

SPRING 2022

ENGLISH LIT SINCE 1660

ENGLISH 256

Dr. Sarah
Higinbotham

Oxford College
of Emory University

YET, RATHER THAN NOT BE MISTRESS
OF A WORLD, SINCE FORTUNE AND THE
FATES WOULD GIVE ME NONE

I have made one of my own

Margaret Cavendish, 1666

This course will study some of the most compelling, beautiful, and controversial English literature since the English Renaissance. We will read British literary works from about 1660 to 2020, with an emphasis on questioning the texts and each other and by exploring the critical lenses through which Romantic, Victorian, and modern literary critics make sense of the periods' art.

Our primary literary texts will be John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Margaret Cavendish's *Blazing World*, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Romantic and Victorian poetry and prose, and Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun*.

English 256 seeks to develop critical abilities that are fundamental to a college education, including the ability to read texts closely and critically, to express ideas effectively both in writing and aloud, and to synthesize other data and perspectives into your own argument.

[SARAH.HIGINBOTHAM@EMORY.EDU](mailto:Sarah.Higinbotham@emory.edu)

OFFICE HOURS

HUMANITIES HALL 203

MW 10 - 11 A.M.

Class meets

MW 11:30-12:45 am

Johnson Hall 102

[Canvas](#)

[Dr. H website](#)

[Oxford Library](#)

Classroom Policies

In the Zoom Classroom

One of the ways we can foster proximity -- like we have in the physical classroom -- is to all be engaged in Zoom. So I'm making your participation in our Tuesday/Thursday Zoom meetings worth 30% of your overall grade.

For every class day:

25 points: camera on entire class (one 5 minute break allowed)

50 points: each point or question you make, 25 points each (up to two)

25 points: interacting with another person, by building on or pushing back against their earlier point. You must name them, i.e. "*I want to push back against Catherine's suggestion that King Lear is helpless against his daughters.*" or "*I agree with what Shreya said about the humor in Henry V, and want to add that...*"

Keep track of your comments and submit them within each class day's Participation/quiz assignment. I

'll keep track of your camera.

So the quiz submission will look like this:

I asked why the history plays were so popular

I read out loud from Much Ado About Nothing

I pushed back on Jack's claim that Shakespeare is too existential

If you are sick and cannot attend class, you may 1) watch the recorded Zoom video, 2) write a 500-word reflection on the day's reading and discussion, quoting the day's text at least twice and citing it in ML format.

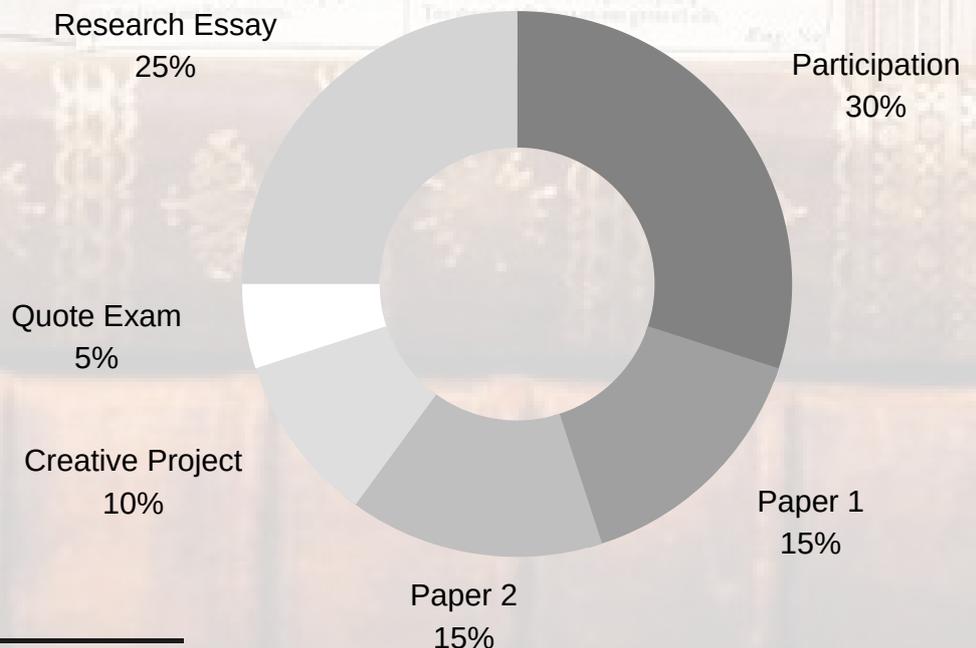
[See Zoom Engagement Policies Here](#)

Important Note on Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism, from the Latin word for "kidnapping," is presenting another person's work as your own.

When you use someone else's language, ideas, images, or other original material without fully acknowledging its source, you will be in violation of [Emory Oxford's Honor Code](#).

Every assignment will have specific, clear guidelines. While the work itself will be challenging, you should never be confused about what is expected or how it will be evaluated. If you do, please ask questions in class, email, or come see me.



We Should Disagree

I think most of what I have learned that is of any consequence has come through disagreement and further exploration. I welcome your respectful disagreements with me. If we all interpret the articles we are reading in the same way, we have a problem, because no true thinking will be occurring.

Learn to relish when someone disagrees with you! Disagreements make the classroom environment more interesting, productive, generative, and challenging.

Our classroom is not Plato's Cave.

Please note, though, that the college classroom is a place where ideas are exchanged respectfully. I look forward to an environment where this will occur, but I don't have much tolerance for distracting behavior, such as rudeness, texting, sleeping, or side communications during class. If your participation is disruptive to the classroom discussion, if it creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive environment, you are subject to removal from the classroom at my discretion.

See [Emory Oxford's Code of Conduct](#)

You may revise any of your projects this semester

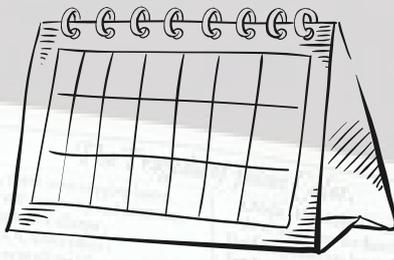
The ability to **accept and act on criticism** is one of the most valuable abilities you can develop. Can you hear constructive criticism with an open mind, build on lessons learned, and make revisions in response to suggestions?

Then I will assess your revised project a second time.

A revision isn't just a quick fix of the obvious errors, but a **"re-vision,"** or **another look** at your project, in which you address feedback. If you choose to revise, it can only help, not hurt your grade. The revision must be emailed to me within one week and include a cover letter, in which you explain to me what and why you revised what you did.

YOU CAN
ALWAYS
Revise

REVISING IS HOW YOU
LEARN



Weekly Schedule

COMPLETE READING BEFORE
YOU COME TO CLASS

Jan 12 Introduction to *Blazing World*, introductions to each other

Jan 17 - no class MLK

Jan 19 *Blazing World*, pp. 1-7

Jan 24 *Blazing World*, finish

Jan 26 *Paradise Lost*, book 1

Jan 31 *Paradise Lost*, book 1

Feb 2 For a 100 on a quiz: bring physical copy of *PL Paradise Lost*, book 4

Feb 7 *Paradise Lost*, book 4

Feb 9 *Paradise Lost*, book 9

Feb 14 No Class (Dean's Visit)

Feb 16 Olaudah Equiano, The Interesting Narrative: opening letter, chapters 1-3

Feb 21 First paper due

Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Women

Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Mont Blanc"

Feb 23 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Feb 28 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

March 2 No Class (Dr. H out of town)

March 7 - Spring Break

March 9 - Spring Break

March 14 Keats, "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer," "On Seeing the Elgin Marbles," "When I Have Fears that I May Cease to Be," "Ode on a Grecian Urn," "This Living Hand"

March 16 Second paper due

March 21 Gerard Manley Hopkins

March 23 William Butler Yeats, "The Second Coming"

March 28 T.S. Eliot, "The Loves Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

March 30 Dylan Thomas, "Do Not Go Gentle" and "In Country Sleep"

April 4 bibliography due, and present on article from your bibliography

April 6 peer review

April 11 research essay due

April 13 *Klara and the Sun*

April 18 **Creative Project due: Character's or author's playlist**

Klara and the Sun

April 20 *Klara and the Sun*

April 25 last class - **quote exam**, heavily based on *Klara*