

**Course Syllabus**  
**Periods of English Literature: *Beowulf* to the Romantics**  
**Professor Austin-Bolt**

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Spring 2015  
LIT 3319.501  
Tuesdays 7-9:45 PM  
Arts and Humanities 2 Building, 1.204

Professor Austin-Bolt  
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Office Location: JO 5.109  
Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:15-2:15 PM

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 language and literary forms as well as to major historical and cultural changes over the 1,000-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 would like to learn more about literature.

Course Pre-requisites: HUMA 1301 or equivalent

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**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.
  2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.
  3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.
  4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
  5. Write critical essays about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.
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## Required Textbooks and Materials

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature, vol. 1, 9<sup>th</sup> edition*

*The Oxford English Illustrated History of English Literature*

Additionally, you will need:

- Pen and paper for in-class writing assignments
- Organizational folder
- Access to a working computer and printer
- A method for backing up work electronically

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## Assignments & Academic Calendar

### Assignments:

The course consists of two, short essays (3-4 pages), a variety of smaller writing assignments, two midterms, and a final exam. Prompts for essays will be given in class. All essays must be turned in to Turnitin.com on eLearning.

All essays are expected to be typed or word-processed, double spaced with one-inch margins on all sides, and in general MLA format. *Prepare and print your work in advance and always have a backup.*

Jan. 12      Introduction  
                 Major Periods of Western Literary Tradition  
                 Overview of Critical Approaches to Literary Study

### Medieval Literature

Old English: Anglo-Saxon Literature

Jan. 19      Bede and Caedmon's Hymn (30)  
                 "The Dream of the Rood" (33)  
                 *Oxford*: Ch. 1: "Old and Middle English" (1-22)

Jan. 26      *Beowulf* (41)  
                 *Beowulf* article  
                 *Oxford*: Ch. 1 "Old and Middle English" (22-39)

### Midterm 1

Essay Topics

*Wed., Jan. 27—last day to drop without a W*

## Old English: Anglo-Norman Literature

- Feb. 2 “The Myth of Arthur’s Return” (130-131)  
Thomas of England, from *Le Roman de Tristran* (133-7)  
“Romance” (140)  
Marie de France, “Lanval” (154)  
Peer Review of Essay 1: Bring three (3) hard copies to class

# Middle English Literature

- Feb. 9            “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight” (183)  
                      *Oxford*: Ch. 1: “Old and Middle English” (39-58)  
                      **Essay 1 Due:** Bring a hard copy to class and post essay electronically to Turnitin.com by 11:59 PM
- Feb. 16            Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*  
                      “The General Prologue” (242)  
                      In-class: “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale” (282)
- Feb. 23            William Langland, *The Vision of Piers Plowman* (373-395)  
                      “The Wakefield Second Shepherd’s Play” (449)  
                      *Everyman* (508)  
                      In-class: *The York Play of the Crucifixion* (440)

## Renaissance Literature

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| March 1  | Sir Thomas Malory, from <i>Morte Darthur</i> (482)<br>Sir Thomas More, <i>Utopia</i> (572)<br><i>Oxford</i> : Ch. 2: “Tudor Literature” (59-85)                   |
| March 8  | The English Bible (673-678)<br>John Calvin (681)<br>Elizabeth 1 (754; 760; 761)<br><b>Midterm 2</b>   |
| March 15 | Spring Break—no class   |
| March 22 | Spenser, <i>The Faerie Queene</i> (777-795)<br><i>Oxford</i> : Ch. 2: “Tudor Literature” (85-111)<br>Peer Review of Essay 2: Bring three (3) hard copies to class |
| March 29 | Sir Philip Sidney, “The Defense of Poesy” (1045-1052)<br>From <i>Astrophil and Stella</i> (1084; sonnets 1, 37, 45, 47)<br>Shakespeare sonnets 18, 19, 116, 130   |

*Oxford*: Ch. 3: “William Shakespeare”

**Essay 2 Due**

April 5      Metaphysical Poets: John Donne, George Herbert, Andrew Marvell  
In-class: Milton, *Paradise Lost*  
*Oxford*: Ch. 4: “The Seventeenth Century”

**Restoration and the Eighteenth Century**

April 12      Dryden, *Absalom and Archithophel* (2214-5; 2234-2236)  
Congreve, *The Way of the World* (2360)  
*Oxford*: Ch. 5 “Restoration and Eighteenth Century” (214-227)

April 19      John Bunyan, from *The Pilgrim’s Progress* (2270)  
Daniel Defoe, from *Roxana* (2425)  
Laurence Stern, from *A Sentimental Journey* (2449)  
*Oxford*: Ch. 5 “Restoration and Eighteenth Century” (227-263)

April 26      Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels* (2489-2498; 2531-2539;  
2573-2578; 2587-2591)  
Addison and Steele (2641-2646)  
Alexander Pope, “An Essay on Man” (2713)  
Samuel Johnson, *Rambler* No. 4 [On Fiction] (2923)  
Frances Burney, “Frist Journal Entry” (2993)  
*Oxford*: Ch. 5 “Restoration and Eighteenth Century” (263-273)

May 3      *Oxford*: Ch. 6 “The Romantic Period” (274-309)  
**Final Exam**

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**Grading Policy**

Attendance	100 points
Preparation and in-class participation	350 points
Peer Review (2)	50 points
Essays (2)	200 points
Midterms (2)	150 points
Final Exam	150 points

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 59% or less

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## Course & Instructor Policies

**Participation:** The expectation in this class is that students will have done *all the readings* for any given class and are prepared to talk and/or write about them. Students will be asked to engage in group activities and discussion in class. Students should be prepared to share their ideas and writing with the class on a regular basis.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken each class. There is a 10-point penalty for each class missed.

**Tardiness:** Persistent tardiness to class is disrespectful to both the instructor and student peers. Continually arriving late to class will affect the participation grade.

**Make-up Work:** If a student must miss a class, the student should speak with the instructor ASAP to see if any assignments can be made up. Make-up work is only guaranteed in the case of a documented medical emergency or a university-sponsored activity.

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit is not available.

**Late Work:** Late assignments will suffer a point deduction or may not be accepted (if assignment is more than a week overdue). Failure to submit essays to turnitin.com by 11:59 PM on the due date may also result in a deduction of points.

**Personal Communication Devices:** Please turn off all phones and other personal communication devices before the start of class. Do not use them during class. Laptop use is not permitted during class, unless for a specified class activity. Repetitive use of cell phones will affect your participation grade.

**Food & Drink:** Please do not eat during class; it's unprofessional.

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## Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

*None applicable for this semester.*

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## Comet Creed

*This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:*

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

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## **UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

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*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*