

ENG 401: BRITISH LITERATURE

Summer Reading

A survey of British literature is monstrous in scope, covering a period of over 1200 years and thousands of authors. Unfortunately we will only have a single school year with which to familiarize ourselves with a few of these works and to appreciate the significance of the continually shifting and growing nature of English as a language – and consequently as an influence in the world. Therefore, the thematic focus for our journey will be to explore the innate beauty and “savagery” of nature in juxtaposition to humankind’s attempts to control these inclinations through “manners” and other social constructs. We will be referencing each of the works you read over the summer throughout the course so be sure to read with an eye for future use. In other words, annotate!

View:

To build a familiarity with British syntax, students are required to view·

- *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the 2002 film adaptation with Reese Witherspoon

Read:

- *The Importance of Being Earnest* (play) by Oscar Wilde (See the film first; it will help.)
 - Please annotate as you read.
- *Lord of the Flies* (novel) by William Golding
 - Please annotate as you read.
- *Brave New World* (novel) by Aldous Huxley
 - Please annotate as you read.

Write:

- On the first day of class, bring at least one complete college application essay. This essay needs to be a different and new topic from the essay you wrote during your junior year.
- Also on the first day of class, bring a typed response to the question: In what ways do *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Lord of the Flies*, and *Brave New World* critique society? How are their criticisms expressed differently? Do the authors make any similar points? Explain.
 - This paper should be the length that you deem appropriate for the prompt.
 - MLA formatting applies, as well.