington and at Cambridge. He also taught at the Universities of Wellington, Kent at Canterbury, British Columbia, and Massachusetts at Amherst. Author of Elizabethan Popular Theatre (1982), Hamlet: The Critics Debate (1987), and Renaissance and Reformations: An Introduction to Early Modern English Literature (2005); editor of As You Like It, and 1-3 Henry VI (New Cambridge Shakespeare), of plays by Ben Jonson and Francis, Beaumont, and of The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare’s History Plays (2002), and co-editor of The Cambridge Companion to English Renaissance Drama (1990 and 2003) and Shakespeare in the New Europe (1994). He has written an electronic book on King Richard II (2008) and edited a New Companion to English Renaissance Literature and Culture (2 vols, 2010). In 2010 he gave the 100th Annual Shakespeare Lecture for the British Academy.