Fall 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Mary Ann O'Farrell
Course: ENGL 232
Title: British Literature II

Description: English 232 is a survey of writings (poetry, novels, drama, and non-fiction prose) by authors from England and some of its colonies who were at work during the period from the late-eighteenth century to the twenty-first century. Because the class is a survey, we will be able to think about the works we read in relation to broad and significant literary and cultural themes and movements across these centuries, and we will want to think about them in relation to the social and intellectual contexts in which they were first written and in which they were first read. Reading these works, we will think about literary and cultural responses to developments in science and technology; the expansion and contraction of the British empire; changing understandings of the body as inflected by gender and race, sexuality and class; the rise of the professions; work; and the identity of the artist. Requirements will include online posts, tests, and two short papers.

Proposed Readings: We will read widely, and our readings will include texts by such authors as Mary Shelley, John Keats, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Christina Rossetti, Oscar Wilde, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, Zadie Smith, and Kazuo Ishiguro.