


# BRITISH LITERATURE SURVEY

CRITICAL THINKING & LITERARY STUDY



## **In the context of our course, critical thinking refers to:**

- \*an understanding of how ambiguity in art and literature can be variously interpreted and how to make use of this ambiguity to develop an argument and to challenge arguments developed by others
  - \*an understanding of how art and literature raise ethical, moral, philosophical, and religious questions and how to engage with these questions especially when doing so requires that we have to challenge our own beliefs, ideas, and perspectives
  - \*the ability to compare and contrast art forms and texts
  - \*the ability to analyze texts as well as our own responses to them
  - \*the ability to develop and communicate arguments effectively in classroom discussions and in formal writing.
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## ***Objective***

*Discuss and debate* questions raised by literature and the arts

## ***CT artifact: Portfolio***

Come to class each day having read *closely* the assigned text(s) and with some thoughtful things to say about them. Our class meetings will be structured primarily around class discussion, debates, and critical-thinking activities. You must participate *actively*.

You will keep a portfolio of reading notes, reading quizzes, reading responses, free-writes, debate notes, in-class written responses, and any other artifacts that demonstrate your preparedness and participation. You will include a one-page analysis of how the evidence in your portfolio demonstrates preparedness and participation.



## ***Objective***

*Demonstrate* understanding of how literature and the arts raise ethical and philosophical questions

## ***CT artifact: Discussion Questions***

You will develop three questions designed to prompt lively classroom discussion about a single day's course reading, its formal textual structure, a moral/ethical/political/philosophical issue it raises, and/or its relevance to us today. Your questions will be due one week prior to the session during which we will discuss them. We will establish a schedule of due dates for this assignment in class.

## ***Objective***

*Analyze* the formal structures of literature and the arts and *develop* arguments about them

## ***CT artifact: Written Literary Analysis***

You will make a compelling argument about a literary text, supported by evidence found through textual analysis, secondary criticism, and based upon our class discussions. We will develop essay prompts as a class, which will be distributed prior to the due date. Please refer to the handout “How to Do a Close Reading” and to the handout “Style Tips for Literary Essays” on Canvas.



## ***Objective***

*Recognize and implement* strategies of argumentation to produce clear textual interpretations

## ***CT artifact: Exams***

You will take two in-class exams in small groups of 2 or 3. You will be asked to extrapolate from multiple course readings and discussions and to offer textual analysis or to determine critical flaws in the logic of another critic's analysis.



## ***Objective***

*Identify or extrapolate* connections among texts and contexts and their relevance to us today

## ***CT artifact: Cultural Artifact***

You will locate and analyze an artifact from the past 25 years that addresses a question raised by one of our course texts. Your artifact may take almost any form, including but not limited to: a political article, an advertisement, a legal document, a photo, a film, a rap song, a college prospectus, a website, or another work of art. The artifact may quote directly from the text or raise a common concept or moral quandary. You will submit the artifact along with a 2-page analysis of how the text bears on your artifact.

# The Rime of the Ancient Mariner (text of 1834)

BY SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

## *Argument*

*How a Ship having passed the Line was driven by storms to the cold Country towards the South Pole; and how from thence she made her course to the tropical Latitude of the Great Pacific Ocean; and of the strange things that befell; and in what manner the Ancyent Marinere came back to his own Country.*

## **PART I**

It is an ancient Mariner,  
And he stoppeth one of three.  
'By thy long grey beard and glittering eye,  
Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?

The Bridegroom's doors are opened wide,  
And I am next of kin;  
The guests are met, the feast is set:  
May'st hear the merry din.'





### A Trump Tower of Absolute Folly

New York Times - Jul 26, 2017

It is a multitiered tower of political idiocy, a sublime monument to the moronic, gaudy, gleaming, **Ozymandian** folly that leaves many of the ...



### Wall Street Has Officially Learned to Ignore Trump

Vanity Fair - Jul 27, 2017

It is a multi-tiered tower of political idiocy, a sublime monument to the moronic, gaudy, gleaming, **Ozymandian** folly that leaves many of the ...



### Trump's attack on Sessions a layer cake of folly

Las Vegas Sun - Jul 31, 2017

It is a multitiered tower of political idiocy, a sublime monument to the moronic, a gaudy, gleaming, **Ozymandian** folly that leaves many of the ...

Slate Magazine



### Strippers, Insane Asylums, Assassination, and Termites: Inside the ...

Daily Beast - Jul 29, 2017

Plundered of its riches (whereabouts still unknown), it was replaced by one of the greatest pieces of **Ozymandian** architecture in U.S. history.



### Donald Trump Eats First

The Atlantic - Jul 27, 2017

... a gaudy, gleaming, **Ozymandian** folly," even David Horowitz, the anti-Leftist intellectual and author of *Big Agenda: President Trump's Plan to*

#### ORIGINAL POETRY.

##### OZYMANDIAS.

I MET a Traveller from an antique land,  
Who said, "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone  
Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,  
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,  
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,  
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read,  
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,  
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed:  
And on the pedestal these words appear:  
"My name is OZYMANDIAS, King of Kings."  
Look on my works ye Mighty, and despair!  
No thing beside remains. Round the decay  
Of that Colossal Wreck, boundless and bare,  
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

GLRISTES.