

# ENG 321: English Novel (Defoe to Austen)

Fall 2014

MWF 2:00-2:50 p.m.

CRN 12220

101 Knight Library

Instructor: Dr. Kathleen O'Fallon

Office: 256 PLC

Hours: MWF 1:00-1:50 p.m.

Tuesdays 9:00-11:00 a.m.

and by appointment

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## Course Description

The 18<sup>th</sup> century ushered in a new form of literature in England: the novel. Novels took various forms, including the epistolary novel, the picaresque novel, the gothic novel, and the novel of manners. As we study examples of these novels by some of the most influential authors of the day, we will discuss how the culture of the time shaped the literature, and we will tackle the problem of creating a working definition for a genre that—from its very beginnings—was anti-conventional and diverse.

## Required Texts

Defoe, Daniel	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i> (1719)
Burney, Fanny	<i>Evelina</i> (1778)
Lewis, Matthew	<i>The Monk</i> (1796)
Austen, Jane	<i>Persuasion</i> (1818)

## Written Assignments

No exams are required in this class. Instead, you will be writing a series of one-page letters on **all** novels and short (3-4 pages MAX!) essays on **three** of the four required novels, and they will be due as indicated on the schedule. Because letters will form the basis of group discussion on the days they are due, and you will be expected to come prepared to read them aloud, you should

**designated groups. LETTERS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED DURING CLASS ON THE DAY THEY ARE DUE. THEY CANNOT BE TURNED IN LATE.** If you know you will be absent on the day a letter is due, you must see that one copy gets to the instructor and copies get to each member of your discussion group.

*These letters become part of an ongoing conversation among the authors of the works we examine, you, your classmates, and the instructor. On the day letters are due, you will meet with an assigned discussion group. All members of the group will read letters aloud, and then the group will discuss them. At the end of the class, groups will choose one letter to represent its ideas. At the beginning of the next class session, someone will read that letter aloud to the whole class and summarize the response it provoked. If it sparked disagreement, discuss the different positions group members held. It is important that you have better reasons for choosing a letter than just "liking" it or thinking it is "good."*

Letters are not graded for content or skillful execution (but don't forget that your work is going to be read by all your classmates). You will be given a summary grade based solely on how many letters you turn in, provided that each clearly demonstrates that you completed the reading assignment. I reserve the right to withhold credit from letters that say nothing or that waste space whining about the assignment itself, but if you turn in every letter and **take the project seriously**, you will receive an "A" which will be equivalent to the grade on one formal essay.

**Three of these letters will form the basis for 3-4 page essays on the assigned novels.** You may choose to write on any three of the four novels, but essays are due as indicated on the course schedule. Once a due date for a particular novel has passed, you cannot turn in an essay on that novel, so carefully plan which ones you will write about and give yourself sufficient time to compose a draft and revise it. I encourage you to bring drafts to my office hours so we can work on them together, but please do not email drafts and expect me to edit them for you.

Week Six: Nov. 3-7

- M The Monk Introduction and Vol. I
- W The Monk Vol. II
- F The Monk Vol. III

Week Seven: Nov. 10-14

- M Letters due; Small group discussion
- TU Essay on The Monk DUE in 256 PLC by 11:00 a.m.
- W Group reports on letter discussion
- F Background on the novel of manners

Week Eight: Nov. 17-21

- M Persuasion Chapters 1-8
- W Persuasion Chapters 9-17
- F Persuasion Chapters 18-24; Letters due; Small group discussion

Week Nine: Nov. 24-28

- M Group reports on letter discussion
- TU Essay on Persuasion DUE in 256 PLC by 11:00 a.m.
- W Group meetings: Jane Austen Project
  
- F THANKSGIVING OBSERVED—NO CLASS

Week Ten: Dec. 1-5

- M Group meetings
- W Group meetings
- F Group meetings

underestimate my ability to spot plagiarism. Please talk to me if you have any questions about your use of sources *before* you turn in something that might be questionable.

### **Policy on Late Assignments and “Incompletes”**

If exigent circumstances cause problems with the due date for the essays, students must discuss this with the instructor BEFORE the deadline so that arrangements can be made. **Late work which is not cleared with the instructor prior to the due date will not be accepted. Exceptions will not be made for assignments which specify that they must be submitted in class on the due date.**

A final grade of “incomplete” can only be granted if a student has turned in at least 50% of the required work when he/she requests this option. Students requesting an “incomplete” must come to the instructor with a written proposal detailing when and how they intend to complete all required work for the course—including a plan for fulfilling the class participation component of the course.

### **Policy on Disabilities:**

Students with physical or learning disabilities should consult the instructor as soon as possible so accommodations can be made.

### **Grades**

Each of the following requirements has weight in determining your grade:

- ✓ Essays (60%)
- ✓ Letters (20%)
- ✓ Attendance and Participation (10%) (includes reading letters aloud and working with groups)
- ✓ Final Group Presentation (10%)

*Questions regarding grades should be addressed during office hours, NOT through email. Expressing concerns as a desire to learn rather than to obtain what you “deserved” or “expected” will set a productive tone for such discussions. Please understand that an instructor cannot assign grades based on how hard a student thinks he/she has worked on an assignment—only on the written results of that effort. However, writing multiple drafts of essays and **careful** revising of those drafts should lead to more polished work that makes a positive impression on the reader.*

### **Attendance and Participation**

Students are expected to be in class, on time, having read the materials assigned for that day and having done any required writing. Assignments are due when class begins.

## **On Literary Language and Situations**

Because we are studying imaginative texts written in times and places different from our own, students are likely to encounter language that is not acceptable in our culture and situations that may offend our modern sensibilities or personal values. We will consider these matters in their proper context, but doing so does not imply any endorsement of the offensive language or situations.

## **Statement Regarding Sexual Violence**

The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

Please be aware that all UO employees are required reporters. This means that if you tell me about a situation, I may have to report the information to my supervisor or the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity. Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need.

If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can call 541-346-SAFE, UO's 24-hour hotline, to be connected with a confidential counselor to discuss your options. You can also visit the SAFE website at [safe.uoregon.edu](http://safe.uoregon.edu).