

LIT207-170 British Literature I  
Office: Laurel 113  
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 1130am-1230pm and Tues/Thurs 10am-11am Via Google Meet

Professor William Patrick Wend  
wwend@rcbc.edu

**Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC)**  
**Spring 2021**  
Liberal Arts

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**Code:** LIT207-170

**Credits:** 3

**Meeting Days:** Distance Education

**Phone:** 856-222-9311 #1401

**Title:** British Literature I

**Professor:** William Patrick Wend

**Email:** [wwend@rcbc.edu](mailto:wwend@rcbc.edu)

**Office Hours:** My office is Laurel 113. Office Hours are Mon/Wed 1130am-1230pm and Tues/Thurs 10am-11am Via Google Meet. Schedule an appointment with me via Calendly: <https://calendly.com/wwend/15min>

**Response Time:** I primarily respond to email during office hours within 48 business hours after the email has been received. If you do not receive a response, please resend your email. I am not in my email during the weekend. All email correspondence must come from RCBC email accounts. Any email sent from non-RCBC email accounts will not be opened or answered. This is Liberal Arts division policy.

**RCBC WRITING DEPARTMENT VISION STATEMENT:** The RCBC Writing Department transforms lives by teaching effective communication skills, critical thinking skills, and information literacy in an ethically responsible, creative, and collaborative environment.

**CORE VALUES:**

- Information Literacy
- Ethical Responsibility
- Effective Communication Skills
- Critical Thinking
- Collaboration/Teamwork
- Creative Process

**SECTION 1: Course Information**

**Course Description:** This course focuses on British literature from its origins to the late eighteenth century. It emphasizes critical reading and analysis of selected fiction, poetry, drama, and essays.

### **Required Texts and Other Materials:**

- This is an OER class, so there is no “required text” in the traditional sense.
- A list of the texts we will be reading is listed on the course schedule with hyperlinks to digital versions I am recommending, but you may use another one if you wish whether print or digital. Personally, I have kind of gone back to preferring print these days...gone back and forth over the years...
- These are just suggested versions for your convenience. Please acquire the most accessible, cheapest, versions of these texts that you can! Do not overspend!

**\*NOTE ON READINGS:** Some of the material we will cover this semester may contain adult themes and/or adult content, explicit language, sexual themes or images, etc. It is understood that these elements are part of the creative construction of the text, and do not represent the views of the instructor. Likewise, it is understood that students will approach this content with a mature attitude. **If any of the above is of concern (personally, morally, or ethically) please let me know as soon as possible. Together we can find a way for you to engage with the course material in a way that is comfortable for everyone.**

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

- Discuss the works of major British writers in the following contexts: Literary periods (Medieval, Renaissance, Restoration, and Eighteenth Century)
  - Social movements
  - Intellectual movements
- Trace the development of themes and genres within their historical contexts;
- Analyze literary works for their aesthetic features and thematic patterns; Identify styles, themes, and works of major writers; Examine a variety of critical approaches to literature.
- Use appropriate research methods for literary analysis.

### **General Education Outcomes**

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### Written and Oral Communication: Communication

- Students will logically and persuasively support their points of view or findings.
- Students will communicate meaningfully with a chosen audience while demonstrating critical thought.

### Society and Human Behavior: Social Science

- Students will demonstrate a general knowledge of political, social and economic concepts and systems and their effects on society.
- ### Technological Competency or Information Literacy: Technology
- Students will use critical thinking skills for computer based access, analysis, and presentation of information.
  - Students will exhibit competency in library online database tools appropriate to accessing information in reference publications, periodicals and bibliographies.
  - Students will demonstrate the skills required to find, evaluate, and apply information to solve a problem.

### Humanistic Perspective: Humanities LITERATURE:

- Students will recognize and assess the contributions of people from various nations and/or cultures.
- Students will analyze the changing significance of social constructions of religion, race, class, and/or gender in cultural artifacts (music, art, literature) throughout time. Global and Cultural Awareness: Diversity

### Core Course Content

- Early epic poetry
- Selections from Medieval, Renaissance and Restoration literature
- British mythology and/or folklore
- Select non-fiction

### **SECTION 2: Course Policies, Assessments, Grading**

**Attendance:** Students are required to attend all class sessions for the full duration of each such instructional session. Grade penalties for absences will be imposed when a student exceeds a ten-percent absence rate (in the

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case of 15-week English 101 courses, starting with the third absence). The policy can be [accessed here](#).

You do not "attend" a distance learning course in the traditional manner, but there are still some concerns we need to address in regards to this issue. Despite this not being a "face to face" course, all assignments, papers, etc, need to be completed by the due dates listed on the syllabus and assignment description pages. No work is optional. There is no extra credit. You can expect to spend anywhere between six to ten hours per week reading and writing for this course. If you spend less time on this course, it will be difficult to earn a passing grade. *(Updated by SB Fall 2012 With Administrative Addition Fall 2014/6 and Updated By Professor Wend Spring 2020)*

### **Update For Fall 2020/Spring 2021**

- Students are required to attend all class, clinical, laboratory, and studio sessions for the full duration of each such instructional session. Faculty are required to record student attendance, and grade penalties for absence will be imposed when a student exceeds a ten percent non excused absence rate, not to exceed 10% of the final grade.
- For all on-campus courses, including hybrid and hybrid-mixed-mode on-campus meeting days, excused absences include: suspected COVID-19 related illness (i.e., exhibiting symptoms), tested positive for COVID-19, or demonstrated need to quarantine. For all VLC courses and hybrid and hybrid-mixed-mode virtual meeting days, excused absences include: suspected COVID-19 related illness (i.e., exhibiting symptoms that prevent the student from participating online).
- Students are responsible for informing their instructor as soon as the situation is known and following all other guidelines as outlined by the college. Failure to do so may lead to the absence not being excused. Students are also responsible for communicating with instructors to make reasonable arrangements for the completion of course requirements not completed due to absence.

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**Communication:** Students are responsible for communicating with instructors within 48 hours following a missed class to make arrangements for the completion of course requirements not completed due to absence. If a student does not communicate within 48 hours as stated above, the student forfeits his or her right to receive the missed work, and such assignment grades will be entered as zeroes.

**Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:** RCBC is committed to maintaining a culture of academic integrity where members are expected to adhere to fundamental values in both academic and nonacademic endeavors. For the purpose of this code, academic integrity is defined as a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to these fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. It is the belief of RCBC that these values form principles of behavior that enables academic communities to translate ideas to action. The Academic Integrity policy can be [accessed here](#).

- Specifically, the term “**plagiarism**” includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work or sections of a work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment, whether intentional or not. This includes any material copied directly or paraphrased from the internet. Plagiarism also constitutes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials, including material taken from or ordered through the Internet. For more information on academic dishonesty/plagiarism see Board Policy #903-C.

**Assessment Methods:**

Beowulf Assignment 10%  
Character Analysis Paper 15%  
Course Contribution 10%  
Discussion Forums 15%  
Dropped Assignment 5%  
Final Exam 10%  
Comparison Paper 15%  
Term Paper 20%  
=100%

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**There is no extra credit.** Please see individual assignments for directions. Unless initiated by Professor Wend, no revisions are permitted on assignments.

A=100-90  
B+=89-86  
B=85-80  
C+=79-76  
C=75-70  
D=65-69  
F=64-0

**\*\*\*Final Grades For The Course Are Posted To Web Adviser...The Blackboard Gradebook Is Not An “Official” Finalized Gradebook...I Have Set The Course Up So You Should Be Able To Figure Out Your Grade As We Go...If You Have Questions About Your Current Grade Please Get In Touch\*\*\***

**Criteria for meeting grade determination are as follows:**

- **A:** Meeting course goals by demonstrating perceptive understanding of readings and course concepts; excellence and originality in compositions; superior scores on exams and other assigned work; active participation in class discussion and small groups; and compliance with attendance and assignment requirements.
- **B+/B:** Meeting course goals by demonstrating mastery of subject and concepts; above average quality in compositions and exams; good participation in class and small groups; and compliance with attendance and assignment requirements.
- **C+/C:** Meeting course goals by demonstrating a satisfactory level of understanding of subject material and concepts; acceptable quality in compositions and exams; adequate participation in class and small groups; and compliance with attendance and assignment requirements.
- **D:** Not meeting all of the course goals; minimal knowledge of subject material and concepts; marginal quality in compositions (poor quality of development, support, or grammar); poor performance on

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exams; passivity in class and small groups; non-compliance with attendance and assignment requirements.

- **F:** Not meeting course goals; unsatisfactory progress in understanding and applying subject material and concepts; incomplete or unacceptable work in compositions (gross grammatical, developmental, and structural errors); failure of exams; non-compliance of attendance and assignment requirements.

### **Course Schedule**

We will break this course up into four modules...

#### **Module One**

During this module we will introduce ourselves to this era by reading Beowulf. Here is the electronic version I am suggesting for students, but you can use any translation, whether in print or digital, you wish to use: <https://standardebooks.org/ebooks/anonymous/beowulf/john-lesslie-hall>

Please contribute to the discussion forum for Beowulf. Complete the writing assignment for Beowulf by the due date.

**This module begins Friday January 22nd and ends Friday February 12th.**

#### **Module Two**

During this module, you will read a variety of poems that loosely can be tied together by the themes of faith, virtue, and morality. These will be:

- Sir Gawain & The Green Knight  
<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/English/GawainAndTheGreenKnight.php>
- Dream of the Rood  
<https://oldenglishpoetry.camden.rutgers.edu/dream-of-the-rood/>
- Paradise Lost <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/26>

Please contribute to the discussion forum for each poem. Complete the Comparison assignment by the due date.

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**This module begins Saturday Friday February 13th and ends Friday March 12th.**

### **Module Three**

Our third module will focus on two of the most famous writers of this era: Geoffrey Chaucer and William Shakespeare. Please read the following:

- King Lear  
<https://shakespeare.folger.edu/shakespeares-works/king-lear/>
- Canterbury Tales <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2383>
  - General Prologue
  - The Miller's Tale
  - The Pardoner's Tale
  - The Wife of Bath Tale

Please contribute to the discussion forum for each play. Complete the Character Analysis assignment by the due date.

**This module begins Saturday March 13th and ends Friday April 9th.**

### **Module Four**

Our final module will be examining some non-fiction and historical issues of this time period. Links for these will be posted as the semester goes on. I have not taught this course in a number of years and I still need a bit of time to go through my research materials to curate a good list for you.

Please contribute to the discussion forum for each item. Complete the term paper assignment by the due date.

### **SECTION 3: College Information**

**College Policies:** In order for students to know their rights and responsibilities, all students are expected to review and adhere to all regulations and policies as listed in the College Catalog and Handbook. These documents can be accessed at

<http://www.rcbc.edu/academic-resources>. Important policies and regulations include, but are not limited, to the following:

- College Attendance Policy



- Grading Standards
  - Withdraw (W) and Incomplete Grades (I & X)
  - Withdrawal date for this semester
- Student Code of Conduct
  - Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism and Civility
  - Use of Communication and Information Technology
  - College Attendance Policy
    - Students are required to attend all class, clinical, laboratory, and studio sessions for the full duration of each such instructional session. Faculty are required to take attendance, and grade penalties for absence will be imposed when a student exceeds a ten percent absence rate, not to exceed 10% of the final grade. For further information please refer to the current catalog.
- Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism
  - Specifically, the term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work or sections of a work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement, whether intentional or not. This includes any material copied directly or paraphrased from the internet. Plagiarism also constitutes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of a term papers or other academic materials, including material taken from or ordered through the Internet. For more information on academic dishonesty/plagiarism see Board Policy #903-C.

**Office of Student Support and Disability Services:** In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act, the Student Support Services Office’s mission is to ensure all students with disabilities are provided access to educational and extracurricular activities while on college premises through support in the form of reasonable accommodations such as adaptive technology, counseling, note-taking assistance, and American Sign Language interpreters. Students who have disabilities must self-identify, provide documentation of disability(ies), attend an intake appointment, and sign a Disability Release Form

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(rcbc.edu/studentsupport) prior to the start of the semester to ensure reasonable accommodations. For more information please contact the Office of Student Support at ext. 1208. For additional information on this policy please refer to the current catalog.

**Educational Technology Statement:** Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC) advocates the use of technology to enhance instruction. Students should assume that classroom and online technology will be used throughout their coursework at RCBC, as it will most certainly be used in their future education and careers. The College provides on-campus facilities for the convenience of the RCBC community. Various college departments, including the Office of Information Technology and the Office of Distance Education, provide technology training and assistance to faculty and students.

**Student Success Services:** RCBC offers a variety of free services for its students including those listed below. Descriptions of these services, as well as many others, can be found in the College Catalog and Handbook and on the RCBC website at the following URLs.

- Academic Advisement (<http://rcbc.edu/advising>)
- Career Services (<http://rcbc.edu/careers>)
- Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) (<http://rcbc.edu/eof>)
- Financial Aid (<http://rcbc.edu/financialaid>)
- International Students Office (<http://rcbc.edu/international>)
- Library/Integrated Learning Resource Center (ILRC) (<http://rcbc.edu/library>)
- Office of Veteran Services (<http://rcbc.edu/vets>)
- RCBC Foundation (please view the Foundation web page for scholarship information: <http://rcbc.edu/foundation>)
- RCBC bookstore (<http://www.rcbc.edu/bookstore>)
- Rowan University Partnership (<http://www.rcbc.edu/rowan>)
- Student Support Counseling (<http://www.rcbc.edu/counseling>)
- Tutoring Center (<http://rcbc.edu/tutoring>)
- Test Center (<http://rcbc.edu/testcenter>)
- Transfer Services (<http://www.rcbc.edu/transfer>)

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**This syllabus is subject to change at the professor's discretion.**

#### **SECTION 4: Professor Policy**

**Technology Policy:** Students are expected to check their RCBC Gmail and Blackboard account on a regular basis. I do not accept the excuse, "I didn't check my email for two weeks" as a valid problem. Digital correspondence should be written using proper grammar and form. I will not reply to emails filled with texting speak (2, u, 4, lol, j/k) or poor grammar and/or misspellings. Please include a subject and "sign" your email with your name, student ID number, and course section. If you miss class, please check the syllabus for information about assignments, due dates, and outcomes from class. Do not email the professor and ask "did we do anything in class today?" or any variations on that theme. (*Updated Spring 2013 by NC, MS, MM, LG*)

**Writing Policy:** My expectation for this class is that all of your work will be free of errors. Papers, projects, etc should be proofread for spelling, mechanics, and grammar. I will mark down for these errors: Please do an exhaustive job of proofreading and revision. All papers should follow standard MLA 8 formatting: Typed; titled; double spaced; page numbers, with your last name, in the top right hand corner; and a page break before your works cited page. All papers will be digitally submitted by 4pm on the due date. I will not be accepting print copies of your papers.

All papers must be submitted as a PDF. For most modern word processors, there should be some sort of "export" or "download" option in the menus. Any assignment submitted as something other than a PDF will not be graded.

Please make sure you are backing up your work to an external hard drive, flash drive, cloud based source, or other backup method. I will not accept excuses involving crashed computers or broken files.

Please follow the "24 hour rule" for graded work. I do not discuss returned student work until 24 hours have elapsed since I returned them. There will be no discussion, in person or via email, until that time window has elapsed.

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All submitted work should be completed by the due date. Please consult the extension policy for details about asking for, and receiving, an extension. With prior permission to submit late work, a full letter grade will be taken off for each day that it is late. (*Updated Spring 2015 by AB, CD, and MW*)

**Extension Policy:** Extensions are gifts, not a right. College work involves responsibility and ownership over your individual situation. With that in mind, here are a few caveats about extensions. First, I need to know 48 hours before an assignment is due if you need an extension. This will be clearly addressed on the class schedule. To apply for an extension, we must speak in person or over email immediately. A rough draft of your paper in progress will be required to be handed in at this time. I will then determine whether to grant or deny the extension and how much time would be allotted for it.

To apply for an extension beyond the 48 hour mark for reasons of hospitalization, bereavement, military service, observance of religious holidays, legal reasons (jury duty, etc), or work related issues (ie: getting called into work at the last minute), written documentation not given before the due date must be in by Saturday night after the due date.

For the following reasons, extensions will not be permitted: short term illnesses and family vacations.

Only one extension will be granted per semester, although an "emergency" extension can be granted under certain circumstances. (*Updated Fall 2011 by LD, EP, AF*)

**Course Contribution Policy:** I have found in past semesters that "participation" isn't a sufficient means of assessing students. How do you grade shy, or otherwise quiet, students who do very well in your class? At the same time, does a student who does very poorly on papers/quizzes/etc, but "participates" in class deserve a high grade? Instead, I have switched this to an assessment of a student's contribution to the course.

How do you do in group work? Are you always on task, or do you take others off task with your actions? Do you bring useful ideas and thoughts

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into class? Do you go beyond commentary that is intended to please me or make you look smart? Do you experiment, take chances, and offer untested commentary? Do you attend our peer review sessions to not only accentuate your own work, but also help your classmates? Are you punctual and always prepared? Do you do more than just listen to me? What about your presence in the class adds to it? These are some of the factors I will consider when assessing your class contribution grade.

**Finally:** Students in my classes are responsible for reading and understanding these course policies. Do you have questions?

- Send me an email: [wwend@rcbc.edu](mailto:wwend@rcbc.edu)
- Talk to me before or after class
- Come to my office during office hours (Laurel Hall 113)
- If you are a student who has progress reports for a sport, EOF, or anything else, I will only fill these out during office hours. I will not fill them out at the end or beginning of classes.
- The syllabus is a living document. Sometimes, things might not work and we will need to make a change. This syllabus is subject to change at all times. Any changes will be discussed in class.
- Just a reminder that all readings should be completed before class begins.
- If English is a new language for you, let me know and I can put you in touch with the ESL department.



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