ENG 381

English 381, Survey of English Literature I, Fall, 2008
Tuesday, Thursday 9:35—10:55
Section .002, Cherry Hall 103, Section .610, Owensboro, Section .630, Glasgow

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Text:

Aims and Organization:
This course, along with Survey of Eng. Lit. II, should provide a comprehensive historical overview of the development of British literature from the early Middle Ages to the present. We begin the story of British literature with the Old English epic, Beowulf (c. 800) and follow some of the major literary developments of the next 1,000 years through the neo-classical period of the 18th century. This course is preparatory to upper division courses that typically concentrate on a particular author, genre, or period. Our approach stresses breadth rather than depth, and you should plan on attaining a general knowledge of the key literary periods and the development of genres such as epic and other narratives, drama, and poetic forms. We will be studying works that are representative and typical of their period, but that also display an exceptional and unique aesthetic/artistic/literary value. You will be expected to learn historical facts and chronology that are basic to the study of English literature and to demonstrate your skill in the interpretation and analysis of the particular literary works that we will study. Your knowledge of this literature and your ability to work with it are crucial prerequisites for your continued study of literature.

Assignments and written Work:
We will have regular readings in the Norton anthology. You will be assigned four short commentaries on our readings (one for each period) as well as a final formal term paper. The commentaries and papers are designed to allow you to demonstrate your competence in writing upper-division analytic and interpretive essays according to traditional standards of style, citation and documentation. You will also be assigned two short oral presentations (each from a different period), which will give you an opportunity to organize your thoughts and speak formally about the literature you have read. We will have a midterm exam and a final comprehensive exam to test your knowledge of factual material covered in the course as well as your overall knowledge of British literary history. As a non-required, extra-credit assignment, you may memorize and recite, with commentary, one poem (or a soliloquy from Shakespeare) with a minimum length of a sonnet.

Grades:
You will receive a letter grade for your final term paper, the midterm, and the final exam; the four one-page commentaries and two presentations will be averaged to equal one grade. If you successfully memorize and recite in class a poem you will receive an additional A. If you make a substantial and meaningful contribution to class discussions you will, at my discretion, receive an extra credit grade of A. I will average your four, five, or six grades to reach a final grade for the course.
Paper Requirements:
1. Commentaries: typewritten, double-spaced, one inch margins, Times New Roman 11 font, three paragraphs, title, Work Cited/Reference given in full, on a single page. The first and third paragraphs should have three sentences; the middle paragraph at least four. I will not accept more than one page of text, but a good paper will develop the middle paragraph as fully as the page allows. Each commentary should quote from the text one time, using MLA documentation. The quotation should be embedded in the middle paragraph; i.e., not in the first or last sentence. Commentaries should be short, formal essays in which you discuss and explore an important aspect, idea, or theme in the work. Avoid self-referential comments.
2. Term paper: similar requirements as for the commentaries, but 5-6 pages, and with three sources, including one secondary book that allows you to engage a critical point of view on your primary texts.

Oral Presentations:
These presentations should be five to seven minutes long, and should lead us through some aspect of the text that you find particularly interesting or important. Do not give background information about the author or period except insofar as it is of literary interest; the presentation should direct us to crucial scenes or lines in the text that deserve commentary (but do not simply retell the plot). Do not read from notes. Be prepared to accept questions from other students. You will be graded holistically on the quality of your content as well as the clarity and organization of your presentation.

Texts
I. Narratives
Chaucer, Geoffrey. The Canterbury Tales.
The General Prologue.
The Nun's Priest's Tale.
Malory, Sir Thomas. Morte Darthur
Spenser, Edmund. The Faerie Queene
Book 1, Canto 1
from Book 2, Canto 12
Milton, John. Paradise Lost
Bunyan, John. The Pilgrim's Progress
Johnson, Samuel. From The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia

II. Prose Essays
Sidney, Sir Philip. The Defence of Poesy
Milton, John. Areopagitica
Johnson, Samuel. From The Preface to Shakespeare

III. Drama
Anonymous. Everyman
Marlowe, Christopher. The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus.
Shakespeare, William. Twelfth Night, or What You Will
Shakespeare, William. The Tragedy of King Lear

IV. Lyric Poetry
Marlowe, Christopher. "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love."
Shakespeare, William. "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?"; "When, in disgrace with Fortune and men's eyes,"; "That time of year thou mayst in me behold,"; "Let me not to the marriage of true minds,"; "My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun"
Drayton, Michael. "Since there's no help."
Donne, John. "The Sun Rising."; "The Flea."; "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning."; "To His Mistress Going to Bed."; "Death, be not proud"; "Batter my heart"
Herrick, Robert. "To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time," "Delight in Disorder"
Marvell, Andrew. "To His Coy Mistress"
Gray, Thomas. "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"

V. Neo-classical Verse Essays
Pope, Alexander. *An Essay on Criticism; An Essay on Man*

**Schedule, Eng. 381, Fall, 2008**

**Middle Ages:**
*Beowulf, Chaucer, Malory, Everyman*

**Week One**
August 26, Tuesday **Introductions**
1. August 28, Thursday

**Week Two**
2. September 02, Tuesday
3. September 04, Thursday

**Week Three**
4. September 09, Tuesday
5. September 11, Thursday

**Renaissance:**
*Spenser, Sidney, Marlowe, Shakespeare, Ralegh, Drayton*

**Week Four**
1. September 16, Tuesday
2. September 18, Thursday

**Week Five**
3. September 23, Tuesday
4. September 25, Thursday

**Week Six**
5. September 30, Tuesday
October 02, Thursday **Fall Break Day: No Class**

**Week Seven**
6. October 07, Tuesday
7. October 09, Thursday

**Seventeenth Century:**
*Donne, Marvell, Herrick, Milton*

**Week Eight**
1. October 14, Tuesday
October 16, Thursday *Midterm*

**Week Nine**
2. October 21, Tuesday
3. October 23, Thursday

**Week Ten**
4. October 28, Tuesday
5. October 30, Thursday
Week Eleven
November 04 Tuesday **Presidential Election Day: No Class**
6. November 06, Thursday

Week Twelve
7. November 11, Tuesday
8. November 13, Thursday

Eighteenth Century:
Pope, Bunyan, Gray, Johnson

Week Thirteen
1. November 18, Tuesday
2. November 20, Thursday

Week Fourteen
3. November 25, Tuesday
November 27 Thursday **Thanksgiving Break: No Class**

Week Fifteen
4. December 02, Tuesday
5. December 04, Thursday

Week Sixteen
December 08, Monday, 10:30-12:30 **Final Exam**

Note: This syllabus and its requirements, texts, and procedures are subject to change if necessary or appropriate.

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Room 445, Potter Hall. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/TDD. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.