Course Description: This course provides a big-picture outline of the development of literary writing in the British Isles from the Middle Ages to the 18th century.

Course Objectives: Students will learn the primary genres and forms of this 700-year span and gain some technical vocabulary to describe them and historical context to understand them.

Required Textbook: The Norton Anthology of British Literature, volume 1 (packaged as three smaller volumes), 9th edition

I do not object to students using other editions, but pagination throughout is provided for this edition only.

Assignments and Grading

Midterm test, 1 hour 20%
Final test, 1 hour 20%
Writing assignment 1: Formal Imitation 25%
Writing assignment 2: Short Essay 25%
In-class participation 10%

Breakdown of the Assignments

The tests will be one hour each, during class. They will be based on contextualizing passages, explaining ways in which they reveal themselves to be of their period. The midterm test will cover everything up to that point; the final test everything from the midterm to the end. Tests cannot be rescheduled without a doctor’s note.

The Formal Imitation assignment is due by the final class, though it may be submitted earlier. It will consist of an original piece of creative work by the student in a recognizable genre from the period, in poetry or prose, and a methodological commentary on the process of writing it. The creative piece may be any length; the commentary must be between three and five pages.

The Short Essay assignment is a formal essay of 1500 words (give or take 10% or 150 words). It must pose and then answer a single question on a single text from the Norton anthology. The question must be expressed as a single sentence at the top of the first
Students must devise their own questions. The question is worth 15% of the grade; the essay the rest.

**Participation** entails consistent attendance, doing the readings in advance, and contributing to discussion.

**Late Policy**

Anything submitted late is subject to an automatic 10% penalty (a letter grade). If it is more than a week late (i.e., seven days, including weekends) it will be given a grade of zero.

**Schedule of Classes**

Monday Sept 14: introduction to the British canon, course overview
Wednesday Sept 16: Anglo-Saxon literature, Caedmon’s Hymn pp 29-32

Monday Sept 21: Anglo-Norman literature, Marie de France’s *Milun* pp 142-154
Wednesday Sept 23: *Milun*

Monday Sept 28: Middle English literature, Geoffrey Chaucer’s *Miller’s Tale* pp 264-280
Wednesday Sept 30: *Miller’s Tale*

Monday Oct 5: *Miller’s Tale*
Wednesday Oct 7: Religion and vision, Julian of Norwich, from *A Book of Showings* pp 416-417

Monday Oct 12 THANKSGIVING
Wednesday Oct 14: The Renaissance Man: Sir Thomas Wyatt’s lyrics pp 648-654

Monday Oct 19: The Reformation; the translations of the Bible pp 673-676
Wednesday Oct 21: MIDTERM TEST

Monday Oct 26: Why Sonnets Are Important, Actually: Sidney pp 1084-1087; Shakespeare 1171-1173 and 1184-1185
Wednesday Oct 28: Why Is This Poem So Long?: Edmund Spenser’s *Faerie Queene* Book 1, Canto 1 pp 775-795

Monday Nov 2: *Faerie Queene*
Wednesday Nov 4: *Faerie Queene*

Monday Nov 9: The English Civil Wars; John Milton *Paradise Lost*, Book 1 pp 1943-1964
Wednesday Nov 11: *Paradise Lost* SHORT ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE
Monday Nov 16: Now This Poem Seems Very Short: John Donne and Metaphysical Poetry pp 1373-1380 and 1411-1413
Wednesday Nov 18: Alexander Pope, from An Essay on Man pp 2713-2721

Monday Nov 23: The Diary: Samuel Pepys pp 2260-2265; Frances Burney pp 2993-2999 and 3005-3010
Wednesday Nov 25: The Public Sphere: Samuel Johnson 2852-2854 and 2923-2926 and 2929-2930

Wednesday Dec 2: FINAL TEST/ FORMAL IMITATION DUE BY THIS DATE

Academic Integrity

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4.

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

**Other sources of information for students:**
Academic Integrity website (Arts)
Academic Integrity Office (UWaterloo)

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

**Note for students with disabilities:** The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.