



British Studies: Literary Perspectives - Syllabus

BRIT 230/330/330H – Fall 2025

Instructor	Dr Oliver Haslam
E-mail	oh48@evansville.edu
Course Meeting Days and Time	Two sessions per week (Please see individual timetable)
Required Experiential Learning Dates	There are no required experiential learning dates for British Studies: Literary Perspectives
Office Hours	By appointment (British Faculty offices)

Catalog Description:

This course introduces students to a range of literary perspectives in relation to the development of modern Britain. The central theme of the course is the development of a sense of national identity within the British Isles and the ways in which literature has both shaped and questioned British identity. We will consider how national identity intersects with other key themes including gender, race, class and belonging.

Moving broadly chronologically, the course will examine a variety of literary styles and genres (including plays, poetry, novels and slave narratives) to explore how different writers responded to a changing Britain and sense of what it means to be “British”. We will look at a selection of literary works including some classic British literature alongside texts and voices previously marginalised or left out of the canon. These include writers such as William Shakespeare, Aphra Behn, William Wordsworth, Mary Shelley, Virginia Woolf, Sam Selvon, and Mohsin Hamid. How have these different writers articulated what it means to be British? How were these works shaped by, and how did they respond to, the changing historical, political and cultural contexts in which they were written?

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

Standard lecture: “This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit.” (Def 1)

General Education Requirements:

University of Evansville students enrolled on BRIT 230; BRIT 330; BRIT 330H are eligible for General Education credit for Outcome 2 and credit for Components A and E.

- Outcome 2: Engagement with imaginative expressions of the human condition

HARLAXTON



- Component A: Global diversity: International component
- Component E: Writing across the curriculum

Non-UE students will need to determine with their home campus how their course credit transfers.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for students wishing to enroll in BRIT 230.

Prerequisite for BRIT 330: Sophomore status or permission of instructor.

Students are eligible to enroll for BRIT 330H (Honors) if they are enrolled in the University of Evansville Honors program, or their own School's Honors program; or should their School not have an Honors program, if they meet the criteria for admission to the UE Honors Program (www.evansville.edu/accepted/honorsprogram.cfm). In which case, they would not be required to apply to the UE Honors Program but would be admitted to BRIT 330H at Harlaxton.

University of Evansville students are encouraged to consider adding the course to a Minor in British Studies

All students are encouraged to consider adding the course to a Certificate in British Studies

<https://www.evansville.edu/majors/british-studies/>

Course Learning Objectives:

BRIT 230/330/330H focuses on a selection of major literary works and trends that have shaped modern British identity. The course aims to situate you within a complex multinational and multicultural society, challenging you to identify issues and to affect change within your new home and community through:

- a. Inquiry, research, and analysis
- b. Intercultural knowledge and understanding
- c. Critical and creative thinking
- d. Cultural competency
- e. Written and oral communication
- f. Information literacy
- g. Teamwork and problem solving

Methods of Instructions:

A combination of in-class discussion of literary texts, short lectures, and class-related activities.

Textbooks and Required Reading:

William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*

Wordsworth and Coleridge: *Lyrical Ballads**

Mary Shelly, *Frankenstein*

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*

Sam Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*



Mohsin Hamid, *Exit West*

(* this text will be made available to you as a handout. Other longer works should be accessed by students independently)

Course Schedule:

Week One:

Seminar 1: Introduction. How does literature reflect changing British identity?

Seminar 2: Shakespeare and Nation Building

Week Two:

Seminar 1: William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

Seminar 2: William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

Week Three:

Seminar 1: Group presentation preparation session

Seminar 2: Group presentations - Exploration in Shakespeare

Week Four:

Seminar 1: Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*

Seminar 2: Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*

Week Five:

Seminar 1: Representations of the Slave Trade

Seminar 2: Romanticism

Week Six:

Seminar 1: Wordsworth and Coleridge: *Lyrical Ballads*

Seminar 2: Review

Week Seven:

Seminar 1: Writing and Research Workshop

Seminar 2: Writing and Research Workshop

Friday: Assessment 1 deadline: photo-essay

Mid-Semester Break

Week Eight:



Seminar 1: Gothic Response to Industrialization

Seminar 2: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Week Nine:

Seminar 1: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Seminar 2: Modernism

Week Ten:

Seminar 1: Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*

Seminar 2: Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*

Week Eleven:

Seminar 1: The Windrush Generation

Seminar 2: Sam Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*

Week Twelve:

Seminar 1: Sam Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*

Seminar 2: Mohsin Hamid, *Exit West*

Week Thirteen:

Seminar 1: Review

Seminar 2: Writing and Research Workshop

Friday: Assessment 2 deadline: research paper

Content Warning:

The texts and contexts taught on this module present a range of potentially confronting issues and content. If you have any concerns or requests for content warnings regarding specific contexts or texts, please don't hesitate to get in touch and I'll be happy to provide further detail.

Grading Criteria:

Photo-Essay (7 pages): a critical-creative assignment combining carefully selected images (taken by the student-author) with substantive captions (short paragraphs) in relation to one of the texts we have studied. The photo-essay must provide an introduction giving an overview of the essay and include a thesis statement articulating the overall point of the essay. Your primary text should be different from those discussed in the research paper assignment. This must be submitted through Blackboard.

Research Paper (8 pages): a research paper responding to a provided essay question considering how the texts that we have studied contribute to an understanding of British identity and culture. Your primary text must be different from the text chosen for your photo-essay. This must be submitted through Blackboard.

BRIT 230 research papers require a minimum of four scholarly sources.



BRIT 330 research papers require a minimum of five scholarly sources.

BRIT 330H research papers require a minimum of five scholarly sources and analysis of an additional primary text.

Students will be assessed through a combination of tasks – see Schedule of Assignments for details of due dates.

	BRIT 230	BRIT 330	BRIT 330H
Photo-essay	30%	30%	30%
Research Paper	60%	60%	60%
Class participation	10%	10%	10%

Grades Scales:

A	93+	C+	77 - 79
A-	90 - 92	C	73 - 76
B+	87 - 89	C-	70 - 72
B	83 - 86	D+	67 - 69
B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 66

Late Submission Policy:

Late submissions without explanation on the day of the deadline will receive a 5% grade penalty. Late submissions after this date within one week of the deadline will receive a 10% grade penalty. Submissions after this point will not be graded. Deadline extensions may be negotiated on a case-by-case basis if there are extenuating circumstances.

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*



Course AI Policy:

All work submitted in this course must be your own. Submission of any work that is not entirely your own is considered academic dishonesty. The use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are prohibited and constitute a violation of academic integrity as examples of unauthorized aid.



Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Support Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request.

The Principal has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program, and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty. This will be determined by the course member and included in their syllabus (e.g. a full-letter grade (A to B), or a third-letter grade (A- to B+).

Covid-19 Policy: Students should not attend class if they are feeling unwell. They should seek to notify their instructors of their absence and, if possible, participate in their classes online.

Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic fieldtrips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.
- Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.

The following information is required:

- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.
- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).
- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.



- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

Disability Policy:

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at Harlaxton will meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments.

Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College.



Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole.

Prohibited Conduct and Confidentiality

The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct.

All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees.

Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered “Responsible Employees” under the applicable federal guidelines and the University’s policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity.

You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

Email: · Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator:

cs175@evansville.edu ·

Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: kg77@evansville.edu ·

Title IX: titleix@evansville.edu

Phone: [812-288-5261](tel:812-288-5261)



Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>

You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

University of Evansville

- Counseling Services: counselingservices@evansville.edu, 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: healthcenter@evansville.edu, 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: chaplain@evansville.edu, 812-488-5262

Harlaxton College

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, lselby@harlaxton.ac.uk
- Counselling Services: counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk