ENGLISH 200A(C5)
Survey of British Literature I
Syllabus

Fall 1989

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A. Texts
Abrams, et al., The Norton Anthology of English Literature
(5th ed.); Major Authors (Norton); Fielding, Joseph Andrews (Riverside)

B. Purpose of the Course
Together, English 200A and 200B are intended to give that
overview of English literature from the Middle Ages to the
present which is an essential aspect of every English
student's undergraduate education. The courses provide an
introduction to the major periods of English literature
through an examination of some of the most significant of
the writers, the trends and movements, and the ideas
involved. English 200A, the first half of the course, deals
with the earlier four of the major periods: the Middle Ages
(to 1485), the Sixteenth Century (1485-1603), the Early
Seventeenth Century (1603-1660), and the Restoration and
Eighteenth Century (1660-1798).

C. Requirements of the Course
Students are expected to study the assigned literary works
and editorial materials in advance and to be prepared to
participate in class discussion.

Written requirements include two essays (5 or 6 typed pages
each); a midterm examination covering the material from
Beowulf through Shakespeare; and a final examination
covering the material of the course as a whole. In the
calculation of the course grade, the following weights will
be assigned: essays, 20% each; midterm exam, 20%; final
exam, 40%.

D. Course Schedule
I. The Middle Ages: To 1485 (Sept. 11-29)

Period Introduction, pp. 1-18

Beowulf, pp. 19-72

Chaucer: Author Introduction, pp. 72-78; General
Prologue, pp. 79-100; The Wife of Bath's Prologue
and Tale, pp. 117-146; The Nun's Priest's Tale,
pp. 163-173
II. The Sixteenth Century: 1485-1603 (Oct. 2-16)

Period Introduction, pp. 239-259

Shakespeare: Author Introduction, pp. 484-485; Sonnets 18, 29, 30, 55, 71, 73, 87, 94, 116, 129, 130, 146, pp. 490-503; 1 Henry IV, pp. 503-574

III. The Early Seventeenth Century: 1603-1660 (Oct. 23-Nov. 10)

Period Introduction, pp. 575-583

Donne: Author Introduction, pp. 586-589; The Good-Morrow, p. 589; The Flea, pp. 597-598; The Blossom, pp. 604-605; Holy Sonnets 7, 9, 10, 14, pp. 615-617

Milton: Author Introduction, pp. 647-649; Paradise Lost, pp. 677-823

IV. The Restoration and Eighteenth Century: 1660-1798 (Nov. 13-Dec. 4)

Period Introduction, pp. 825-846

Swift: Author Introduction, pp. 890-893; Gulliver's Travels, pp. 915-1073

Pope: Author Introduction, pp. 1085-1090; The Rape of the Lock, pp. 1108-1128; Essay on Man, pp. 1130-1138

Fielding: Joseph Andrews

E. Schedule of Essays and Examinations

Oct. 20 - Midterm examination
Oct. 30 - Essay #1 due
Dec. 1 - Essay #2 due
December - Final examination

Note: Not all of the assigned works will be discussed in class. Times may vary somewhat from their indications on this syllabus.