

engl-4301-001-strong-spring-2026

ENGL 4301, Masters of Early British Literature

Dr. David Strong, dstrong@uttyler.edu

Office Hours: CAS 235 Friday 8:00-11:00 & by appointment

Aim of Course:

In this course, we will read the three great British authors of the medieval and early modern literary periods, namely Chaucer, Spenser, and Milton. Each author's contribution to literature is seminal in the creation of new genres, such as the novel and short story, or the perfection of established genres, such as plays and epics. This exposure to these authors enlightens us of the criteria defining quality literature and challenges us to refine our reading experience to appreciate the intelligence underpinning these literary creations. Indeed, our interpretation and explanation of this dramatic and/or poetic skill underscore the import of this course. In the development of this understanding, we will consider various critical approaches and evaluate their applicability and effectiveness in rendering an aesthetic judgment on the text's cultural and artistic value.

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.

To sharpen our minds, we will have a mid-term, a final examination, and a ten-page research paper. Each task counts for thirty percent of the final grade. In addition, one homework analysis task will be assigned; it will be worth ten percent of the final grade. The exam must be taken during the class period of the assigned day. Regular attendance and participation are mandatory. You are allowed three absences; every other absence causes your final grade to be lowered one letter grade.

Assignments 10 points

Exams $2 \times 30 \text{ points} = 60 \text{ points}$

Research Paper 30 points

100 points

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

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.

ENGL 4301--Syllabus

Week 1: January 13 Introduction: review handouts on “How to Interpret Literature”; Chaucer, *Wife of Bath Prologue and Tale*. <https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/wife-baths-prologue-and-tale-0>.

Week 2: January 20 Chaucer, *Wife of Bath Prologue & Tale*.

<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/wife-baths-prologue-and-tale-0>.

Week 3: January 27 Chaucer, *Wife of Bath Prologue & Tale*.

<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/wife-baths-prologue-and-tale-0>. Census Date is Monday, Jan. 26.

Week 4: February 3 Chaucer, *The Franklin’s Prologue & Tale*.

<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/franklins-prologue-and-tale>.

Week 5: February 10 Chaucer, *The Franklin’s Prologue & Tale*.

<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/franklins-prologue-and-tale>.

Week 6: February 17 Chaucer, *The Second Nun’s Tale*.

<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/second-nuns-tale>.

Week 7: February 24 Chaucer, *The Second Nun’s Tale*.

<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/second-nuns-tale>.

Week 8: March 3 **Mid-Term Exam** will be an in-class exam and must be completed between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Week 9: March 10 *Spring Break*

Week 10: March 17 Spenser, *Epithalamion*.

<https://poets.org/poem/epithalamion>.

Week 11: March 24 Spenser, *Epithalamion*.

<https://poets.org/poem/epithalamion>.

Week 12: March 31 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1.

https://milton.host.dartmouth.edu/reading/_room/pl/book_1/text.shtml. Last day to withdraw from classes is Monday, March 30.

Week 13: April 7 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1.

https://milton.host.dartmouth.edu/reading/_room/pl/book_1/text.shtml.

Week 14: April 14 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 9.

https://milton.host.dartmouth.edu/reading/_room/pl/book_9/text.shtml.

Week 15: April 21 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 9.

https://milton.host.dartmouth.edu/reading/_room/pl/book_9/text.shtml.

Week 16: April 28 **Final Exam** will be an in-class exam and must be completed between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

AI is not permitted in this course at all.

I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values.

Communication with Instructor

The best way to contact me is via Canvas e-mail. Per the [UT Tyler email policy](#) which stipulates that "the Patriot Email account serves as the communication source for all UT-Tyler learning management systems," I will not reply to emails sent from non-UTT email addresses. Emails should be written in a somewhat formal style and tone—full sentences, reasonably correct grammar, and a succinct overview of the topic. So, less formal than the style you would use in a paper and more formal than the style you would use in a text to your friends.

Course Expectations:

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.

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this

link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>.

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (STE 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Spring, the Census Date is January 26.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date (Jan. 26th) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTYLER> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR)

office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

1. “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:
 - copying from another student’s test paper;

- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

1. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.
2. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
3. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by SafeAssignTM, available on Blackboard.

UT Tyler Resources for Students

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)