

**The Brontës: Romance, Realism, and Myth - English 4351G**  
**Section 530 – Brescia Winter 2024**  
**School of Humanities**

**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.

**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.

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

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

**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Mon. Jan. 8 - Introduction to the Brontës and course business, seminar sign-up sheet

Mon. Jan. 15 – Poems by Emily Brontë.

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

Mon. Jan. 22 – **One-page journal response:** Anne Brontë's *Agnes Grey*

Mon. Jan. 29 - *Agnes Grey*

Mon. Feb. 5 – **Journal Response:** Charlotte Brontë's *Villette*

Mon. Feb. 12 – *Villette*

### **FAMILY DAY and READING WEEK (no class)**

Mon. Feb. 26 – **Journal Response:** Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*

Mon. March 4 – *Jane Eyre*

Mon. March 11 – **Journal Response:** Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*

Wed. March 18 - *Wuthering Heights*: **Essays due**

Wed. March 25 – **Journal Response:** Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*

Wed. April 1 – *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*

Wed. April 8 – Review

### **Assignments:**

Seminar: (one hour – presentation and discussion)	30%
Major Research Essay: (approximately 3000)	35%
(Essay and Seminar may not be on the same texts)	
Regular Attendance and Participation	15%
5 Journal Responses (4% each)	20% in total

\*The use of generative AI (Chatbpt and other plagiarism software) will be considered a scholastic offence in this course. Plagiarized or partly plagiarized assignments will receive a grade of 0.

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.

### **Policy on Late Essay Submission:**

Extensions on essays may be granted when a request in writing is made to me BEFORE the day on which the essay is due. Otherwise, a penalty of 2% per day will be deducted from the essay grade. Late essays will not be accepted after the end of term. You must acquire academic accommodation for a missed seminar presentation or a grade of 0 will apply.

**Learning Objectives and Brescia Core Competencies (including levels):**

1. Students will be able to read closely and comprehend accurately a wide array of intellectually challenging texts from nineteenth-century Britain. (Communication 4, Critical Thinking 4, Inquiry and Analysis 4, Problem Solving 3)
2. Students will learn to write a comparative literary essay. (Communication 4, Critical Thinking 4, Inquiry and Analysis 4, Problem Solving 3)
3. Students will be able to write clearly and effectively. (Communication 4)
4. Students will be able to edit their own writing. (Communication 4, Critical Thinking 4)
5. Students will be able to read and understand a difficult historical text. (Communication 4, Critical Thinking 4, Inquiry and Analysis 4)
6. Students will be able to identify the traits, themes, and interests of nineteenth-century Britain. (Critical Thinking 4, Valuing 4)
7. Students will learn to understand the language and idioms of early Victorian England. (Critical Thinking 4, Social Awareness and Engagement 4)
8. Students will know about nineteenth-century British history in the Victorian period (the reign of Queen Victoria). (Social Awareness and Engagement 4)
9. Students will be able to reason logically. (Critical Thinking 4, Inquiry and Analysis 4)
10. Students will know how to analyse critically pieces of writing in a variety of styles, genres and idioms. (Critical Thinking 4, Inquiry and Analysis 4, Problem Solving 4)
12. Students will acquire the knowledge of proper format and citation in essay writing in the field of modern languages. (Problem Solving 4, Communication 4)
13. Students will be able to interpret and explain complex elements in literary texts. (Critical Thinking 4, Communication 4, Inquiry and Analysis 4, Social Awareness and Engagement)
14. Students will learn time and workload management. (Social Awareness and Engagement 4, Valuing 4)
15. Students will acquire heightened oral communication skills. (Communication 4, Social Awareness and Engagement 4)
16. Students will develop independence in their critical thinking skills. (Critical Thinking 4, Valuing 4)

Senate of the University of Western Ontario.

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**2023-24 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

**1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

The complete policy regarding Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students can be found at

[https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_135](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_135)

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Accessibility Education

([https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_10](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10)).

Personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
2. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

### **Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence**

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their SMC along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf);
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic

accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

## 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and your Academic Advisor. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor

([https://brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment\\_services/academic\\_advising/book\\_an\\_appointment.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/book_an_appointment.php)). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please contact your Academic Advisor or see the list of sessional dates in the Academic Calendar

(<https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

## 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements maybe different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work, and arrange academic accommodations if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory

([https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_64](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_64)).

## 4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at:

[https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism,

cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, failure in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

### **Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools:**

Use of generative AI tools when prohibited or in a way not specifically allowed is a scholastic offence and subject to the penalties for a scholastic offence outlined in the Academic Calendar.

### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

## **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar [https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

## **6. PREREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written Special Permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

## **7. SUPPORT**

### **Support Services**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Development & Success at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>).

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Health & Wellness at Brescia**, [https://brescia.uwo.ca/student\\_life/health\\_and\\_wellness/index.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php)

and **Health and Wellness at Western**, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html).

### **Sexual Violence**

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at [https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe\\_campus/sexual\\_violence/index.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php).

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy, and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.

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