

**Course Objectives/Course Outline**  
**Spokane Community College**

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**Course Title:** British Literature to 1800  
**Prefix and Course Number:** ENGL 208

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**Course Learning Outcomes:**

**By the end of this course, a student should be able to:**

- Accurately assess the relationship between literary works and the historical contexts in which they were created and read, including the political, social, religious, and artistic milieu in which early British authors wrote (Anglo-Saxons to the Neo-Classicalists)
- Identify the influences of a variety of traditions and cultures on the development of British literature
- Paraphrase, and demonstrate accurate understanding of, unfamiliar and difficult language of Old English and Middle English
- Identify and discuss relevant formal elements of poetry and prose, including genre categories (e.g., ballad, satire, Restoration drama); uses of figurative language; conventions of the sonnet and other poetic forms
- Articulate original critical positions and interpretations of literary works, using textual evidence appropriately as support
- Locate, and demonstrate an understanding of, relevant critical or scholarly findings about works of British literature to 1800, and use these findings to advance insights about primary texts

**Course Outline:**

*(Note: Authors and titles are meant to be illustrative, not exhaustive.)*

- I. Historical Overview
  - A. Origins of British Culture
  - B. The Rise of English
- II. Middle Ages
  - A. Anglo-Saxon/pre-Norman Conquest
    - 1. *Beowulf*
    - 2. *Caedmon's Hymn*
    - 3. "The Dream of the Rood"
    - 4. "The Wife's Lament"
  - B. Anglo-Norman/post-Norman Conquest
    - 1. Anglo-Saxon Chronicle
    - 2. Monmouth, *Historia Regum Britanniae*
    - 3. Wace, *The Roman Challenge*
  - C. Middle English
    - 1. Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*
    - 2. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
    - 3. Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe*
    - 4. Malory, *Morte d'Arthur*
- III. Early Modern/Elizabethan Eras
  - A. Poetry
    - 1. Donne
    - 2. Elizabeth

3. Jonson
4. Marlowe
5. Marvell
6. Milton
7. Sidney
8. Shakespeare
9. Spenser
10. Raleigh
11. Wyatt

B. Drama

1. Jonson, *Volpone*
2. Marlowe, *Dr. Faustus*
3. Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
4. Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*

C. Prose

1. Hobbes, *Leviathan*
2. Foxe, *Acts and Monuments*
3. Hooker, *Of the Lawes of Ecclesiastical Politie*
4. James I, *Daemonology*
5. Tyndale, New Testament Translation

IV. Restoration

A. Poetry

1. Dryden
2. Gray

B. Drama

1. Behn, *The Rover*
2. Dryden, *All for Love*

C. Prose

1. Behn, *Oroonoko*
2. Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress*
3. Burke, *A Philosophical Enquiry*
4. Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
5. Pepys, *Diary*

V. Eighteenth Century

A. Poetry

1. Cowper
2. Goldsmith
3. Pope
4. Swift

B. Drama

1. Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*
2. Fielding, *The Tragedy of Tragedies*

C. Prose

1. Astell, *Some Reflections Upon Marriage*
2. Addison and Steele, *The Spectator*
3. Boswell, *Life of Samuel Johnson*
4. Burney, *Evelina*
5. Defoe, *Moll Flanders*
6. Fielding, *Tom Jones*
7. Johnson, *Dictionary of the English Language*

## 8. Swift, "A Modest Proposal"