

Winter 2010

British Literature to 1798

English 214



Instructor: Dr. Clermont-Ferrand
Office: 250 Webb Hall
Office Phone: 860-465-0178
Virtual Office Hours: T/Th 4-6
e-mail: clermontm@easternct.edu

Required Texts

Norton Anthology of English Literature
Henry V Penguin edition
Class packet of discussion questions

Some other shorter works will be posted online for you during the course of the semester.

Course Description

This online course will trace the development of English and British literary and cultural traditions from the early medieval period (the Anglo-Saxon period) to the end of the 18th century (the early romantic writers). Obviously, such a course will be unable to cover everything, but we will attempt to explore several distinct cultural and historical periods, by reading selections of the literature from each. We will also trace several social, cultural, and literary movements as they develop over time.

Course Goals and Objectives

- To develop a working knowledge of English and British literature from the early Anglo-Saxon period through the late 18th century.
- To continue developing the reading and interpretive skills needed for understanding literature.

- To develop an understanding of the larger historical, cultural, and theoretical contexts of the British literary tradition.
 - To develop the ability to address (both in discussion and in writing) complex issues involving literature and culture.
-

ACTIVITIES

Each module of the course will be divided into several different activities:

Recorded Lecture – for each module’s reading the instructor will record a series of lectures that review the primary material and provide supplementary historical and cultural background to make the material more understandable and to place the reading in its historical and cultural background.

Discussion Questions – for each module’s reading you will have a series of short answer questions that require you to reflect on the material you have read in a critical way. You will submit these questions written out to me. Discussion questions will have a specific due date and time. They will be graded.

Discussion Posts—for each module’s reading you will be asked to post a 2 paragraph response to a discussion prompt. Discussion posts will have a specific due date and time. They will be graded as your participation grade.

Timed Online Quizzes—for each module’s reading you will have a quiz to see how well you understood the reading. These will be taken after the reading is reviewed through the recorded lecture and the discussion posts and virtual office hours.

Required Work

Readings: Students will receive reading lists for each module of the course. Readings will be drawn from the required texts and from handouts posted on the web.

Discussion Questions: Each week you will be responsible for writing out a

number of discussion questions. These questions are found in the Discussion Questions class packet posted for this course. For each reading assignment you are required to answer all the discussion questions. You must type your answers below the question, so I know which question you are answering. Answers must be in the form of full sentences. Your responses to the discussion questions are to be posted to me the same day the reading is due. They are to be submitted in MS Word. I will grade them in MS Word Markup function and I will return them to you promptly. You may use your books—but do not simply copy the text out of your book for an answer! Some questions are opinion questions. Some are fact-based. Enjoy them both!

Discussion Posts—the instructor will post 2 discussion prompts for each module’s reading. You are required to write a 2 paragraph response to the prompt. Times will be indicated by the instructor. Late posts will detrimentally affect your participation grade.

Quizzes—you will have a timed quiz for each module’s reading. These quizzes consist of 5 short answer questions. They are fashioned to determine your understanding of the material and your engagement in the discussion posts. They will be timed to ensure you will not use your books.

Research Papers—you will write 2 research papers during the course. The specific guidelines for the papers are posted in the Paper Guidelines section of the course. There will be a tutorial on writing academic papers for a literature course as well as virtual office hours to review your writing. Late papers have 5 points deducted from the overall score for each day they are late.

Course Grades

The grading of the course breaks down as follows:

2 research papers 4-5 pages each	50% (25% each)
Discussion Questions	20%
Posting to Discussion Board	15%
Quizzes	15%

Academic Honesty



Plagiarism is the use of any author's words or thoughts without giving explicit credit to that author. Collusion is when part or all of an assignment is written by someone other than you. Both are serious offenses. Penalties for plagiarism and/or collusion range from a failing grade on the assignment to being expelled from the university. It is the English department's policy to report all breaches of academic honesty to the dean per university guidelines. If you have not done so, please consult the university's official policies on academic honesty.

HELP: Though this is an online course, my virtual office hours are for you. Please feel free to login and discuss any aspect of the course, from the mundane details of daily assignments to burning philosophical questions.

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of AccessAbility. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the Office of AccessAbility as soon as possible. Please understand that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Office of AccessAbility.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

All reading is expected to be completed by the time indicated. Unless otherwise noted, all reading comes from *The Norton Anthology of English Literature, 8th Edition*.

Module 1 Anglo-Saxon Literature

12/28-12/30 Introduction to the class. Reading pages 1-22 Anglo-Saxon Literature, *Dream of the Rood* pages 27-29 and background on *Beowulf* pages 29-44 and *Beowulf*, and *Judith* pages 100-108, *The Wanderer* pages 111-113, *The Wife's Lament* pages 113-114, *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* pages 115-117.
HOMEWORK: Discussion questions and discussion posting.

12/31-1/4: Recorded lecture on *Judith* pages 100-108, *The Wanderer* pages 111-113, *The Wife's Lament* pages 113-114, *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* pages 115-117.

Recorded lecture on the Norman Conquest of England and the High Middle Ages. **HOMEWORK:** Discussion questions and discussion posting. Read introduction to *Gawain and the Green Knight* and *Gawain and the Green Knight*.

Module 2 The Middle Ages & Midterm

1/5-1/6: Review *Gawain and the Green Knight*. **HOMEWORK:** Discussion questions and discussion posting. Read introduction to Chaucer pages 213-218 and read *The General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales*.

1/6-1/8: Review the introduction to Chaucer pages 213-218 and read *The General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales*. **HOMEWORK:** Read *The Miller's Tale* pages 239-255. Discussion questions and discussion posting.

1/11: Review *The Miller's Tale* pages 239-255. Distribution of midterm paper topics. Lecture on how to write a literature paper: academic titles, introductions, thesis statements and transitions. **HOMEWORK:** Read introduction to the 16th century, pages 485-513, "Faith in Conflict" section in *Norton* pages 616-640 and "Women in Power" section in *Norton* pages 662-700. Discussion questions and discussion posting.

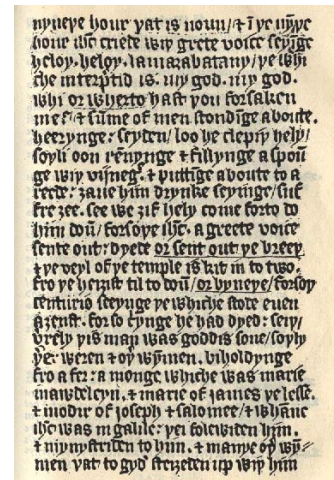
1/10-1/11 Extended Virtual Office Hours for paper drafting.

Midterm Paper due 1/13

Module 3 The Renaissance

1/11: Review introduction to the 16th century, pages 485-513, "Faith in Conflict" section in *Norton* pages 616-640 and "Women in Power" section in *Norton* pages 662-700. Lecture on the 100 Years War and background of Henry V. **HOMEWORK:** Read *Henry V*. Discussion questions and discussion posting.

1/12-1/13: Review *Henry V*. **HOMEWORK:** Read "Introduction to the Early



17th Century,” pages 1235-1259, John Donne’s *The Flea* page 1263, *The Sun Rising* page 1266, *The Canonization* page 1267, also read Ben Jonson’s *On My First Son* George Herbert’s *The Collar* page 1619, *Easter Wings* page 1609, and Robert Herrick’s *The Vine* page 1655, *His Farewell to Sack* page 1656, and *Upon Julia’s Clothes* page 1664. Discussion questions and discussion posting.



1/14-/1/15: Review “Introduction to the Early 17th Century,” pages 1235-1259, John Donne’s *The Flea* page 1263, *The Sun Rising* page 1266, *The Canonization* page 1267, also read Ben Jonson’s *On My First Son* (to be distributed in class), George Herbert’s *The Collar* page 1619, *Easter Wings* page 1609, and Robert Herrick’s *The Vine* page 1655, *His Farewell to Sack* page 1656, and *Upon Julia’s Clothes* page 1664. **HOMEWORK:** Introduction to the Restoration pages 2057-2082 and John Dryden’s *Annus Mirabilis* and *MacFlecknoe* (this is one of the funniest poems we will read all semester—please read it!) Mary Astell’s *Some Reflections upon Marriage* page 2285-2288, Jonathan Swift’s *A Modest Proposal* 2462-2468. Discussion questions and discussion posting.

Module 4 The Restoration

1/18-1/19: Review Introduction to the Restoration and the 18th Century pages 2057-2082 and John Dryden’s *Annus Mirabilis* and *MacFlecknoe* and Mary Astell’s *Some Reflections upon Marriage* page 2285-2288, Jonathan Swift’s *A Modest Proposal* 2462-2468. **HOMEWORK:** Johnson’s *Plan for the Dictionary* (to be handed out in class) and entries to Johnson’s *Dictionary* 2749-2753 and read Thomas Gray’s *Elegy in a Country Churchyard* page 2867-2870. Discussion questions and discussion posting.

Module 5 The Early Romantic Period

1/20: Distribution of final paper topics. Review Johnson’s *Plan for the Dictionary* and entries from Johnson’s *Dictionary* 2749-2753 and read Thomas Gray’s *Elegy in a Country Churchyard* page 2867-2870. **MAKE FINAL PAPER TOPICS HOMEWORK:** draft final essay.

1/22-1/23 Virtual office hours for drafting the final paper

Final paper
due 1/25 by 12
noon

