

## Course Description Form

Course number and section: **English 221**

Course Topic: **Foundations: Literature in Historical Context 2**

Credits: 3

Term: Two

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Gustar

This is a gateway course intended to prepare students for success in upper-level English classes. For this reason, in terms of methodologies, I focus on fostering close reading and research skills. I also schedule at least one class to deal with research, essay structure, format, and thesis development.

### Course Description:

This is a survey of the literature of Great Britain, from the late 19th century to the present. In poetry, we start with the Romantics: Blake, Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley and Byron; then we look at Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Prince. From the Victorian period, we look at Christina Rossetti and Robert Louis Stevenson. Of the modernists, we will study T.S Eliot and the WWI poets as well as Virginia Woolf. We also study an earlier novel, by Jane Austen, or Dickens. I always contextualize this literary history within the larger history of humanism and its discontents--empire, colonialism, industrialisation, as well as gender inequality--so that we gain a solid understanding of the ways in which this specific literary history engages far-reaching and persistent issues.

### **Tentative** Reading List:

Novels:

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, or Dickens, *Hard Times*.

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

The Norton Anthology of Literature: Major Authors.