

Lit 3319 Syllabus
Survey of British Literature: *Beowulf* to Romanticism
Professor Michaelson
TR 2:30-3:45, JO 4.122
Fall 2012

Contact information:

Email is the best way to reach me: pmichaelson@utdallas.edu
Office JO 5.108, tel 972-883-2767
Office hours: Th 1:15-2:15 & by appt.

Course description:

This course will introduce students to the canon of English literature, from the eighth century to the year 1800. We will pay attention to the development of the English language and literary forms as well as to major historical and cultural changes over this 1000-year (!) period. Classes will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. This course will be especially useful to students who feel they have gaps in their knowledge of the British literary tradition or who may be considering graduate work in English, but it is open to all who love literature.

Required Texts: *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, vol. I, 9th ed
Oxford Illustrated History of English Literature

Requirements:

Preparation, participation, recitations, quizzes (50%). Students will be expected to read the texts listed below carefully and on time and to participate in class discussion. There will be frequent pop quizzes to check your preparation. In addition, students will be required to memorize and recite 3 pieces of poetry.

Please bring your *Norton* every day. Attendance will be taken; more than 3 absences will affect your grade. Laptops, cellphones, & other distracting devices must be turned off during class.

Two midterms (15% each) plus final exam (20%). Exams will include short answers (literary terms, map questions, etc.), detailed questions on texts we have read, and more general questions on texts we learn about through lectures and readings in the *Oxford History*.

This course will adhere to all UTD policies and procedures.

Course Schedule

(All page numbers refer to the *Norton Anthology*. Please notice that some days' assignments are longer than others and plan ahead. Except where noted, students may read the *Oxford History* at their own pace. The professor reserves the right to modify this schedule if necessary.)

Aug 28 Introduction

I. Old and Middle English (*Oxford* chapter 1)

Aug 30 Old English (3-10, 24-25)
 Bede and *Caedmon's Hymn* (29-32)
 The Dream of the Rood (32-36)

Sept 4 *Beowulf* (36-80)

Sept 6 *Beowulf* (80-108)
 Middle English (10-24)

Sept 11 The myth of Arthur's return (130-31)
 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (183-238)
 Langland, from *Piers Plowman* (370-76)

Sept 13 Chaucer, from *The Canterbury Tales*
 The General Prologue (238-63)

Sept 18 *The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale* (282-310)
 Middle English lyrics (477-80)

Sept 20 Medieval drama
 Noah's Flood (handout)
 Everyman (507-29)

Sept 25 Recitations & review

Sept 27 **Exam on Old and Middle English Literature**
II. The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries

(*Oxford* chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5 [to page 227])

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Oct 2 | Early Modern poetry
Sidney, from <i>The Defense of Poesy</i> (1044-45, 1053-55)
sonnets #1, 37, 45, 47 from <i>Astrophil and Stella</i> (1084 ff.)
Spenser, from <i>The Faerie Queene</i> (775-77, 782-87) |
| Oct 4 | Drama before Shakespeare
Marlowe, <i>Doctor Faustus</i> (1127-1163) |
| Oct 9 | Early Modern prose
From translations of the Bible (handout)
Mallory, from <i>Morte Darthur</i> (480-500) |
| Oct 11 | Shakespeare. Read <i>Oxford</i> chapter 3; bring <i>Norton</i> to class. |
| Oct 16 | Metaphysical poetry
Donne, "The Canonization" (1370-72, 1377-78)
"A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" (1385-86)
<i>Holy Sonnets</i> #10, 14 (1412, 1413)
Herbert, "The Altar," "Easter Wings" (1707, 1709) |
| Oct 18 | Milton (1897-1901)
3 sonnets (1942-43)
<i>Paradise Lost</i> , from book 1 (<i>lines</i> 1-270)
From book 4 (<i>lines</i> 172-392) |
| Oct 23 | <i>Paradise Lost</i> , book 9 (all), book 12 (<i>lines</i> 386-end) |
| Oct 25 | Restoration poetry and drama (in volume C)
Dryden, <i>Absalom and Achitophel</i> (2212-36)
(skip <i>lines</i> 569-681 and 817-913)
Congreve, <i>The Way of the World</i> , acts 1-2 (2359-2382) |
| Oct 30 | Congreve, <i>The Way of the World</i> , complete (2382-2420) |
| Nov 1 | Recitations and review |
| Nov 6 | Exam on 16th- and 17th-century Literature |
| III. The Eighteenth Century | |

(*Oxford* chapters 5 and 6 [to page 293])

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Nov 8 | Prose forerunners
Pepys, from <i>The Diary</i> (2260-69)
Bunyan, from <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> (2269-78) |
| Nov 13 | Periodicals and Pamphlets
Addison and Steele, from <i>The Spectator</i> (#2, 10, 69; pp 2639 ff)
#112 (handout)
Swift, <i>A Modest Proposal</i> (2464-66, 2633-39)
From <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> (2487-98) |
| Nov 15 | The Novel
<i>Oxford</i> section on the novel
Defoe, from <i>Roxana</i> (2424-31)
Richardson, from <i>Pamela</i> (handout) |
| Nov 27 | Fielding, from <i>Tom Jones</i> (handout)
Sterne, from <i>Tristram Shandy</i> (handout) |
| Nov 29 | Samuel Johnson (2841 ff)
From <i>Rasselas</i> (chapters 1-3, 15-20; pp 2856-61, 2878-84)
<i>Rambler</i> #4 (2923-26)
From the <i>Dictionary</i> (2929-36) |
| Dec 4 | Eighteenth-Century poetry
Pope, "An Essay on Criticism", part 2 (2665-69, 2673-81)
Gray, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" (3047, 3051-4)
Goldsmith, "The Deserted Village" (3061-71) |
| Dec 6 | The Early Romantics (handout)
Blake, from <i>Songs of Experience</i>
Wordsworth, "It is a Beauteous Evening,"
"The Old Cumberland Beggar"
Coleridge, "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" |
| Dec 11 | Recitations and review |

Final exam Tuesday, December 18, 2-4:45 in JO 4.122