English

ENGL 247  The British Novel  credit: 3 hours.
A study of some of the more noteworthy and influential writers of the last two hundred and fifty years. The course traces the
development of the novel as a genre that both celebrated and critiqued Britain and British nationalism. Examines how the novel has
been important culturally over time. Prerequisite: Completion of the Composition I requirement.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a:
Humanities – Lit & Arts
Cultural Studies - Western

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The novel made its debut in Britain over a hundred years after it first appeared on the continent. But the little nation of Great Britain
on the outskirts of Europe produced some of the most noteworthy and influential writers of the last two hundred and fifty years.
In this course, we'll trace the development of the novel as a genre that both celebrated and critiqued British nationalism. We'll
examine how the novel served as a vehicle to record and redefine the boundaries of a social order predicated on preserving noble
bloodlines into a culture that produced the Industrial Revolution, The Beatles and the Welfare State. We'll start out with a look at
the estate house as the defining icon of British patriarchy and class hierarchy in the Regency period. We'll discuss how the rise of
the middle class was fomented through the spirit of British nationalism that evolved during the Napoleonic Wars and how British
naval dominance catapulted this island-nation into creating a vast colonialist empire that expanded across the entire globe. Then
we'll explore the rise of industrialization in the Midlands, focusing on how the paradigm of factory labor and ownership reconfigured
British social and economic policies for decades to come. Next we'll examine how fiction functioned as a crucible for mandating
radical reform movements in the UK such as feminism, socialism and environmentalism. And finally, as we move into the modern
and postmodern periods, we'll see how the two global wars served as the catalysts to dismantle the conservative values inherent in
British society and whether the future of the UK resides in a broader social and racial demographic or in a dystopian future ruled by
the elite. Requirements for the class include three papers. Regular class attendance and participation are expected. Texts and films
may include: Pride and Prejudice, Jane Eyre, Howards End, The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner, Brideshead Revisited,
Never Let Me Go, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, and Skyfall.