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. Focus will be on poetry, the prestige genre until the 18th century.

Required Textbook: The Norton Anthology of British Literature, volume 1 (packaged as three smaller volumes 1A, 1B and 1C), 10th edition

Please use this edition only. Do not rely on online sources. Bring the books to class every day. There will be a series of content-based quizzes on the scholarly material contained in the volumes.

Assignments and Grading

Midterm test, 1 hour 20%
Final test, 1 hour 20%
Series of 5 20-minute quizzes, dropping lowest mark (4 counted for grade): 25%
1500-word essay, MLA format 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 quizzes are designed to see if you are reading the textbook. They will ask specific questions about names, dates, terms and historical facts in the assigned readings (e.g., the introductions to each period, introductions to individual writers or works). They will also ask you to relate these facts to specific literary works on the syllabus.

The short essay assignment is an analytical essay of 1500 words (give or take 10% or 150 words) addressing one work on the syllabus. Questions will be posted on the LEARN site for the course one month in advance. They may be modified, subject to instructor
approval – but this must be at least one week before the deadline. They will not require secondary research beyond the textbook, but all sources consulted, *whether cited or not*, must appear in a bibliography at the end of the essay. MLA format must be observed throughout; correct formatting will be a graded element. Essays must contain a *word count*. A style sheet will be provided. First person is preferred. Essays must be submitted in *PDF format only* in the Dropbox on LEARN or submitted in hard copy in class.

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

**Lateness 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. Tests and quizzes cannot be rescheduled without a medical note.

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**Schedule of Classes**

**Week 1**

**Required Reading:**
“*The Middle Ages to ca. 1485*” (*NAEL* 1A: 3–28), esp. “Anglo-Saxon Literature” (pp. 6–11)

**Texts:**
- Cædmon’s *Hymn* (*NAEL* 1A: 30–33)
- *The Dream of the Rood* (*NAEL* 1A: 33–37)

Monday Sept 10: introduction to the British canon, course overview
Wednesday Sept 12: *Caedmon’s Hymn*

**Week 2**

**Required Reading:**
Intro. to Romance and to Marie de France (*NAEL* 1A: 158-60)

**Texts:**
- “Lanval” (*NAEL* 1A: 171–85)

Monday Sept 17: *The Dream of the Rood*; QUIZ 1: ANGLO-SAXON LITERATURE
Wednesday Sept 19: Marie de France, *Lanval*
Week 3

**Required Reading:**
“Geoffrey Chaucer” and intro to *Canterbury Tales* (*NAEL* 1A: 256–61) and intro to *The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale* (*NAEL* 1A: 328)

**Texts:**
- The Introduction, Prologue, Tale and Epilogue of *The Pardoner’s Tale* (*NAEL* 1A: 328-42)

Monday Sept 24: The Introduction and Prologue of *The Pardoner’s Tale*
Wednesday Sept 26: *The Pardoner’s Tale*

Week 4

Monday Oct 1: *The Pardoner’s Tale*
Wednesday Oct 3: The Epilogue; QUIZ 2: CHAUCER

Week 5

Monday Oct 10 THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS
Wednesday Oct 10: FALL STUDY BREAK – NO CLASS

This is a weird week. We will have our Wednesday class on FRIDAY OCT 12 instead. We will start our sonnet readings on Friday (beginning with Wyatt) and continue the following week. Here they are. Note that these are from VOLUME 1B; bring that book to class.

**Required Reading:**
- “The Sixteenth Century,” from the beginning to the end of the section subtitled “A Female Monarch in a Male World” (*NAEL* 1B: 3-14)
- “Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder,” (*NAEL* 1B: 118-20)
- “Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey” (*NAEL* 1B:133-4)

**Texts:**
- Wyatt: “The long love that in my thought doth harbor,” “Whoso list to hunt,” “I find no peace,” “My galley,” “Madam, withouten many words,” “They flee from me,” “My lute, awake!” (*NAEL* 1B: 120-5)
- Surrey: “Love, that doth reign and live within my thought,” “Alas! so all things now do hold their peace,” “So cruel prison how could betide” (*NAEL* 1B: 134-37)
Week 6

**Required Reading:**
- “Sir Philip Sidney” (*NAEL 1B: 539-41*)
- “William Shakespeare” (*NAEL 1B: 718-22*)

**Texts:**
- Sidney, from *Astrophil and Stella*: #1, #6, #7, #9, #41, #45, #69 (*NAEL 1B: 586-97*)
- Shakespeare: #1, #15, #18, #20, #55, #129, #130, #138, #144 (*NAEL 1B: 723-37*)

Monday Oct 15: Surrey  
Wednesday Oct 17: Sidney

Week 7

Monday Oct 22: Sidney  
Wednesday Oct 24: Shakespeare

Week 8

Monday Oct 29: Shakespeare; QUIZ 3: THE SONNET  
Wednesday Oct 31: MIDTERM TEST (1 HOUR)

Week 9

**Required Readings:**
- “The Reformation” (*NAEL 1B: 9-13*)  
- “The English Bible” (*NAEL 1B: 143-48*)

**Texts:**
- John Calvin, from *The Institution of Christian Religion* (*NAEL 1B: 153*)  
- Mary Sidney, *Psalms* (*NAEL 1B: 605-6*)  
- Mary Wroth, “In this strange labyrinth whither shall I turn” (*NAEL 1B: 1120*)  
- Ben Jonson, “A Sonnet, to the Noble Lady, the Lady Mary Wroth” (*NAEL: 1B:1100*) and “To Penshurst” (*NAEL 1B: 1096-7*)

Monday Nov 5: Calvin, Mary Sidney: QUIZ 4: THE REFORMATION  
Wednesday Nov 7: Wroth, Jonson
Week 10

**Required Reading:**
- “The Early Seventeenth Century 1603–1660” (*NAEL* 1B: 891-918)
- “John Donne” (*NAEL* 1B: 920-23)

**Texts:**

Monday Nov 12: Donne
Wednesday Nov 14: Donne; SHORT ESSAY DUE

Week 11

**Required Reading:**
- Introductions to George Herbert (*NAEL* 1B: 1255-57), Robert Herrick (*NAEL* 1B: 1306-7), Andrew Marvell (*NAEL* 1B: 1399-41)

**Texts:**

Monday Nov 19: Herbert, Herrick
Wednesday Nov 21: Marvell: QUIZ 5: METAPHYSICAL POETRY

Week 12

**Required Readings:**
- “John Milton” (*NAEL* 1B: 1447-51)
- “Introduction to the Restoration and the 18th Century” (*NAEL* 1C; 3-32)
- “Joseph Addison and Sir Richard Steele” (*NAEL* 1C: 460-62)
- “Samuel Johnson” (*NAEL* 1C; 711-13)

Note that we finally (!) begin volume 1C this week. Bring that text to class.

**Texts:**
- Addison and Steele, *The Spectator*, 2, 10, 65 (*NAEL* 1C: 462, 465, 471)
Monday Nov 26: Milton, *Il Penseroso*
Wednesday 28: *The Spectator* and *The Rambler*

**Week 13**

Monday Dec 3: FINAL TEST (1 hour)

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**Policy and Information**

**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.
Writing and Communication Centre
The Writing and Communication Centre (WCC) works with students as they develop their ideas, draft, and revise. Writing and communication specialists offer one-on-one support in planning assignments, synthesizing and citing research, organizing papers and reports, designing presentations and e-portfolios, and revising for clarity and coherence.

You can make multiple appointments throughout the term, or you can drop in at the Library for quick questions or feedback. To book a 25- or 50-minute appointment and to see drop-in hours, visit uwaterloo.ca/wcc. Group appointments for team-based projects, presentations, and papers are also available.

Please note that communication specialists guide you to see your work as readers would. They can teach you revising skills and strategies, but will not change or correct your work for you.