

British Literature

Grades: 10-12

Course Description:

British Literature is a two-semester course designed for students to learn about the different major British authors from the early Middle Ages to the twentieth century. Students will not only learn about various forms of literature, but will also become more skilled in thinking about the ideas behind what they read, and doing so from a Christian perspective. Students will write brief papers and will be expected to discuss assigned material in class.

Goals of this course

- To gain proficiency in reading and understanding classical British literature.
- To gain an understanding of various literary forms.
- To gain a historical perspective for the assigned material.
- To become more skilled in thinking about the ideas behind the pieces assigned.
- To be more skilled in both discussing and writing about any kind of literary material.
- To gain a greater appreciation of the Creator through studying this variety of creative expression through the centuries.
- To evaluate what is written from a Christian perspective.

This course is open to grades 10-12. Students from grade 9 may submit a written sample (approx. 1-3 paragraphs) for evaluation by the instructor in order to enroll.

Course Fee: \$200 per year

Material/Admin. Fee: N/A

Mandatory Course Text: *British Literature*

James P. Stobaugh.

Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2005

Course Min# students: 10 students Course Max# students: 15

Instructor: Mrs. Elizabeth Knussman

I was born in St. Paul, MN, and lived there until I was 8, spent the next nine years on a farm south of there, and moved back to St. Paul to attend Bethel College. In 1971 I graduated with my B.A. in English. Between then and 1985, I worked in a variety of non-teaching positions. In 1985 I began work on my M.A. at the Wheaton College Graduate School in Wheaton, IL. I received my M.A. in 1988.

Although my M.A. degree is in journalism/print, I have found the greatest amount of satisfaction in teaching, first at a local community college in Illinois, then as the Lord has provided opportunities here in Santa Clarita, especially for the Center for Professional Studies at The Master's College.

I love to read and have always gotten the greatest amount of pleasure from spending time in God's Word as a learner and as a teacher. I thank Him for the ways He has gifted me and trust Him for the wisdom to fulfill the responsibilities which those gifts require. While there have been challenges in my life, I can say without reservation, great is His faithfulness.

This is a two-semester course and worth 10 units. The instructor will issue a grade at the end of each semester.

The syllabus is built into the text. The reading list for this course is below. You may already have some of the books or know someone else who does. Many can be obtained from a library. You may find some in another anthology of British or English literature. Any edition will do for the material on the reading list, with the following two exceptions: please use a modern translation of *Beowulf*, and please use Tolkien's version of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

In addition to the text, you are responsible to provide your student with the titles listed with each lesson. When a title is included in the text, the title is noted as "(in Stobaugh)". When a title is NOT included in the text, the title is noted as "(get elsewhere)".

Most lessons will be covered over a span of 2 weeks; some will be covered in one week. The reading for each lesson must be completed before or during the appropriate 2-week timeframe.

British Literature Scope and Sequence, Lessons and Reading List:

This course is taken over 34 weeks of lessons.

Weeks to take particular note of include:

Weeks 17-18 where the parent and student choose one of three novels

Weeks 23-24 where they again choose one of three works

Weeks 25-26 where they will choose one of two on which to base their essays

Generally each lesson from the text is covered in two weeks; some will be done in only one week. Lessons include, but are not limited to, reading specific works of British literature and completing essay assignments about those works.

Two essay assignments will be made for each lesson.

Types of essay questions/assignments are noted in the text for each lesson.

One type of essay is a 'critical thinking' essay.

The other type of essay assignment is either

- 1) a 'biblical application' essay or
- 2) an 'enrichment' essay.

Parent and student decide which type of essay the student will write, for each lesson. Essays will be 1-3 pages long, depending on which essay question is chosen.

Essay tests will be done at home and proctored by the parent rather than using class time.

Week 1

Lesson 1 *Anglo-Saxon Age (Part 1)*

Author Unknown, “The Seafarer” (in Stobaugh)

Author Unknown, *Beowulf* (get elsewhere—prefer a modern version)

Weeks 2-3

Lesson 2 *Anglo-Saxon Age (Part 2)*

Venerable Bede, *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (get elsewhere)

Worldviews (in Stobaugh)

Weeks 4-5

Lesson 3 *Middle Ages (Part 1)*

Author Unknown (Scottish folk ballads), “Bonnie Barbara Allan” (in Stobaugh)

Author Unknown, “Get Up and Bar the Door” (in Stobaugh)

Geoffrey Chaucer, “The Prologue” (in Stobaugh), “The Pardoner’s Tale,” and “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale” in *The Canterbury Tales* (get elsewhere)

Weeks 6-7

Lesson 4 *Middle Ages (Part 2)*

Author Unknown, *Sir Gawain and The Green Knight*

(get elsewhere; use Tolkien’s edition of this work, if possible.)

Weeks 8-9

Lesson 6 *Elizabethan Age (Part 2)*

William Shakespeare, *Macbeth* (get elsewhere)

Weeks 10-11

Lesson 8 *Elizabethan Age (Part 4)*

Christopher Marlowe, *Dr. Faustus* (get elsewhere)

Mary Sidney Herbert, Countess of Pembroke, “To the Thrice-Sacred Elizabeth” (in Stobaugh)

The English Bible, “Psalm 58” (in Stobaugh)

Week 12 [all very short readings]

Lesson 9 *Seventeenth Century (Part 1)*

Margaret Cavendish “An excuse for So Much Writ upon My Verses” (in Stobaugh)

John Donne, “Go and Catch a Falling Star,” “Holy Sonnet X,” and “Meditation XVII” (in Stobaugh)

John Donne, “Holy Sonnet XIV” and “Holy Sonnet IX” (get elsewhere)

Week 13 [also short readings]

Lesson 11 *Seventeenth Century (Part 3)*

John Milton, “O Nightingale,” “How Soon Hath Time,” “To a Virtuous Young Lady,” “When I Consider How My Light Is Spent,” “L’Allegro,” and “Il Penseroso” (all in Stobaugh)

Weeks 14-15

Lesson 12 *Seventeenth Century (Part 4)*

John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (get elsewhere)

Week 16 [short readings]

Lesson 13 *Seventeenth Century (Part 5)*

Anne Killigrew, "Upon Being Contented with a Little" (in Stobaugh)

John Dryden, "A Song for St. Cecilia's Day" and "Grand Chorus" (in Stobaugh)

John Dryden, "An Essay of Dramatic Poesy" (get elsewhere)

Weeks 17-18 (parent and student chooses either one of the d'Arblay novels or the Defoe novel)

Lesson 14 *Eighteenth Century (Part 1)*

Frances Burney d'Arblay, read either *Evelina* or *Cecilia* (get elsewhere)

or

Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* (get elsewhere)

Weeks 19-20

Lesson 16 *Eighteenth Century (Part 3)*

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels* (get elsewhere)

Jonathan Swift, from "An Argument to Prove That the Abolishing of Christianity in England, May as Things Now Stand, Be Attended with Some Inconveniences, and Perhaps Not Produce Those Many Good Effects Proposed Thereby" (in Stobaugh)

Weeks 21-22 (Each is fairly short and all are in Stobaugh. This combines parts of lessons 18 and 21)

Lesson 18 *Eighteenth Century (Part 5)*

Samuel Johnson, "Preface to His Edition of Shakespeare's Plays" and "The Vanity of Human Wishes" (both in Stobaugh)

Lesson 21 *Nineteenth Century (Part 1)*

Helen Maria Williams, "A Song" (in Stobaugh)

William Wordsworth, "London 1802," "A Slumber did my Spirit Seal," "To the Cuckoo," "To a Sky Lark," "Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802," "Strange Fits of Passion Have I known," "The Tables Turned," and "Lines Written in Early Spring" (all in Stobaugh)

Dorothy Wordsworth, from *The Grasmere Journals* (in Stobaugh)

Weeks 23-24 (parent and student chooses which one of these three novels to read)

Lesson 23 *Nineteenth Century (Part 3)*

Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre* (get elsewhere) or Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (get elsewhere)

or

Lesson 24 *Nineteenth Century (Part 4)*

Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities* (get elsewhere)

Weeks 25-26 (parent and student chooses which one of these two novels to read)

Lesson 25 *Nineteenth Century (Part 5)*

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (get elsewhere)

or

Lesson 26 *Nineteenth Century (Part 6)*

Robert Louis Stevenson, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (get elsewhere)

Weeks 27-28 (all short readings and in Stobaugh)

Lesson 30 *Twentieth Century (Part 2)*

Stevie Smith (Florence Margaret Smith), “Not Waving but Drowning” (in Stobaugh)

Katherine Mansfield, “Miss Brill” (in Stobaugh)

James Joyce, “Araby” (in Stobaugh)

Saki (H. H. Munro), “The Bag” (in Stobaugh)

Rudyard Kipling, “Without Benefit of Clergy” (in Stobaugh)

Weeks 29-30

Lesson 31 *Twentieth Century (Part 3)*

Dorothy L. Sayers, *Are Women Human?* and *The Human-Not-Quite-Human* (get elsewhere—two essays in one book titled *Are Women Human?*)

A.E. Housman, “Terrance, This is Stupid Stuff,” “Loveliest of Trees,” and “Be Still my Soul” (get elsewhere)

Wilfred Owen, “Greater Love” (in Stobaugh)

Rupert Brooke, “The Fish” (in Stobaugh)

George McCrae, “In Flanders Fields” (in Stobaugh)

William Butler Yeats, “An Irish Airman Foresees His Death,” “When You are Old,” “The Second Coming,” “The White Swans at Coole,” and “Byzantium” (get elsewhere)

Weeks 31-33

Lesson 32 *Twentieth Century (Part 4)*

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (get elsewhere)

Week 34

Lesson 35 *Final Portfolio*

Appendices in the Student Edition of Stobaugh’s British Literature

A includes extensive writing tips

B provides composition evaluation examples

C includes formats for novel, short story, drama, and non-fiction reviews

D provides a prayer journal guide

E includes book lists for supplemental reading

F is a glossary of literary terms

The Stobaugh text includes a total of 35 lessons with a final portfolio scheduled for the 35th lesson. This represents 2 years of study.

Our schedule differs in that we will have approximately 19 lessons not 35. Each of our lessons will be covered in approximately 2 weeks. This year-long course is divided into two 17-week semesters. The final portfolio will be due on the last class session.

Students will use the Student Edition of Stobaugh's *BRITISH LITERATURE*

Parents may wish to also purchase the Teacher Edition of the text for their

own use. (Text: James P. Stobaugh, *British Literature*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2005.)

British Literature Registration Form

The cost of this course involves a COURSE Fee and a Co-Op Fee for each semester. Checks for both fees must be submitted with this registration form.

Fees may be paid in installments, but **ALL installment payment checks MUST BE INCLUDED with this form and dated as shown below.**

- 1. Payment of Course Fee: MAKE PAYABLE TO [Elizabeth Knussman](#)
1 ck in the amt of \$200 due at time of reg. OR
2 cks in the amt of \$100 (#1 with date of reg. & ck #2 dated 1/1/09
OR
4 cks in the amt of \$50 (#1 with date of reg., ck #2 dated 11/1/08,
ck #3 dated 1/1/09, ck #4 dated 3/1/09)**
- 2. Payment of Material/Admin. Fee: N/A**
- 3. Payment of Co-op Fees: MAKE PAYABLE TO CASH
1 ck. In the amt of \$16 due at time of reg **OR**
2 cks in the amt of \$8 (#1 with date of reg & ck #2 dated 1/1/09)**

Tear off & return with **ALL PAYMENT CHECKS** mentioned above, plus **SASE** to:

Susan Todd 28330 Gibraltar Lane, Castaic, CA 91384
Questions? SusanTodd@mail.com

Registration Dates: 6/1-6/15/08 and 8/27-8/30/08

British Literature

Parent's Names

Phone No.

Email _____ @ _____

Student's Names

Grade

New to APS? Please ck. here _____