FORDHAM UNIVERSITY LONDON CENTRE
Spring 2018

COURSE TITLE: ENGL2000 Text & Context (British Writers)
INSTRUCTOR: Nigel Gearing (ngearing@fordham.edu)

Class meetings: Thursdays
Morning class session: 9-12pm       Afternoon class session: 1-4pm

Nigel Gearing has some thirty years’ experience as a teacher of English & American Literature and Theatre & Film Studies at college and university level. He has a BA Honours in English (Cantab.), MA in English & American Studies (University of Michigan, USA) and MA (Cantab.). His work as a playwright, translator and screenwriter has been performed in the UK, the USA, Europe and the Middle East. He has taught at King’s College (University of London), Royal Holloway College (University of London), University of Birmingham, Kingston University, Royal Academy for Dramatic Art, Drama Centre, British American Drama Academy, London Drama Academy, Foundation For International Exchange, Morley College.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

British Writers is a course which studies three important British texts from the last four hundred years. These are at present:

- TWELFTH NIGHT by William Shakespeare
- GREAT EXPECTATIONS by Charles Dickens
- PYGMALION by George Bernard Shaw

The primary study of these texts will be supplemented by watching (and discussing) extracts from film or TV adaptations and – if possible – by a visit to the Dickens Museum and/or the Globe Theatre.

Students will be required:

- To read the above texts (Students will be expected to arrive for the first class having already read ‘Twelfth Night’)
- To participate fully in all class discussions
- To give at least one presentation each (presentation titles to be specified by the tutor)
- To write a short essay at the end of their study of each of the first two texts and, in the final class, an exam consisting of two essays – one on the third text and one responding to the themes of the course as a whole (essay titles to be specified by the tutor).

LEARNING OUTCOME:

- To finish the course with an in-depth knowledge and appreciation of three seminal British texts.
- To have acquired some of the critical and interpretative skills which allow better appreciation of such texts.
- To have acquired a better knowledge of the historical, social and cultural context from which these texts emerged.
TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

Each class will see a combination of lecture (by the tutor), seminar-style discussion and individual student presentations.

GRADING CRITERIA:

The criteria for grading outlined below apply to the written assignments and to the in-class essays written in the final exam.

A  An outstanding essay which offers an insightful, well-expressed and well-organised response to the prompt/title, covering all major points and substantiating all major arguments with apposite references – usually in the form of quotation – to the text. It distinguishes itself from an A- essay by showing, in addition to all the above, greater originality of ideas and fluency of expression.

A- A very good essay which offers an insightful, well-expressed and well-organised response to the prompt/title, covering all major points and substantiating all major arguments with apposite references – usually in the form of quotation – to the text. It distinguishes itself from a B+ essay by showing, in addition to all the above, sharper focus, greater understanding of the text and greater fluency of expression.

B+ A good essay which offers a sound response to the prompt/title, covering most major points in a reasonably well-expressed and well-organised piece substantiating major arguments with apposite references – usually in the form of quotation – to the text.

B  A largely satisfactory essay which has addressed some but not however all of the major points arising from the prompt/title or which has failed to understand some of the text’s essential concerns.

B- A less than satisfactory essay failing to address many necessary points and/or showing an inadequate grasp of the text. It distinguishes itself from a C by offering evidence of some textual understanding.

C An inadequate essay failing to address most of the necessary points and showing an inadequate grasp of the text in an ill-expressed and ill-organised form.

In all the above cases inadequate command of the English language (grammar, spelling, coherence) will also be taken into consideration in the allocation of a grade.

WEIGHTING OF GRADE:

Short essay 1 & 2: 20% each
Short essay 3 & General essay (to be done at same time under exam conditions): 35%
Presentation(s): 15%
Class participation: 10%

COURSE TEXT EDITIONS:

These may be read in any available PRINTED edition; this course operates a Closed Laptop policy. Any secondary sources will be specified by the tutor at the time of study.
COURSE CALENDAR (Provisional):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Course and to Shakespeare</td>
<td>Jan 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Twelfth Night</td>
<td>Jan 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Twelfth Night + Presentation 1</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Twelfth Night + Presentation 2</td>
<td>Feb 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Twelfth Night + Introduction to Dickens</td>
<td>Feb 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Great Expectations</td>
<td>Feb 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Great Expectations + Presentation 3</td>
<td>March 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Great Expectations + Presentation 4</td>
<td>March 15</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Great Expectations + Presentation 5</td>
<td>March 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Great Expectations + Introduction to Shaw</td>
<td>March 29</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Pygmalion + Presentation 6</td>
<td>April 5</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Pygmalion + Presentation 7</td>
<td>April 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pygmalion + Presentation 8</td>
<td>April 19</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>April 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Visit to Dickens Museum (TBC)</td>
<td>May 3</td>
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(The above may be subject to minor change according to circumstance.)

OFFICE HOURS:
These will vary with the day(s) of the week on which the course is taught as well as other commitments required of both the students and the professor. In general, the professor will allocate one hour a week for student consultation (if and when required), asking students to sign up beforehand. The specific time of these office hours will be announced at the beginning of each course.

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance
Attendance is mandatory. Please consult the Fordham University London Centre’s attendance policy.

The Undergraduate Policy on Academic Integrity
A University, by its nature, strives to foster and recognize originality of thought, which can be recognized only when people produce work that is theirs alone and properly acknowledge
information and ideas that are obtained from the work of others. It is therefore important that students must maintain the highest standards with regard to honesty, effort, and performance.

As a Jesuit, Catholic University, Fordham is committed to ensuring that all members of the academic community strive not only for excellence in scholarship but also for integrity of character. In the pursuit of knowledge and personal development, it is imperative that students present their own ideas and insights for evaluation, critique and eventual reformulation. As part of this process, each student must acknowledge the intellectual contribution of others.

For inclusive information on the University’s policy on cheating, intentional or unintentional plagiarism, falsification and unapproved collaboration among other things, please visit our website. http://www.fordham.edu/info/25380/undergraduate_academic_integrity_policy