

## Course Title: Exploring Literature, Authors & Culture in England



Course Number **EDTL 4900** and **EDTL 6800** (3 semester hours, summer semester)

May 9<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**BGSU**

School of Teaching and Learning

“A Caring, Competent and Qualified Teacher in Every Classroom – A BGSU Tradition”

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### Course Description:

This course will focus on learning about literature and authors unique to London, Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon. Students will expand their repertoire of literature and visit many educational and inspirational sights in the area such as The Kilns (the house where C.S. Lewis penned the famous Narnia series), the home where Tolkien wrote *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, and the Kings Arms Pub and the Eagle and Child Pub where Tolkien and Lewis often met. Also visited will be the British Library (the largest library in the world and home to great literary treasures like the Magna Carta, a Gutenberg Bible, original Beatles lyrics and Shakespeare’s First Folio), the Victoria and Albert Museum to see the Beatrix Potter collection, and the Warner Brothers *Harry Potter* Studios to see up-close the actual sets used in filming, as well as the costumes and props.

Students will participate in book discussions, guided literary walking tours, see professional theater performances in London’s West End and at the Globe Theater and attend an acting workshop at The Globe. Additionally, students will experience England’s culture by seeing Buckingham Palace, St. Paul’s Cathedral, Windsor Castle and take a bicycle tour around Hyde Park and St. James’s Park. The bike tour will start at Kensington Palace, home to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and students will pedal around many notable monuments and buildings linked to England’s royal history.

England’s unique educational systems will also be experienced by touring a middle/high school as well as taking a guided tour lead by a current college student at Oxford University through historic quads and halls, including Christchurch College where Lewis Carroll penned *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and where many memorable scenes from the *Harry Potter* movies were filmed. (3 semester hours, summer semester)

### Course Aim:

To provide students the opportunity to explore culture, authors and literature while learning in the settings that inspired its English authors.

### What is this about?

England is home to many authors and stories. In fact, two university lecturers and friends, JRR Tolkien & CS Lewis, wrote some of the most popular books of the 20th century in Oxford, including *The Hobbit* and *The Chronicles of Narnia*. In this course, you will share the environment in which authors from Shakespeare to JK Rowling studied, lived, and sought their inspiration. (Actually, this is about the closest one can get to studying in Hogwarts – and nowhere is closer to that than Christ’s Church, which was used in the filming of the movies of J. K. Rowling’s *Harry Potter* series.) Oxford is one of Britain’s busiest and most instantly recognizable places for film locations because movies such as *The Golden Compass* (2007), *Alice in Wonderland* (2010), and *Saving Private Ryan* (1998) have been filmed there and will be explored on a guided walking tour in Oxford.

In this course, students will see the backdrop for historical recreations and literary adaptations from fantasies to thrillers, and they will also visit a school as well as tour a college of Oxford University. Students will all be housed in a centrally located hotel in London, which will allow for convenient group visits to performances in the West End as well as at The Globe Theater, and to London’s amazing museums, which showcase art, history and culture from a British perspective. A *Harry Potter* walking tour will be enjoyed as will taking a tour on bicycles around notable buildings and parks in London.

Group excursions, all lead by a Tour Group Leader from England, will also be taken to Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, Levensden and Windsor. This will allow students to experience the William Shakespeare museum, his boyhood home and his resting place and as well as experience a world-renowned Royal Shakespeare Company performance. Additionally, students will see and tour the incredible studio where the *Harry Potter* movies were filmed, and see Windsor Castle, the official residence of Queen Elizabeth II and take a backstage tour at the National Theatre in London.

Required pre-departure and post-trip class sessions will also be held on campus with Dr. Thomas. These class sessions will be held on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30pm. The post-trip class will be set at a mutually convenient time after the return from England.

### Required Readings:

Yet to be determined

### Readings Strongly Suggested:

The works of Shakespeare we will be viewing at the Globe, and possibly at Stratford-upon-Avon (TBD)

*Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*

Some *Charles Dickens*

*J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter books*

*The Hobbit*

*The Chronicles of Narnia*

*The Lord of the Rings*

*The Tale of Peter Rabbit*

**“Not all those who wander are lost.”  
J.R.R. Tolkien**

**Suggested Viewings:**

*The Golden Compass*, *The Harry Potter Movies*, *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *Alice in Wonderland* and some films about *Charles Dickens's* works

**Methods of Instruction:**

Dr. Thomas will integrate many strategies including, but not limited to lecture, large and small group discussion, cooperative learning, travel, exploration, role-play, observation, games, internet and video. Throughout this course, students will be expected to work independently and in groups to learn.

**Course Topics and Locations of Study:**

	<b><u>Course Topics:</u></b>	<b><u>Locations of Study:</u></b>
1	Exploration of Shakespeare and his times	Tour various locations in Stratford-upon-Avon including Shakespeare's birthplace and place of rest at Holy Trinity Church, as well as his wife's cottage. See a play by the Royal Shakespeare Company. In London, partake in a workshop with professionals and perform a Shakespearean scene at the Globe also participate as a "Groundling" at Shakespeare's Globe Theater.
2	Conversion of popular literature to film	Visit WB Studio Tour – the <i>Making of Harry Potter</i> and tour movie sites in Oxford where scenes from the Harry Potter movies were filmed as well as <i>The Golden Compass</i> (2007), <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> (2010), and <i>Saving Private Ryan</i> (1998).
3	Exploration of JK Rowling's inspiration for Harry Potter	Tour movie sights in Oxford and London where scenes from the Harry Potter movies were filmed on a guided walking tour.
4	Discovery of Oxford's well-known authors including: Lewis Carroll, JRR Tolkien & CS Lewis	Take a guided literary walking tour in Oxford to learn more about authors such as JRR Tolkien ( <i>The Hobbit</i> ), CS Lewis ( <i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i> ), and Lewis Carroll ( <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> ). Also, visit and learn about places such as Folly Bridge, the launch pad for the excursions that Carroll went on with Alice.
5	Historic and Cultural interests in the UK	Tour Oxford museums including The Ashmolean Museum with drawings by Michelangelo, Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci, paintings by Pablo Picasso, and the collection of Posie rings that was Tolkien's inspiration in <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> . In London, explore at the Victoria and Albert Museum and see the world's largest collection of Beatrix Potter's drawings, literary manuscripts, correspondence, photographs and related materials. View locations such as Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace, Westminster Abbey, Tower Bridge, Big Ben, and Hyde Park.
6	The UK's Unique Educational System	Visit a middle/high school, as well at college at Oxford University. Meet with administrators, teachers and a college student. Have lunch with students at St. Cecelia's, Church of England Middle/High School.



<b>Learning Objectives:</b>		<b>Assessment of Objectives:</b>	<b>Percentage of Grade</b>
1	Students will experience the area where writers such as Shakespeare, J.R.R Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and J.K. Rowling drew inspiration and background for their genius works.	Work with a partner or small group and present information about what you learned.	15%
2	Students will gain a greater sense for Shakespeare and understand the social and political conditions under which Elizabethan actors worked to perform them.	Class Discussions	15%
3	Students will explore London in depth and witness its development from its Roman foundations to its 19th century role as the heart of an empire.	Include this information in your travel blog.	Included in Culminating Project
4	Interact with faculty and students to learn about UK's unique educational system to ascertain their methodologies distinctive to England and describe their features. Compare this with that of American educators and our educational system.	Include this information in your travel blog.	Included in Culminating Project
<b>Pre-Departure Assignment:</b> Each student will be assigned one of the course topics (1-6). A high-quality presentation about that topic/objective will be given to the group before we explore that topic for the day.			30%
<b>Ongoing Assignment and Culminating Project:</b> With high-quality, deep thought and professionalism, students will create and maintain a travel blog. The blog will be started before we depart, maintained during our visit to England, and incorporate a final entry upon our return home. Included in the blog will be photos and entries explaining the educational components of our experience related to our course topics and objectives.			40%
<i>*Grading rubrics and directions will be provided for each assignment.</i>			

- ✓ *There are no pre-requisites for this course.*
- ✓ *You must have at least a 2.3GPA in order to apply for the trip.*

**“The world is a book and those who do not travel only read one page.”  
St. Augustine**

Course Assessments:

Assignment	Percentage of Grade	Due Date
Presentation about some authors from England	15%	Following visits and tours
Class Discussions	15%	Following our tours
Create and Maintain Travel Blog and include the historic and cultural interests in the UK as well as a comparison of educational systems.	40%	Before, During and After our journey
Presentation on Assigned Topic	30%	Individual Due Dates (Each day/evening before we visit the course topic)
	100%	

**Grade Determination:** A= 93%-100%, B= 85%-92%, C=75%-84%, D=64%-74%, F=63% and below  
**A=1,000-930 points, B=920-850, C=840-750, D=740-640, F=630 or fewer points**  
**\*\*Points will be deducted if a student is absent or tardy and/or for unprofessional behavior**  
All assignments must be completed or it is unacceptable and you will not pass this course.

**Assessment:**

Rubrics and detailed information will be provided for course assignments. Grades will be determined on the basis of quality work. Please note that just fulfilling all course requirements satisfactorily and on time earns you a "C" grade. The quality of your work will determine if your grade will be higher than average. A grade of "A" means excellent work. "B" is good.

For all assignments, students are accountable for following the written directions and rubrics provided. When possible, please use Times New Roman, 12-point font. In addition to content, assignments will be assessed on clarity (organization, development, and fluency of thought) and mechanics (sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, grammar, and legibility). Be sure to proofread carefully so that you're not disappointed with your grade.

Incomplete and missing assignments will result in a lower grade. Except in the case of a rare emergency, points will be deducted for **late work (10% per day)**. A pattern of unprofessional behavior will result in points being deducted from the final grade. All assignments must be original work, and you may not submit work that was submitted for another course. Please refer to the University's academic honesty policy.

*"It's better to see something once than hear about it a thousand times."  
Asian Proverb*





## BGSU's Conceptual Framework for Teacher Preparation:



BGSU's conceptual framework is theoretically based on the seminal work of Charlotte Danielson (2011). Danielson's characteristics of a high-quality candidate include the ability to plan and prepare, set up the ideal classroom environment, know how to deliver good instruction, and develop professional responsibilities. These areas directly correspond to BGSU's conceptual framework and contribute to the building of lifelong educators who will mold students into lifelong learners at all stages of education.

Preparation, reflection, engagement, and professionalism encompass the extensive range of attributes and dispositions that BGSU's educator programs expect their teacher candidates to maintain throughout their teaching careers.

**P** = An effective educator is broadly and thoroughly prepared.

**R** = An effective educator is a reflective practitioner.

**E** = An effective educator is actively engaged within the larger educational community.

**P** = An effective educator is foremost a professional, with a lifelong commitment to learning and to all learners.

### **DISPOSITIONS**

In addition to the above student learning outcomes, educator candidates will be expected to demonstrate competencies in the areas of professionalism, technology, diversity/exceptionality and collaboration.

#### ***Professionalism***

- It is expected that candidates will demonstrate professionalism throughout this course/experience. For educator candidates (initial and advanced), this means compliance with the BGSU Academic and Student Codes of Conduct (see Student Handbook) as well as evidencing accepted behaviors and attitudes appropriate to the educational circumstances, including but not limited to punctuality, personal appearance (dress, hygiene, etc.), speech, preparation, and/or quality of work.
- As professionals, it is the responsibility of candidates to pursue remediation of any deficits revealed in their performance as part of this course/experience.

#### ***Technology***

- Aspects of this course/experience require evidence of candidate's technology competency and utilization. Should difficulties be encountered with technology knowledge/skills it is the candidate's responsibility to consult with the instructor and/or assistants in the student technology center.

#### ***Diversity/Exceptionality***

- Educator candidates who require accommodations based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs.

- Candidates are expected to respect all individuals, regardless of characteristics or background, and endeavor to accommodate communications and actions to learning differences arising from cultural, linguistic, and disability origins.

### ***Collaboration***

- During course/experience lectures, activities, and field assignments, candidates will be expected to work and communicate with faculty, other students, and school/agency partners in an effective, collegial, and professional manner at all times.

## **BGSU Policy Statements**

### **Codes of Conduct and Academic Honesty Policy:**

The instructor and students in this course will adhere to the University's general Codes of Conduct defined in the *BGSU Student Handbook*. Specifically, the Code of Academic Conduct (Academic Honesty Policy) requires that students do not cheat, fabricate, plagiarize or facilitate academic dishonesty. For details, refer to:

- *BGSU Student Handbook* ([http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/book/Student\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/book/Student_Handbook.pdf))
- *The Academic Charter*, B.II.H (<http://www.bgsu.edu/downloads/file921.pdf>)
- Student Discipline Programs (<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/judicial/academic/index.html>)

### **Disability Policy:**

Any student who requires accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. In accordance with the

University policy, if the student has a documented disability and requires accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, he or she should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester and make this need known. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Disability Services for Students, 413 South Hall, 419-372-8495.

(<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/disability/index.html>)



Educator candidates are expected to respect all individuals, regardless of characteristics or background, and endeavor to accommodate communications and actions to learning differences arising from cultural, linguistic and disability origins.

### **Religious Holidays:**

It is the policy of the University to make every reasonable effort allowing students to observe their religious holidays without academic penalty. In such cases, it is the obligation of the student to provide the instructor with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which he or she will be absent. Absence from classes or examinations for religious reasons does not relieve the student of responsibility for completing required work missed. Following the necessary notification, the student should consult with the instructor to determine what appropriate alternative opportunity will be provided, allowing the student to fully complete his or her academic responsibilities. (As stated in *The Academic Charter*, B-II.G-4.b at: <http://www.bgsu.edu/downloads/file919.pdf>)

### Study Abroad Policies:

Each student who enrolls in this class must complete all BGSU Study Abroad requirements. All waivers and permission forms must be signed and completed before departing for the class/trip. Additionally, all seminars that are offered prior to departure are mandatory and must be completed.

### Dr. Angela Thomas's Policy:

By registering for this course and participating in the study abroad experience, each student agrees to abide by all BGSU policies, including those related to study abroad. Students also agree to abide by decisions made by Angela Thomas while traveling abroad that may involve judgment, safety, and/or a matter of opinion.

#### **Expectations of EDTL 4900 & EDTL 6800 with Dr. Angela Thomas**

- **Attendance:** Attend all classes, meeting and excursions; arrive on time. Tardiness is unprofessional. Attendance is taken at the beginning of gathering. Consistent attendance, punctuality, and participation reflect commitment, maturity, and readiness to begin behaving as a professional. Students must attend all events and fully participate, or they will lose points. Proper and approved medical or funeral documentation must be shared with the instructor in order to avoid losing points.
- **Participation:** Be prepared for and actively involved in all discussions and activities. Students are expected to complete all readings prior to the class session for which it is assigned. Discussions will be based on the readings and other related topics. Class contributions should be regular and of high quality. They should show evidence of reading assignments and scholarly thought. Full, lively and developed discussions are most possible when all students are prepared to participate. Listening attentively to the instructor and/or peer presentations demonstrates professionalism. Some assignments will be given for participation points to keep students honest with their reading and to encourage deep thought and reflection.
- **Professionalism:** Be sure to conduct yourself with the utmost professional behavior at all times. The expectation, accordingly, is that you will dress and conduct yourself in a proper manner. Texting, whispering to your neighbor, holding sidebar conversations, arriving late, being impolite to instructor or peers etc. is very disrespectful. Points will be deducted for this behavior at instructor discretion and professional, a dispositions form will be filed with the university.
- **Late Work:** Late work reflects poorly on your organizational skills, commitment, and professionalism. Unless a bona fide medical or other emergency makes timely submission of an assignment impossible, you are expected to submit it on the established due date. Otherwise, **10% of the assignment's total points will be deducted *per day* late (including weekends) unless the instructor has previously approved an extension in a rare situation.** I will evaluate "emergencies" on a case-by-case basis in light of their legitimacy. (Note: "Forgetting," "last minute computer/printer problems," and the like do *not* constitute emergencies!) Even in rare cases where assignment extensions have been granted, points may still be deducted.
- **Assignments:** BGSU students must complete each and every assignment in this course; otherwise, it is considered *unacceptable* and the student will NOT pass this course.



Our Tentative Schedule (subject to minor changes and/or substitutions)		
	Monday, May 9 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depart for your overnight flight to London.</li> </ul>
Day 1	Tuesday, May 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrive in the bustling city of London. Relax, unpack and become acquainted with your surroundings.</li> </ul>
Day 2	Wednesday, May 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A city sightseeing tour with a local guide includes a visit to St. Paul's Cathedral and Trafalgar Square, the Houses of Parliament, and Buckingham Palace.</li> <li>• In the afternoon, you can experience one of London's extraordinary museums, such as the Victoria &amp; Albert museum where you'll enjoy viewing the Beatrix Potter collection.</li> <li>• Tonight, enjoy a theater performance in London's famous West End.</li> </ul>
Day 3	Thursday, May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the world may be a stage, but to get an authentic feel of Shakespeare's theater it is essential to visit the reconstructed Globe Theater. Attend a workshop, conducted by actors, that introduces you to both the plays of Shakespeare and the conditions in which Elizabethan actors worked.</li> <li>• This evening return to the Globe for a performance. Grounding tickets are included!</li> </ul>
Day 4	Friday, May 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academia gets its turn this morning as you explore Oxford and Christchurch College where Lewis Carroll was inspired to write Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and also where many memorable scenes from the Harry Potter movies were filmed.</li> <li>• Then enjoy a literary walking tour around Oxford!</li> <li>• After, grab your wand and cape for a tour of the Warner Bros. Harry Potter studio, which proves a behind-the-scenes look at how the movies, based on author J.K. Rowling's books about the young orphaned wizard, were made from detailed sets to animatronics.</li> <li>• Return to London this evening.</li> </ul>
Day 5	Saturday, May 14 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn all about England's royal family today. Depart this morning for Windsor Castle, the official residence of the British reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. Then return to London for a "Monarchy by Bike" tour around Hyde Park and St. James's Park. Starting at Kensington Palace, home to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, pedal your way past many notable buildings and monuments linked to England's royal history and learn their stories.</li> <li>• Tonight's dinner is at the original Hard Rock Café!</li> </ul>
Day 6	Sunday, May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enjoy a full-day excursion to Stratford-upon-Avon to visit Anne Hathaway's College and Shakespeare's Birthplace. You will also visit Shakespeare's resting place at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford.</li> <li>• After a pre-theater dinner, experience a performance by the world-renowned Royal Shakespeare Company.</li> </ul>
Day	Monday,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This morning travel outside London to visit a local school for</li> </ul>

7	May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	<p>pupils 11-18 years of age. Attend their morning assembly to get a feel for what school is like in England. Visit some classes before having lunch at the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This afternoon awaken your inner thespian during a National Theatre backstage tour. Your entertaining guide will share performance secrets and provide an insider's look at all the contributing pieces to a thriving and active production facility.</li> <li>• Tonight's highlight is a theater performance in one of London's many world-class venues.</li> </ul>
Day 8	Tuesday, May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This morning enjoy a <i>Harry Potter</i> themed Walking Tour of London. The afternoon and evening are available for you to explore more at your own pace, perhaps with a visit to the British Library, home to an astounding 150 million items including great literary treasures like the Magna Carta, a Gutenberg Bible, original Beatles lyrics, works of Jane Austen and Shakespeare's First Folio.</li> </ul>
Day 9	Wednesday, May 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After breakfast, depart for the USA.</li> </ul>

**Cost of the Trip: \$3,455**

**Airfare is not included (approximately \$1,000)**

**You will also be charged tuition and the regular fees for the three credit hour class. Tuition is approximately \$1,137.00**

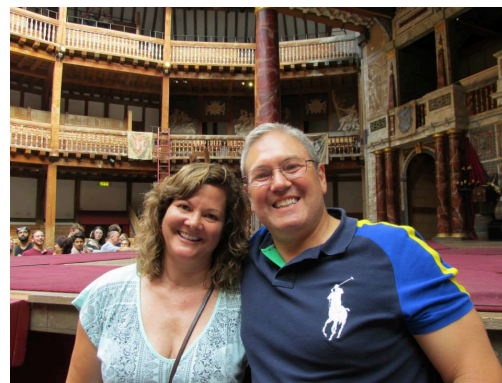
Dr. Thomas took the photos below on her visit to London, Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon in June of 2015. They include some of the places we will go in this course.



Above: Enjoying theater in London's West End; seeing "As You Like It" at the Globe Theater.



Above: Dr. Thomas's daughter at WB's Studio Tour and Angela & Shayla with "Big Ben".



Above: Outside Shakespeare's birthplace and being a "groundling" at the Globe Theater