I. Calendar description of the course:

An examination of examples of the greatest literature in English and its relation to the periods of its origin. Figures such as Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Swift, Blake, Keats, Tennyson, Dickens, and T. S. Eliot will be examined.

II. Rationale

The course is concerned with increasing your awareness in a number of areas.

You will study a number of major works of English literature that are representative of the periods in which they were written. You will thus become better acquainted with the principal ideas, assumptions, and attitudes of people living in those periods and will be able to compare them with those of the twentieth century. At the same time you will examine the ways in which writers of the different periods sought to express the ideas of their age, and you will thus know better what kinds of literature are to be found in which periods.

The works chosen also reflect a wide variety of genres appearing in English literature, and you will examine how the conventions employed in these genres make them work in the way they do, with the result, again, that you will know where to find further examples of those genres which appeal to you.

The course is also concerned with strengthening your ability to make informed comment on the works studied. To this end you will be guided through a series of brief critical essays, in which you will comment on how certain of the literary works function. You will also be guided through a series of exercises designed to let you use the library more profitably, especially with regard to finding what others have said about the literary works studied. These two series will—then
coalesce in the writing of an essay which is both critical and research-
based, in which you will present your own ideas with the assistance of
ideas from other commentators.

Go on library time! (five times)

III. Requirements

You will be expected to read about 600 pages in the Norton Anthology
and all the other texts listed below; in addition you will read whatever
critical and scholarly writing is necessary for your final essay. You
will complete the series of brief essays and library exercises mentioned
above, along with the final essay; you will also write a mid-term test
in each term, a take-home test in December, and a two-hour examination
at the end of the winter term, at a time in the examination period sched-
uled by the registrar. Participation in classroom discussion will be
encouraged but not required. They will not be put up. unprepared may be

The final grade in the course will reflect these requirements in
this manner: 20% of that grade will derive from the series of brief
critical essays, 10% from the series of library exercises, 10% from
each mid-term test (total of 20%), 20% from the final essay, and 15%
from each of the December take-home test and the two-hour final exami-
nation (total of 30%). Classroom participation can then modify the final
grade by a part-grade (e.g., C-plus to B-minus, C-plus to mid-C).

IV. Texts

1. The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Major Authors Edition,
   3rd edition.

2. Shakespeare, The Tempest, ed. Harebage (AHM)


5. Dickens, A Christmas Carol (Airmont)

6. Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest (Avon)

7. Hemingway, The Old Man and the Sea (Scribner)

8. Synge, The Playboy of the Western World & Riders to the Sea, ed.
   Hunt (AHM)

9. Gaiman, Grendel (Ballantine)

10. Thomas, Correct Form in Essay Writing (English Dept., Univ. of
    Waterloo)

Hold these six figures: a. scheme of argument b. themes
c. apparent order of topics
Length: 5 pages

- [Signature]
V. Order of topics

A. Fall term

1. Introduction (Sept. 10)
2. Beowulf, as epic (Norton Anthology, pp. 1-9, 18-79) (Sept. 12, 14, 17)
3. First brief essay due Sept. 17
4. Introduction to library exercises, Sept. 19
5. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, as romance (NA, pp. 218-72) (Sept. 19, 21, 24)
6. First library exercise due Sept. 24
7. Second brief essay assigned Oct. 1 (due Oct. 10)
8. Chaucer, General Prologue (NA, pp. 9-17, 80-109) (Sept. 26, 28, Oct. 1, 3, 5)
10. Chaucer, The Nun's Priest's Tale, as beast fable (NA, pp. 194-209) (Oct. 10)
11. Second brief essay due Oct. 10
14. Discussion of sample test question, Oct. 22
15. Mid-term test, Oct. 24
16. Sonnets (in NA):
   a. Milton: "How Soon Hath Time" (p. 658), "When I Consider" (p. 660), "Methought I Saw" (p. 661) (Oct. 26)
   b. Shakespeare: Nos. 12, 30, 71, 73, 116, 129, 130 (pp. 478-86) (Oct. 26, 29)
17. Third library exercise assigned Oct. 31 (due Nov. 7)
18. Shakespeare, King Lear, as high tragedy (NA, pp. 490-574) (Oct. 31, Nov. 2, 5, 7)
19. Third library exercise due Nov. 7
20. Third brief essay assigned Nov. 9 (due Nov. 23)
21. Shakespeare, The Tempest, as romantic comedy (Nov. 9, 12, 14)
22. Donne, metaphysical poems (NA, pp. 576-616) (Nov. 16, 19, 21)
23. Third brief essay due Nov. 23
24. Jonson, The Alchemist, as humour comedy (Nov. 23, 26)
25. Milton, Samson Agonistes, as closet drama on an heroic plane (NA, pp. 796-839) (Nov. 28, 30, Dec. 3)
26. Take-home test assigned Dec. 3
27. Take-home test due Dec. 17 (and accepted earlier)

B. Winter term

1. Fourth library exercise, in bibliography, assigned Jan. 2 (due Jan. 11)
2. Pope, Rape of the Lock, as mock-epic (NA, pp. 840-55, 1120-26, 1139-58) (Jan. 2, 4, 7, 9)
3. Fourth library exercise due Jan. 11
4. Sterne, A Sentimental Journey, as fiction and sentiment (Jan. 11, 14)
5. Fourth brief essay, evaluating a critical article, assigned Jan. 16, 18 (due Jan. 28)
7. Shelley, Adonais, as elegy (NA, pp. 1788-1803) (Jan. 25)
9. Fourth brief essay due Jan. 28
10. Essay topics distributed Feb. 4 (outline due Feb. 25, essay due Mar. 12) and lecture on organizing essays, Feb. 4-6
   [Arts study week]

13. Essay outline due Feb. 25

14. Mid-term test, Feb. 25

15. Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, as manners comedy (Feb. 27)

   (Feb. 29, Mar. 3, 5, 7, 10)

17. Essay due Mar. 12


19. Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World*, as satiric comedy  
   (Mar. 14, 17, 19)

20. Synge, *Riders to the Sea*, as proletarian tragedy (Mar. 21)


22. Winter-term examination (2 hours), to be scheduled by the registrar.