

## **ENL 2012: BRITISH LITERATURE to 1800**

Spring 2006

Online

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**Texts:** *Norton Anthology of English Literature, 7th Ed., Vols. 1A, 1B, & 1C.*

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A survey of major literary texts in English literature from The Middle Ages to the late 18th Century. In addition to their literary merit, we will explore the historical contexts--social, political, and philosophical trends and events--of the works being studied.

### **GRADING**

3 Exams = 75%

Discussion Board Assignments & Participation = 25%

### **Objectives**

- 1) The student will read and demonstrate an understanding of selected texts of British literature from the Middle Ages-1800.
- 2) The student will study and demonstrate an understanding of the social, historical, and philosophical events and ideas of the Middle Ages-1800, especially as they influenced and were influenced by the literature of the time.
- 3) The student will study and demonstrate an understanding of the major periods of and movements within the literary world of that time.
- 4) The student will study and demonstrate an understanding of major literary terms, such as plot, theme, character, symbolism, metaphor, figurative language, drama, conflict, and resolution.
- 5) The student will study and demonstrate an understanding of the major schools of literary and critical theory, such as Formalism ("New Criticism"), Moral Criticism, Marxism, Psychological Criticism, Reader-Response, Feminism, and Deconstruction.

### **Instructional Methods**

You will a) watch *Lectures* in streaming Powerpoint with audio; b) poems, essays, plays, and various Lecture notes sent as email attachments; c) compose and post Discussion Board responses to various questions and assignments, some of which will require some research; and d) take 3 Exams on the readings.

\* NOTE: I abhor busy work. My time is valuable; your time is valuable. So I won't squander either on extraneous nonsense or wasted words. Thus, everything I assign is purposeful and important.

## Contact Information

*Telephone:* 813-253-7345 (Work); 727-785-8755 (Home). Feel free to call me anytime between the hours of 9:00am & 9:00pm, EST.

*E-mail:* Through the WebCT site. I will respond to your email within 24 hours at the most. I often return emails immediately.

NOTE: I will inform you of any days or times that I may be unavailable and I'd like you to do the same for me, please.

## How To Do Well In This Course

- 1) Read and follow the *Syllabus*.
- 2) Print out the *Syllabus* so it's handy to refer to.
- 3) Watch the *Lectures*.
- 4) Read the assigned texts with the *Lectures*, assorted notes (via attachments), and *Discussions* in mind.
- 5) Respond to the *Discussion Board Assignments* and comment on 2-3 of your classmates' responses.
- 6) Do all the other assignments on the *Discussion Board* as well and as punctually as you can.
- 7) Take the 3 Exams by the deadline date.
- 8) Stay in close touch by email, always signing your name.

## Email Me Immediately To:

- 1) Confirm your attendance.
- 2) Confirm you have read the *Syllabus*.
- 3) Send me your phone number.
- 4) Ask questions.

## WRITING REQUIREMENTS

The miscellaneous assignments on the Discussion Board, as well as the short essay Exams, will count toward your Gordon Rule requirement.

## EVALUATION

3 Exams = 75%

Discussion Board Assignments = 25%

The evaluation of your work and your contributions to the class discussion of the material is a discretionary matter. It is my judgment call whether or not your assignment responses and comments on the material reflect sufficient effort and insight.

## EXAMS

- Four Hour Time Limit. Open book and notes.
- **3 short essays @ 33 points each**
- Compose thorough, grammatically correct responses to three (3) questions, one from each section. Your responses should: a) adequately address the question (with a clearly stated thesis) and not diverge into tangents; b) be generous with support, including **specific reference to ideas, passages, and quotes from the works in question**; c) be clearly written and express complete thoughts; d) be reflections of your having thought about the readings and not just rote responses with little personal, interpretive insights; e) be at least 350 words apiece.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY (PLAGIARISM)

All of your written work must be done solely by you. You may receive outside "tutoring" or editorial assistance, but the actual writing must be your own. Furthermore, you may do, and are, in fact, encouraged to do outside reading and research on your topics. Such research may and should influence your thinking and writing. However, be sure that you do not copy any passages, sentences, phrases, or even specific words from an outside source without quoting them and citing their origin. **Remember: Unintentional plagiarism is still plagiarism!** Any violation of this policy--a policy that is simply a matter of integrity and honesty--will result in an immediate "F" grade in the class.

\* NOTE: Please be aware that I subscribe to the internet's largest, most effective plagiarism detection database. If you copy it from the internet, you will be detected.

## Discussion Board

This place constitutes our virtual classroom. You must attend as often as possible to read and respond to the weekly Assignments. Be sure to also respond to one of your classmate's responses. (If you only post your own assignments and fail to engage in a conversation with your classmates, your DB grade will be a D, at best.) Be constructive and productive. We're talking to each other here, so relax and say what's on your mind. Just be thoughtful and polite. Make strong comments, but be tactful and considerate of differing viewpoints. Get a read on what everyone else is doing and thinking about the class.

\* Important Note: When you post, be sure to post a REPLY to the postings rather than COMPOSE a new one. That will keep the discussion THREADED and easier to manage.

## Privacy Statement

Students using online formats for study at HCC do so in a respectful, protected environment. However, this learning environment may at times be viewed by faculty (both current and those learning to become online facilitators), Distance Learning staff, and other experts, who are working with us to maintain the highest quality online courses. We use e-mail to communicate regarding levels of performance and grades. Please understand that this is not a secure, private environment.

**Last day to Withdraw** with a grade of "W" is 3/27.

NOTE: Request For Accommodation: If, to participate in this course, you require an accommodation due to a physical disability or learning impairment, you must contact the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities in the SS Bldg. Rm. 208. 253-7031 (voice line), 253-7035 (TTD), or 253-7336 (fax).

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

### Week One

A. Introduction & *Beowulf*, p. 29-49.

B. Discussion Board: **BE SURE TO START YOUR POSTING TO THE DISCUSSION BOARD NO LATER THAN FRIDAY. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE WEEK. THE IDEA IS TO START A DISCUSSION BY POSTING YOUR WORK, RESPONDING TO YOUR CLASSMATES' WORK, AND RETURNING LATER IN THE WEEK TO SEE WHAT WAS SAID ABOUT YOUR WORK SO YOU CAN RESPOND TO THE RESPONSES. QUITE SIMPLY, WE'RE ENGAGING IN A CONVERSATION HERE.**

C. Powerpoint Lectures:

- 1) Analysis
- 2) The Basics of Literary Criticism
- 3) The Major Theories of Literary Criticism
- 4) *Beowulf*

### Week Two

A. Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, "The Prologue," p. 210-235.

B. DB: TBA

C. Powerpoint Lectures:

- 1) Composing a Literary Analysis
- 2) The Process of Writing
- 3) Research & Documentation
- 4) Chaucer

### Week Three

A. *Everyman*, p. 445-67.

B. DB: TBA

### Week Four

A. Sir Philip Sidney's *Astrophil & Stella*, p.909-911, & the following poems starting on p.917: #1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 31, 39, 45, 52, 71, 87, & 108.

B. Lectures: 1) 16<sup>th</sup> Century; 2) Sidney; 3) Poetry

### Week Five

A. Shakespeare's Sonnets, p.1026-28, & the following sonnets starting on p. 1029: # 18, 29, 30, 55, 73, 116, 129, 130, & 138.

B. DB: TBA

C. Lecture: Shakespeare's Sonnets

Weeks Six & Seven

**EXAM #1 (up to and including Shakespeare's Sonnets) Must be taken between Sunday 2/12 & Friday 2/17. You have six days to choose from, so there are no exceptions, no extensions, and no makeups without extremely serious and documented reasons.**

A. *King Lear*, p. 1106-95.

B. DB: TBA

C. Lecture: Shakespeare

Week Eight

A. John Donne's poetry, p. 1233-35, & "Song," p. 1237; "The Sun Rising," p. 1239; "The Canonization," p. 1240; "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning," p.1248; "Satire 3," p.1257-60; "Holy Sonnets & 10 & 14," p. 1270-71.

B. DB: TBA

Week 9, 10 (SPRING BREAK), & 11

A. Ben Jonson's *Volpone, or the Fox*, p.1292-94, & 1304-1393.

B. DB: TBA

Week 12

**EXAM #2 (*King Lear*, Donne, & *Volpone*) Must be taken between Sunday 3/26 & Friday 3/31. You have six days to choose from, so there are no exceptions, no extensions, and no makeups without extremely serious and documented reasons.**

A. Francis Bacon, 1528-30, and the following selected essays: "Of Truth," p. 1531-32; "Of Negotiating," p. 1538-39; "Of Studies," [both] p. 1541-42; *From The Advancement of Learning* [The Abuses of Language], p. 1542-44.

B. Thomas Hobbes, 1587-95: All the selections.

C. DB: TBA

Week 13

A. John Milton, p. 1771-74, & Books 1 & 2 from *Paradise Lost*, p. 1815-1858.

B. DB: TBA

Week 14

A. John Locke, p. 2145-50, & selections available on the net TBA.

B. DB: TBA

Week 15

A. Jonathan Swift, p.2298-99, & *Gulliver's Travels, Book IV*, p.2428-73.

B. Lecture: Swift

Week 16

A. Samuel Johnson, p.2660-62, & "Rambler #5," p. 2674-76;; "Idler #31," p. 2677-79; "Rambler #4," p. 2712-15"; & "Rambler #60," p. 2716-18.

B: TBA

**Week 17: EXAM #3 Must be taken between Sunday 4/30 & Friday 5/5. You have six days to choose from. As this is the end of the term, there are no extensions and no makeups for any reason.**