

ENGL-2322 (2023-FALL) 001

ENGL 2322—English Literature to the 1780s

David Strong, Ph.D., Office Hours: TR 12:15-1:00, by appt., and via Canvas e-mail.

Textbook:

Packet of readings from *Broadview Anthology of British Literature* in bookstore.

Aim of Course:

The first literary works in Britain are composed not only in a different language—Latin and Old English—but also in a world significantly different from ours. Despite the seemingly foreign nature of these compositions, they serve as the seed for all subsequent literary genres (even the structure of novels can be indebted to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*). Consequently, our immersion into the literary periods leading up to the nineteenth-century will enlighten us to a wide range of writing styles and approaches, commenting upon the cultural contexts of these periods. In effect, this course is a lodestar guiding our mind in its exploration of how the imagination and creative impulses of humankind perpetually ponder and express intellectual, emotional, and experiential truths.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Read, analyze, and interpret a number of passages in light of the text's dominant themes.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the cultural or historical significance of the texts.
3. Explain how literary genres determine a text's construction.
4. Synthesize a detailed knowledge of literary works belonging to a specific time period.
5. Write informed, compelling literary arguments.

Since honing one's analytical skills requires active participation in classroom discussion, attendance is required. You are allowed three absences; every other absence lowers the final grade by one full letter grade. The final grade consists of a series of assignments, which must be completed by the assigned time in order to receive credit for the work and to pass the course. Specifically, they involve two homework assignments and three exams. The exams must be taken during the assigned class time. The breakdown of points is as follows:

Assignments	10 points
<u>Exams</u>	<u>3 x 30 points = 90 points</u>
	100 points

A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-70 D = 69-60 F = 59-0

Course Expectations:

Lectures are the intellectual property of the instructor and may not be recorded under any circumstance. No voice recorder, camera or any type of electronic device can be used unless documentation of a disability which requires such a device has been provided. Cell phones must be turned off and put away before class begins. Texting and talking on the phone is prohibited. According to the university's policies on academic misconduct and non-academic misconduct, you will not engage in any academic misconduct in this course, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, use of unattributed sources, and cheating on exams. Any kind of cheating and/or plagiarism will result in my being turned into the student disciplinary committee and automatically failing the class.

Please note: a college education is meant to teach students to think outside of their own viewpoints—to expose them to multi-faceted ways of thinking and knowing. That is intellectual growth and exploration. A student will not be excused from class discussion or assignments simply because they do not agree with the text. Topics such as religion, sex, and politics are fundamental in literary studies and, thus, will be examined in detail in this course.

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Week 1: Aug. 22-24	Beowulf
Week 2: Aug. 29-31	Beowulf; First Homework Assignment is due on Aug. 31.
Week 3: Sept. 5-7	Beowulf; The Wanderer. <i>Census Date is Monday, Sept. 1.</i>
Week 4: Sept. 12-14	The Wanderer; Second Homework Assignment is due Sept. 14.
Week 5: Sept. 19-21	Dream of the Rood; First Exam is on Sept. 21.
Week 6: Sept. 26-28	Sir Philip Sidney, <i>Astrophil & Stella</i> , #7
Week 7: Oct. 3-5	William Shakespeare, #55 & #60
Week 8: Oct. 10-12	John Donne, "Valediction: Forbidding Mourning"
Week 9: Oct. 17-19	John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Bk. 9
Week 10: Oct. 24-26	John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Bk. 9
Week 11: Oct. 31-Nov. 2 October 30.	Second Exam; Last day to withdraw from course is Monday,
Week 12: Nov. 7-9	Jonathan Swift, "A Modest Proposal"
Week 13: Nov. 14-16	Jonathan Swift, "A Modest Proposal"
Week 14: Nov. 21-23	Thanksgiving Break
Week 15: Nov. 28-30	Richard Sheridan, <i>School for Scandal</i>
Week 16: Dec. 5	Tuesday from 11:00 - 1:00 Final Exam