

LIT3319 501: Survey of British Literature to 1800

Tues. 7-9:45 pm in J04.102

Instructor: C. Finlayson

Office: J0 S 708

Office hours: MW 12:45-1:45, and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of some of the essential and influential texts that have helped ground our English literary heritage, this course covers literature before 1800. We will read narrative poetry by Chaucer, epics and mock-epics by Milton and Pope, drama by Shakespeare and Sheridan, and poetry by Sidney, Shakespeare, and Donne as well as one novel. We will concentrate on the formal aspects of the works being studied but will also investigate how these texts address several recurring themes, such as the voyage/quest, gender and marriage, and the nature of literary creation. We will pay particular attention to continuities which link writers to their predecessors and successors against changing social, political, and intellectual backgrounds.

Classes will be a mixture of lecture and discussion and will focus in part on developing students' close-reading skills.

BOOKS REQUIRED

The Longman Anthology of British Literature (vol. 1) 2nd ed.

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, ed. Robert Demaria (Penguin Classics)

M. H. Abrams, *A Glossary of Literary Terms* (recommended)

EVALUATION

First Essay, 1,500 words	20%
Second Essay, 2,500 words	30%
Final Exam	40%
Participation/Response Papers	10%
	100%

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

2005

- Aug.** 23 T Introduction; Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, "General Prologue" (hand-out)
- 30 T Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, "The Wife of Bath's Prologue", "The Pardoner's Prologue & Tale"
- Sept.** 6 T Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, "The Miller's Tale", "The Nun's Priest's Tale"
- 13 T Anon, *The Second Play of the Shepherds*; Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book 1 (discussion will focus on Cantos I, II, IV, V, VIII, IX, X)

- 20 T Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book 1 (con't), Book 2 Canto XII, stanzas 42-87
- 27 T Sidney, *Astrophil & Stella* 1,7, 39, 45, 60, 71; Shakespeare, *Sonnets* 1, 18, 20, 29, 94, 116, 129, 130, 138, 144
(pay particular attention to Sidney 1, 45 & Shakespeare 116, 129, 130, 138)
- Oct. 4 T Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
DUE: ESSAY #1
- 11 T Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
In-Class: Clips from Derek Jarman's *The Tempest* (1979)
- 18 T Donne, "The Sun Rising", "A Valediction Forbidding Mourning", "The Flea", "The Relic", "The Good-Morrow" "The Ecstasy", "Elegy 19", Holy Sonnets 4, 6, 10; Marvell "To His Coy Mistress"
- 25 T Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1, 2 (lines 1-487), 4 (lines 1-775)
- Nov. 1 T Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 9, 12 (lines 466-649)
- 8 T Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*
- 15 T Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, Part I, IV
DUE: ESSAY #2
- 22 T Sheridan, *The School for Scandal*
FINAL EXAMINATION – date TBA

WRITTEN WORK: Essays are to be submitted in hard copy only (emailed essays will not be accepted). Essays should be double-spaced and printed in a minimum of 12-point font. Hand-written essays are acceptable; they also must be double-spaced. It is good practice to keep a duplicate copy of the final version of your essay, until the course is finished. Essays that are illegible or otherwise unacceptably presented may be returned for rectification.

Essays are to be submitted in class to the instructor on the Tuesday they are due. If not handed in on the date due, they must be turned in the following Tuesday and will receive a **10% late penalty**. Essays more than one week late will not be accepted unless supported by a medical certificate giving a clear and convincing explanation for your inability to complete the assignment on time. If you miss the final exam, a makeup exam must be justified in a similar way. Extensions for non-medical reasons will only be granted in extreme circumstances with the appropriate supporting documentation.

PLAGARISM: If you submit an assignment that includes material that you did not write, but that is presented as your own work, you are guilty of plagiarism. The reader must know at every point whether he/she is reading your work or someone else's. If in doubt, cite your sources. The penalties for plagiarism are severe.

PARTICIPATION: Participation represents 10% of your grade. You are expected to come to class prepared and willing to actively engage in the discussion of course materials.