

English 311: The English Novel

Professor R. Sirabian, 425 CCC

In this course, we will read and discuss 18th- and 19th-century English novels, focusing on their aesthetic value as works of literature (art) as well as the historical, social, and cultural issues they present. In addition to framing the semester by examining the historical development of the English novel, we will examine literary theory and criticism as a way of reading, thinking, and writing about the English novel.

During the semester, we will work to

- Analyze texts (reading beyond plot)
- Articulate during class discussions key reading questions, ideas, and interpretations
- Develop specific, thoughtful written responses to the readings
- Learn the historical and social contexts related to 18th- and 19th-century English novels
- Enjoy literature as an imaginative expression of the human condition

Possible Reading List

Oroonoko, by Aphra Behn

Robinson Crusoe, by Daniel Defoe

Emma, by Jane Austen OR *Deerbrook*, by Harriet Martineau

Great Expectations, by Charles Dickens

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, by Robert Louis Stevenson

Wuthering Heights (Emily Brontë) – film we will watch (*Films on Demand* – library)

Tentative Requirements

This will be a reading course, but as you would expect, there will be quizzes, some assignments, midterm and final examinations, and perhaps a short essay.

