

# BOSTON COLLEGE

## S U M M E R S E S S I O N

\*Please note that this syllabus should be regarded only as a general guide to the course and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

### **Boston College Mission Statement**

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

### **ENGL1080 01 Literature Core: Reading the Remix, 3 credits**

Boston College Summer Session 1, 2016

Wednesday May 18, 2016 – Wednesday, June 22, 2016 (no class Monday, May 23)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:15am – 11:45am, make-up class Friday, May 20

**Instructor Name:** Richard Ford Burley

**BC E-mail:** burleyr@bc.edu

**Office:** Stokes South 470D

**Office Hours:** TBD

### **Course Description**

Here's what the catalogue says about this course: “In Literature Core, students explore the principal motives which prompt people to read literature: to assemble and assess the shape and values of one's own culture, to discover alternative ways of looking at the world, to gain insight into issues of permanent human importance as well as issues of contemporary urgency, and to enjoy the linguistic and formal satisfactions of literary art. Literature Core will strive to develop the student's capacity to read and write

with clarity and engagement, to allow for that dialogue between the past and present we call history, and to provide an introduction to literary genres.”

But there's more: This is a particular version of LitCore, which I like to call “Reading the Remix.” In this class, we'll focus not only on reading texts, but seeing how those texts are retold in different ways and what the choices made in those retellings can show us about the texts and about ourselves. As the old saying goes, “there is nothing new under the sun,” so in looking at how things change over time, we can see how we change, too.

### **Textbooks & Readings (Required: you need to buy these specific ones)**

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* – Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (ISBN 978-1904271338)  
R. M. Liuzza (Ed.) *Beowulf* – Broadview, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Facing-Page Translation (ISBN 978-1554811137)  
Jame Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* – Penguin Classics (ISBN 978-0141439518)  
Alan Moore & David Lloyd, *V for Vendetta* – Vertigo, New Edition (978-1401208417)

### **Films (Recommended: they'll be handy to have your own copy of, but you might not have to buy them)**

*Hamlet* (2000), starring Ethan Hawke – currently available on Netflix  
*Hamlet* (2009), starring David Tennant – currently available free on the PBS app  
*V for Vendetta* (2006)

### **Course Schedule (Including required readings)**

#### **Wednesday May 18:** Fundamentals

Required Reading: Everything Is A Remix (available online), Day One Text Pack

#### **Friday May 20:** Hamlet Class 1

Required Reading: Hamlet, Acts I-II

#### **Monday May 23:** No Class, Graduation Day

#### **Wednesday May 25:** Hamlet Class 2

Required Reading: Hamlet Acts III-V

#### **Monday May 30:** No Class, Memorial Day

#### **Wednesday June 1:** Hamlet Class 3

#### **First Paper Due**

Required Reading: Hamlet (Ethan Hawke, 2000), Hamlet (David Tennant, 2009)

#### **Monday June 6:** Beowulf Class 1

Required Reading: Beowulf ll. 1-1887, Thomas Meyer's Beowulf (selections TBD)

#### **Wednesday June 8:** Beowulf Class 2

Required Reading: Beowulf ll. 1888-3182

## **Monday June 13:** Pride and Prejudice Class 1

### **Mid-Term Test (in-class)**

Required Reading: Pride and Prejudice Vol. I-II

## **Wednesday June 15:** Pride and Prejudice Class 2

Required Reading: Pride and Prejudice Vol. III, Lizzie Bennett Diaries (selections TBD)

## **Monday June 20:** V for Vendetta Class 1

Required Reading: V for Vendetta (graphic novel)

## **Wednesday June 22:** V for Vendetta Class 2

Required Reading: V for Vendetta (film)

### **Final Paper Due**

## **Assignments and Exams**

As you can see above, there are two written papers and a mid-term test for this course. The test will primarily gauge your ability to contextualize and analyze passages from the works we have covered up to that point. The first paper will be an analysis of a single text we will have covered in class, and the final paper will be a comparative analysis of two texts we have covered in class. All paper assignments will come with plenty of guidance.

## **Course Objectives**

With the caveat that course objectives only represent the basics of what you should come away with by the time you have completed this course, here are a few of the abilities you should have by the end:

- You will develop the ability to more broadly understand and appreciate literature and culture
- You will develop the ability to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view
- You will obtain a demonstrable competence for reading across cultural settings and develop the ability to understand the impact of culture, gender, and history in literature
- You will develop the ability to navigate the way our texts reflect our cultural beliefs back at us, as a means of self- and cultural analysis

## **Grade Breakdown**

Studentship (see below):	25%
Midterm Test:	20%
Midterm Paper:	25%
Final Paper:	30%

All students can access final grades through Agora after the grading deadline each semester. Transcripts are available through the [Office of Student Services](#).

## **Studentship**

Studentship is one quarter of your grade. To do well in this course you must not only attend class, but participate in class discussions and activities, hand in work complete and on time, and contribute to a positive learning environment. Students who miss class are still expected to complete all assignments and meet all deadlines. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, students should consider withdrawing from the class. Remember: because of the shortened summer schedule, **missing one day of class is the same as missing one week during the fall or spring semesters.**

Consistent with BC's commitment to creating a learning environment that is respectful of persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing their academic status. Students are responsible for reviewing course syllabi as soon as possible, and for communicating with the instructor promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. Students are responsible for completing all class requirements for days missed due to conflicts with religious holidays.

### **Deadlines and Late Work**

Because the summer semesters are so short, late work **will not be accepted** without a valid reason (medical or otherwise) or an explanatory note from the Dean.

### **Canvas**

Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) at Boston College, designed to help faculty and students share ideas, collaborate on assignments, discuss course readings and materials, submit assignments, and much more - all online. As a Boston College student, you should familiarize yourself with this important tool. For more information and training resources for using Canvas, click [here](#).

### **Accommodation and Accessibility**

Boston College is committed to providing accommodations to students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities. Specific documentation from the appropriate office is required for students seeking accommodation in Summer Session courses. Advanced notice and formal registration with the appropriate office is required to facilitate this process. There are two separate offices at BC that coordinate services for students with disabilities:

- [The Connors Family Learning Center \(CFLC\)](#) coordinates services for students with LD and ADHD.
- [The Disabilities Services Office \(DSO\)](#) coordinates services for all other disabilities.

Find out more about BC's commitment to accessibility at [www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility](http://www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility).

### **Written Work**

Summer Session students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed and submitted in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA or CLA style per your instructor's requirements. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. For writing support, please contact the [Connors Family Learning Center](#).

## **Scholarship and Academic Integrity**

Students in Summer Session courses must produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to cite references is plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, or submitting the same material or substantially similar material to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student's work. Please see the [Boston College policy on academic integrity](#) for more information.

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