

The Brontës: Romance, Realism, and Myth - English 4430F

Instructor: Dr. Monika Lee

Section 530

Classroom: 302A, Saint James Building

Class Time: 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Mondays

Office: Rm. 215, Merici Wing

E-mail: mlee5@uwo.ca read week days 9 – 5 p.m. (hard copies only for assignments)

Office Hours: Mon. 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; Thurs. 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. or by appointment

Course Description:

This course will explore novels by Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë in the context of nineteenth-century British literature, Romanticism, Victorian social history, narrative, and ideologies of class, gender, religion, and empire. We will examine and question the myth-making which surrounds the Brontës (through biography and popular adaptation), as well as the mythic structures and patterns in their texts. Students will engage in critical analysis of narrative, stylistic, symbolic, and theoretical aspects of their writings.

Prerequisite: 70% or Honours in third year of an English degree program or permission of the Department (Please do not hesitate to ask).

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS:

Brontë, Anne. *Agnes Grey*. Oxford.

Brontë, Anne. *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*. Oxford.

Brontë, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. Oxford.

Brontë, Charlotte. *Villette*. Oxford.

Brontë, Emily. Complete Poems. <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/emily-bronte#about>

Brontë, Emily *Wuthering Heights*. Penguin.

E-books of the above are not suitable, but any Penguin, Norton, or Oxford edition is adequate.

Recommended: Elizabeth Gaskell. *The Life of Charlotte Brontë*.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Mon. Sept. 12 - Introduction to the Brontës and course business, seminar sign-up sheet.

Mon. Sept. 19 – Complete Poems by Emily Brontë.

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/emily-bronte#about>

Mon. Sept. 26 – **Quiz:** Anne Brontë's *Agnes Grey*

Mon. Oct. 3 - *Agnes Grey*

Mon. Oct. 10 - Thanksgiving

Mon. Oct. 17 – **Quiz:** Charlotte Brontë's *Villette*

Mon. Oct. 24 - *Villette*

Fall Study Break - Oct. 27 - 28

Mon. Oct. 31 – **Quiz:** Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*

Mon. Nov. 7 - *Jane Eyre*

Mon. Nov. 14 – **Quiz:** Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*

Mon. Nov. 21 - *Wuthering Heights*. **ESSAYS DUE.**

Mon. Nov. 28 - **Quiz:** Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*

Mon. Dec. 5 - *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*

Assignments:

(E-mailed assignments will not be accepted)

Seminar:	30%
Essay:	35%
Regular Attendance and Participation	15%
5 Reading Quizzes:	20% in total (4% each)

Except in the case of academic accommodation being granted, missed assignments will receive a grade of 0. Late essays will be penalized at a rate of 2% per academic day and will not be accepted after the final day of class.

Students are advised the plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Electronic and manual plagiarism detection devices may be employed and an electronic copy of a

completed assignment should be available to the instructor upon request. Be certain to document all sources carefully.

Learning Objectives:

English 4430G will help you to develop and refine all of Brescia's core competencies, especially those in Communication, Critical Thinking, Inquiry and Analysis, Social Awareness and Engagement, and Problem Solving.

- 1, Students will be able to read closely and comprehend intellectually challenging texts by three of the most influential novelists from the nineteenth century.
2. Students will learn to write a comparative persuasive essay.
3. Students will be able to write clearly and effectively.
4. Students will be able to edit their own writing.
5. Students will acquire advanced literacy skills.
6. Students will be able to reason logically.
7. Students will know how to analyse texts critically.
8. Students will acquire the knowledge of proper format and citation in essay writing for the fields of modern languages.
9. Students will be able to interpret and explain complex elements in literary texts.
10. Students will acquire communication skills.
11. Students will acquire skills in collaboration and group interaction.
12. Students will acquire leadership skills.
13. Students will develop oral presentation skills.
14. Students will develop listening skills.
15. Students will develop debating skills.

16. Students will achieve a broader understanding of cultural differences by focusing on another century and another country.