

## English 4311, Topics in British Literature

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Office Hours: We will conduct office hours via e-mail primarily. Send me your question or request, and I'll respond as soon as I can. If we need to talk further, we can arrange it at that time.

### CLASS POLICIES

#### Required Texts

Aristophanes. *Four Plays*. Trans. by William Arrowsmith, Richmond Lattimore, and Douglass Parker. London: Meridian, 1994.

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Ed. Donald Gray. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2001.

Jonson, Ben. *Volpone and Other Plays*. London: Penguin, 2004.

Pinter, Harold. *The Homecoming*, Grove Atlantic, 1994

Scott McMillin Ed. *Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Comedy*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1997.

Shakespeare, William. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Ed. Russ McDonald. London: Penguin, 2000.

Terence. *The Comedies*. Trans. by Betty Radice. London: Penguin, 1976.

Wilde, Oscar. *The Importance of Being Earnest*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2006.

Please be aware that the ASU Bookstore returns unused copies of these texts to their suppliers relatively soon after the beginning of the semester, so make sure you purchase them all before that time. Each student is required to bring his/her own copy of each text to class during the assigned period, and you are strongly urged to buy the listed edition. In the case of possible open-book exams, students with the wrong edition may find themselves at a disadvantage in finding listed passages. Also, you must complete the assigned reading *prior* to the time we cover it in class.

#### Course Description

ENG 4311 is a detailed analysis of the genre of comedy in British Literature from the Middle Ages to the present. Because I believe that our understanding of the literature deepens significantly when we examine it within its historical and cultural contexts, the course will also include background material on the many social, technological, and cultural transformations taking place in Britain and throughout the world to which literary artists were responding during this period. This material will be covered in lectures, so try not to miss too many sessions or you will lose the thread of our conversation. Students will develop their ability to read complex literary works and to analyze them in terms of formal, generic, and cultural contexts.

#### Requirements and Grading

The course work will include a midterm examination, discussion board responses, an annotated bibliography, a 7-9-page research paper, and a final examination. In the case of late written

assignments, five points will be deducted from the grade for each day late, including weekends and holidays. To be considered for a passing grade, each student must complete and turn in all assignments. Class sessions will include lectures, class discussions, and written assignments. The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Midterm Examination-----	25%
Annotated bibliography-----	15%
Research Paper-----	25%
Class participation/discussion posts-----	10%
Final examination-----	25%

### **Classroom Decorum**

In order to succeed in the course, each student must be completely prepared with all assigned reading and must undertake an active, responsible role in all classroom activities. The 10% for class participation is not awarded simply for attendance; each student must earn it by contributing to the exchange of ideas upon which every successful course depends. Please do not come to class unprepared; if you do, I reserve the right to ask you to leave and to charge you with an absence. Any student who falls asleep will be awakened and asked to leave the class. If these actions would embarrass you, please come to class prepared and alert. Also, eating, drinking, talking disruptively, habitually forgetting the textbooks, and doing coursework for other classes are prohibited. Following University tobacco-use policy, no tobacco products of any kind, including chew or dip, are to be used in the classroom. Finally, please turn off all electronic communications devices—cell phones, smart phones, etc.—and place them out of sight. If I see one out during class, I will ask you to put it away. The next time I will ask you to leave class and charge you with an absence.

### **Academic Honesty**

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at <http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf>. At minimum students who are determined to have violated this policy will receive a failing grade on the assignment, and may also receive a failing grade in the course

### **Students with Disabilities**

Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

### **Absences for Observance of Religious Holy Day**

Students who intend to be absent from class to observe a religious holy day (as defined in ASU OP 10.19) must inform the instructor in writing prior to the absence and make up any scheduled assignments within an appropriate timeframe determined by the professor. While

the absence will not be penalized, failure to complete the make-up assignment satisfactorily and within the required timeframe will result in penalties consistent with other absences and assignments.

### **Title IX at Angelo State University**

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

#### **Michelle Boone, J.D.**

*Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator*

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

325-942-2022

[michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@angelo.edu)

**You may also file a report online 24/7 at [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form).**

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the *University Health Clinic and Counseling Center* at 325-942-2173 or the *ASU Crisis Helpline* at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

\*Updates made to the policies on Academic Honesty, Disability Accommodations, Religious Holy Days, and Title IX will be made available at the following link:

<https://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/>

## Syllabus

- M 7/6 Class Introduction  
Background lecture on Greek and Roman Comedy
- T 7/7 Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*, 341-457
- W 7/8 Terence, *The Girl from Andros*, 33-91
- Th 7/9 Terence, *The Mother-in-Law*, 283-330
- F 7/10 **Research Project assigned**  
MLA citation review
- M 7/13 William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Acts I & II
- T 7/14 William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Acts III & IV
- W 7/15 William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act V
- Th 7/16 Ben Jonson, *Volpone*, Acts I-III
- F 7/17 continue discussion on *Volpone*, Acts IV and V
- M 7/20 **Midterm Exam**
- T 7/21 William Wycherley, *The Country Wife*, Acts I, II, & III
- W 7/22 William Wycherley, *The Country Wife*, Acts IV and V
- Th 7/23 Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *The School for Scandal*, Acts I, II, & III
- F 7/24 Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *The School for Scandal*, Acts IV & V
- M 7/27 Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, Volumes I and II, 3-158
- T 7/28 Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, Volume III, 158-254
- W 7/29 **Annotated bibliography due**  
Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, all
- Th 7/30 continue discussion of *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- F 7/31 continue discussion of *The Importance of Being Earnest*

M 8/3 Harold Pinter, *The Homecoming*, all

T 8/4 Last day of class  
**Research paper due**  
Discuss final exam  
Continue *The Homecoming*

W 8/5 **Final Exam: online, time TBA**