ENGLISH 200A
Survey of British Literature: I

Fall 1984
Section 03
MWF 11:30 a.m.; HH 227
T 3:30 p.m.; EL 103
Office Hours: MTW 12:30-1:30; F 12:30-1:00; or by appointment

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Course Description

An historical survey of major figures, types, and trends in British literature from the Middle Ages to the late eighteenth century.

Required Texts


Recommended Texts

W.K. Thomas. Correct Form in Essay Writing.
Any good college dictionary.

Course Requirements

Two essays of seven or eight double-spaced typewritten pages (or the equivalent in handwriting), to be assigned. These essays (totalling about 15 or 16 pages) will account for approximately 40% of the final grade. (Other details will be provided later.) You are asked to read carefully the leaflet "Plagiarism: What It Is and How to Avoid It."

One three-hour final examination: The final examination will account for approximately 40% of the final grade. (Other details will be provided later.)

Term tests and/or class participation, which will account for the remaining percentage of the final grade. (Other details will be provided later.)

Assignments

Assignments listed below, with the exception of Volpone, are in the Norton Anthology.

Please note: The Norton Anthology provides an Introduction for each author which should be read at the time the author's works are studied.

One Meeting: Introduction to the course

Three meetings: Beowulf

1. Beowulf (to p. 47)
2. Beowulf (to p. 63)
3. Beowulf (concluded)
Five meetings: Chaucer

1. General Prologue to Canterbury Tales (begun)
2. General Prologue to Canterbury Tales (continued)
3. General Prologue to Canterbury Tales (concluded)
4. Wife of Bath's Prologue
5. Wife of Bath's Tale

Four meetings: Spenser

1. Faerie Queene: "A Letter of the Authors";
   - Cantos I and II
2. Faerie Queene: Cantos III and IV (Omit Canto V.)
3. Faerie Queene: Cantos VI, VII, and VIII
4. Faerie Queene: Cantos IX, XI, and XII (Omit Canto X.)

Four meetings: Shakespeare (King Lear)

1-4. Please read King Lear in its entirety before we begin to study it.

One meeting: Test on Beowulf, Chaucer, Spenser, and Shakespeare

Four meetings: Jonson (Volpone)

1-4. Please read Volpone in its entirety before we begin to study it.

Five meetings: Milton

1. Paradise Lost, Book I
2. Paradise Lost, Book II
3. Paradise Lost, through Book VIII (p. 751)
4. Paradise Lost, through Book IX
5. Paradise Lost (concluded)

Four meetings: Swift

1. Gulliver's Travels, "Letter from Captain Gulliver ..."; "The Publisher to the Reader"; Part I (begun)
2. Gulliver's Travels, Part I
3. Gulliver's Travels, Part II (Omit pp. 1042-52.)
4. Gulliver's Travels, p. 1052 to the end

Three meetings: Pope

1. "Rape of the Lock," Canto I
2. "Rape of the Lock," Cantos II and III
3. "Rape of the Lock," Cantos IV and V