

ENGL 2323-001/D01, Fall 2023
The Battle of the Sexes 700-1762
Dr. Brian McFadden
MW 9:00-10:20 AM
myweb.ttu.edu/bmcfadde/syll2323f23.html

British Literature I
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Hybrid: 303 Humanities and via Zoom
Blackboard site: blackboard.ttu.edu

Office Hours: 430 Humanities, M 2:00-4:00 PM, T 2:00-4:00 PM, or by appointment
Available both onsite and via Zoom

Required Texts

- Damrosch et al., *The Longman Anthology of British Literature*, 4th edition
- Various pieces on Blackboard

Course Description

This course will teach the basics of reading texts critically, writing examinations and essays, citation and research, and the examination of early English literature and culture. The question driving this course: while men often appear to dominate medieval and early modern culture, how have women asserted and reasserted themselves as authors and as human beings in that time? We will discuss such texts and authors as *Beowulf*, *Judith*, *The Husband's Message* and *The Wife's Lament*, *Dream of the Rood*, the *lais* of Marie de France, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich, and Shakespeare, as well as various shorter lyric poems and prose pieces by both male and female authors through the 18th century; we will see that what is often depicted as a battle for control yields in fact reveals many cases where the feminine equals or overcomes the masculine, and that the need for some kind of balance and harmony is constantly demanded (if not always achieved).

TTU Core Curriculum Statement

"The objective of the humanities in a core curriculum is to expand the students' knowledge of the human condition and human cultures, especially in relation to behaviors, ideas, and values expressed in works of human imagination and thought. Through study in disciplines such as literature and philosophy, students will engage in critical analysis and develop an appreciation of the humanities as fundamental to the health and survival of any society."

Course Objectives - students who successfully complete ENGL 2323 should be able to do the following:

- Explain the impact of cultural attitudes towards gender roles in the production and contemporary interpretation of early British texts. Assessments used – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Discuss the role of royal, social, and ecclesiastical power in creating the attitudes towards gender roles in early British literature. Assessments used – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Identify the temporal boundaries of literary periods in early English literature and the relevance of historical context to the works studied in class. Assessments used – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Trace the relationship of early British literary views of gender to present-day attitudes toward gender roles. Assessments used – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Grade assessment

1. **Three** 500-600-word response papers, due as noted below, to assess successful close reading, essay writing, and argumentation skills about key issues in assigned texts and additional reading. (10% of final grade apiece)***
2. Annotated bibliography and essay project on an issue of each student's choice within the themes of this class to improve the students' research skills, expose students to key scholarship on early British literary works, and formulate an educated opinion on the state of a current issue in early British scholarship. (20% of final grade*)

3. Takehome midterm and final examinations delivered via Blackboard to assess students' impromptu writing skills, familiarity with texts, key critical terms, cultural issues, and historical context discussed in the class. (10% of final grade each**)
4. **Active participation** consisting of in-class group exercises, Blackboard assignments, and random quizzes to assess comprehension of the reading and to facilitate in-class discussion in an impromptu setting. (20% of final grade)
5. **Attendance** to insure participation in group activities, class discussion, and quizzes. (10% of final grade; score will be the percentage of classes attended divided by total number of classes FROM THE START OF THE SEMESTER. Three unexcused misses permitted.)

Grading Scale: A 90; B 80; C 70; D 60; F 0-59. NOTE: ALL MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS (indicated by *) MUST BE COMPLETED TO PASS THE COURSE!

Course-specific Policies

- Please visit the webpage <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/tlpdc/RequiredSyllabusStatements.php> for TTU mandatory policies on ADA accommodations, religious holiday absence requests, academic integrity, and aid to pregnant students.
- The specific assignments for each class (page numbers, discussion topics, etc.) will appear on the course website. Remember that the course website is required reading too!
- Contact me after any individual absence or if you have a situation that may require frequent or extended absences (religious observance, serious illness or injury, pregnancy, military service, etc.). No absence will be excused without appropriate documentation. Students are expected to get the notes and any announcements from one of their peers. Three unexcused absences are allowed; after that, I will divide the number of classes you attended by the total number of classes from the beginning of the semester and use that as your percentage grade. Four consecutive unexcused absences are grounds for failure in the course. Quizzes missed cannot be made up. Falsifying the attendance sheet, providing false documentation, or giving a false reason for not logging in are all considered academic dishonesty (see below).
- Late work will be penalized. In order to help me plan my grading schedule, I will only grant you extensions if you ask me at least a week before the due date in question. Notify me in the event of an emergency (lack of planning on your part is not an emergency on my part).
- Be on time to class, whether in the room or logging in online. Frequent tardiness will count against your attendance grade unless excused (instructor's discretion - see my general policy statement). I count three tardies as an absence.
- Academic honesty is required. See the TTU policies linked above. I expect any work submitted to be your own, neither composed as a whole or in part by anyone else, nor handed over to another person for wholesale or partial revision. If you use another person's work in forming your own ideas, be sure to cite it properly; unacknowledged paraphrase or direct unmodified use both constitute plagiarism. Consult *The Chicago Manual of Style* or the *MLA Handbook* for acceptable citation format. See also the plagiarism statement; plagiarism will result in automatic failure for the assignment. Examinations must be your own work with no outside assistance from any unauthorized person, device, or document. All statements made or documents sent to the professor are expected to be true: falsifying a document or lying to the instructor can be considered academic dishonesty if it is done to secure some kind of advantage in the class. See my generative AI policy on the plagiarism statement.
- These are my main policies for the course. See also my general policy statement, which is also required reading - in the event of a contradiction, the policies on this syllabus take precedence.

TTU Illness-Based Attendance Policy

If you are attending online, we won't have face-to-face contact, but this information is relevant for the onsite students or distance students who may need to attend a session in person.

If at any time during this semester you feel ill, in the interest of your own health and safety as well as the health and safety of your instructors and classmates, you are encouraged not to attend face-to-face class meetings or events. Please review the steps outlined below that you should follow to ensure your absence for illness will be excused. These steps also apply to not participating in synchronous online class meetings if you feel too ill to do so and missing specified assignment due dates in asynchronous online classes because of illness.

1. If you are ill and think the symptoms might be COVID-19-related:
 - a) Call Student Health Services at 806.743.2848 or your health care provider.
 - b) Self-report as soon as possible using the ttucovid19.ttu.edu management system. This website has specific directions about how to upload documentation from a medical provider and what will happen if your illness renders you unable to participate in classes for more than one week.
 - c) If your illness is determined to be COVID-19-related, remaining documentation and communication will be handled through the Office of the Dean of Students, including notification to your instructors.
 - d) If your illness is determined not to be COVID-19-related, please follow steps 2.a-d below.

2. If you are ill and can attribute your symptoms to something other than COVID-19:
 - a) If your illness renders you unable to attend face-to-face classes, participate in synchronous online classes, or miss specified assignment due dates in asynchronous online classes, you are encouraged to visit with either Student Health Services at 806.743.2848 or your health care provider. Note that Student Health Services and your own and other health care providers may arrange virtual visits.
 - b) During the health provider visit, request a “return to school” note;
 - c) E-mail the instructor a picture of that note;
 - d) Return to class by the next class period after the date indicated on your note.

Following the steps outlined above helps to keep your instructors informed about your absences and ensures your absence or missing an assignment due date because of illness will be marked excused. You will still be responsible to complete within a week of returning to class any assignments, quizzes, or exams you miss because of illness.

TTU Title IX Statement

Texas Tech University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from gender and/or sex discrimination of any kind. Sexual assault, discrimination, harassment, and other Title IX violations are not tolerated by the University. Report any incidents to the Office for Student Rights & Resolution, (806)-742-SAFE (7233) or file a report online at <https://depts.ttu.edu/titleix>. Faculty and staff members at TTU are committed to connecting you to resources on campus.

Note that while I am certainly willing to assist you in any way possible should an issue arise, I am a mandatory reporter and am legally required to pass on any information about a potential Title IX violation to the appropriate authorities on campus. If you tell me, I have to go up the chain. If for that reason you don't feel you can tell me (and there are many reasons why someone may not feel comfortable reporting a problem), be sure to tell someone, and report it when you are ready!

- **TTU Student Counseling Center**, 806-742-3674, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/scc/> (Provides confidential support on campus.)
- **TTU Student Counseling Center 24-hour Helpline**, 806-742-5555 (Assists students who are experiencing a mental health or interpersonal violence crisis. If you call the helpline, you will speak with a mental health counselor.)
- **Voice of Hope Lubbock Rape Crisis Center**, 806-763-7273, <http://voiceofhopelubbock.org> (24-hour hotline that provides support for survivors of sexual violence.)
- **The Risk, Intervention, Safety and Education (RISE) Office**, 806-742-2110, <http://rise.ttu.edu> (Provides a range of resources and support options focused on prevention education and student wellness.)

- **Texas Tech Police Department**, 806-742-3931, <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ttpe/> (To report criminal activity that occurs on or near Texas Tech campus.)

Additional Resources

- **TTU Student Disability Services:** <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/sds/> - See above for the mandatory syllabus statement. Accommodation cannot be made retroactively, so I strongly recommend that all students needing accommodation see me within a few days of the start of term with your accommodation letters. SDS policy requires you to submit documentation on their original letterhead or via email directly from SDS - I cannot accept copies.
- **The Office of Campus Access and Engagement** (<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/access-engagement/>) works across Texas Tech University to foster, affirm, celebrate, engage, and strengthen all student communities. For more information about services, opportunities for participation, and ways in which Texas Tech can support your success in college, please contact (806) 742-7025.
- **The Center for Collegiate Recovery Communities** (<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/hs/csa/>) offers students in recovery a nurturing and supportive community. The Center provides students in recovery with an abstinence-based program where students can flourish in recovery as they attain educational goals, including advanced degrees. The services provided through the CCRC increases the continuum of care for students in recovery, enhancing the quality of life for students in recovery at Texas Tech University. The CCRC supports students in recovery from alcohol, drugs, and behavioral addictions. By providing recovery support through relationships with staff, academic advising, scholarships / fellowships, recovery housing, study abroad opportunities, and more, students can flourish in recovery and in life.
- **Red To Black** (806-742-9781) - <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/r2b/> Red to Black Peer Financial Coaching is a nationally recognized model program staffed by students pursuing Personal Financial Planning degrees. We provide financial education and awareness to students through individual coaching sessions, presentations, outreach booths and resource referrals. Topics covered include creating spending plans; building and using credit wisely; maximizing student loans; choosing employee benefits.
- **Texas Tech IT Help Central** (806-742-HELP [4357]) <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/ithelpcentral/> - Technical support for TTU students and faculty.
- **Raider Red's Food Pantry** (806-742-1932) - Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. The TTU Food Pantry is in Doak Hall 117. Please visit the website for hours of operation at <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/dos/foodpantry.php>. Available to all currently enrolled TTU students, providing nonperishable food items and information sheets with additional community resources, recipes, and/or information about healthy eating.

Schedule of Classes

August	28	Syllabus and Introduction to the course: The Battle of the Sexes
	30	Tacitus, selections from <i>Germania</i> ; <i>The Battle of Maldon</i> (Blackboard = BB)
September	4	Labor Day – No Classes
	6	<u><i>The Wife's Lament</i></u> ; <u><i>The Husband's Message</i></u> ; <u><i>Wulf and Eadwacer</i></u> ; <u><i>The Ruin</i></u> <u>Underlined</u> texts are on BB. The other texts are in the <i>Longman Anthology</i> (LA 176 ff)
	11	<i>Beowulf</i> (LA 32 ff) – the poem and the manuscript; Grendel
	13	<i>Beowulf</i> (LA 32 ff) – Grendel's Mother; the dragon
	18	<i>Judith</i> (LA 1422 ff)
	20	<i>Elene</i> (BB)
	22	(Friday) Response 1 Due by 10:00 PM

	25	Middle English Lyrics (LA 550-566)
	27	Marie de France, <i>Prologue</i> , <i>Lanval</i> (LA 200-217), <i>Equitan</i> (BB)
October	2	Geoffrey Chaucer, General Prologue to <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> (LA 318 ff.)
	4	“The Wife of Bath’s Prologue” (LA 375 ff.)
	9	Chaucer, “The Wife of Bath’s Tale” (LA 394 ff.); Midterm Examination Released
	11	Chaucer, “The Franklin’s Tale” (BB)
	13	(Friday) Midterm due via Blackboard by 10:00 PM
	16	Julian of Norwich, <i>Showings</i> (LA 481 ff.); <i>Ancrene Riwe</i> (selections, BB)
	18	Margery Kempe, <i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i> (LA 529 ff.); <i>Hali Meidhad</i> (selections, BB)
	23	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> (LA 219 ff.), Fitts 1-2
	25	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> (LA 219 ff.), Fitts 3-4
	27	(Friday) Response 2 Due by 10:00 PM
	30	Sonnets: Thomas Wyatt; Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey; Sir Philip Sidney (LA 665-672, 681-97)
November	1	Sonnets: George Gascoigne, Edmund Spenser, Richard Barnfield, Michael Drayton, William Shakespeare (LA 673-80, 697-701, 1203-1215)
	6	Selections from Isabella Whitney (LA 1041 ff.), Mary Herbert (LA 1054 ff.)
	8	Queen Elizabeth I (LA 1073 ff.), Aemelia Lanyer (LA 1085 ff.)
	13	Shakespeare, <i>Twelfth Night</i> (LA 1215 ff.)
	15	Finish <i>Twelfth Night</i> ; <i>Hic Mulier & Haec Vir</i> (LA 1458 ff.)
	20	Selections from John Donne (LA 1586 ff.), Robert Herrick (LA 1618 ff); George Herbert (LA 1626 ff.)
	22	Thanksgiving Holiday - No Classes
	27	Richard Lovelace (LA 1639 ff.), Andrew Marvell (LA 1653 ff.), Lady Mary Wroth (LA 1609 ff.), Katherine Philips (LA 1668 ff.)
	29	Alexander Pope, <i>The Rape of the Lock</i> (LA 2470 ff.)
December	1	(Friday) Response 3 Due by 10:00 PM
	4	Eliza Haywood, <i>Fantomina</i> (LA 2796 ff.); LAST DAY OF CLASS
	6	Annotated Bibliography due by 10:00 PM; Final Examination released
	11	Final Examination due via Blackboard 10:00 PM
	13	Degree candidate grades due at noon
	18	All student grades due at 5:00 PM