English 200 A (04)

Survey of British Literature: I
Fall, 1991

Instructor: Brenda Cantar

Course Objectives: This course is an introduction to, and a survey of, British Literature in a chronological arrangement. More note, however, should be taken of the word, introduction, than survey since the selections chosen for this course represent only a fraction of what is already a highly selective anthology. This introduction and "survey" will consider not only the literature itself, but also genres, periods, authors, themes and motifs. It is therefore hoped, however vainly, that students will read the Norton Anthology beyond the selections assigned in order to gain a wider knowledge of the range of British Literature.

Other objectives are to heighten self-consciousness about the way we read, to reflect upon the meaning of the word, literature, and upon the idea of a canon of literature.

Required Texts


Shakespeare, William. King Lear (Signet Classics)

Holman, Hugh. A Handbook to Literature (latest edition)

Recommended

Thomas, W. K. Correct Form in Essay Writing, or any good handbook of essay writing that you might already own, since you are responsible for spelling, punctuation, documentation and format of essays.

Assignments and Grading:
There will be two essays (1500 wds/approx. 6 pgs. typed) and a final examination.

Essay 1: due October 11th ........................................... 25%
Essay 2: due November 22nd ................................. 25%
Class participation ........................................... 10%
Final examination ........................................... 40%

All essays must be submitted on time. If you are unable to meet a due date, you must be granted an extension by me, or provide a medical certificate to avoid penalty. Otherwise an automatic 5% will be deducted for late submissions, and a further 1% for each weekday they are late. No essays will be accepted more than two weeks late. Please read carefully the handout on plagiarism, what it is and how to avoid it.
Proposed Course Outline

Students are expected to read the general introductions to each period in the *Norton Anthology* and the works assigned before the lectures.

Sept 9  General organization, objectives etc.
Sept 11 Introduction to Old English period & *Beowulf*
Sept 13 *Beowulf*
Sept 16 Middle English Period--Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, "Prologue"
    
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Sept 18 *CT, "Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale"
Sept 20 "
Sept 23 Introduction to the Sixteenth-Century
Sept 25 Sonnets of Thomas Wyatt
Sept 27 Hoby translation of Castiglione, *The Courtier*, Book 4
Sept 30 From Sidney's *Defence*, "Astrophil and Stella" 1, 21
Oct 2 Spenser's "Amoretti" 34, 37, 67, 74
Oct 4 Marlowe "The Passionate Shepherd to his Love," Ralegh, "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd"

Oct 7 Epic Romance: Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*, Book III
Oct 9 
Oct 11 "
Oct 14 Thanksgiving
Oct 16 Drama: Marlowe, *Dr Faustus*
Oct 18 "
Oct 21 Shakespeare, *King Lear*
Oct 23 "
Oct 25 "
Oct 28 Shakespeare, Sonnets 18, 19, 55, 130, 144

Nov 1 Lady Mary Wroth, Aemelia Lanyer
Nov 4 Ben Jonson, "To Penshurst" "Inviting A Friend to Supper"
Nov 6 Herrick, "Delight in Disorder," "Upon Julia's Clothes"
Nov 8 Milton, "Lycidas"
Nov 11 *Paradise Lost*, I
Nov 13 *Paradise Lost*, IX
Nov 15 Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress," "The Garden"
Nov 18 Restoration and Eighteenth Century
Nov 20 Mary Astell, "Some Reflections on Marriage"
Nov 22 Dryden, "Mackflecknoe"
Nov 25 Swift, "A Modest Proposal"
Nov 27 Pope, "Rape of the Lock"
Nov 29 "
Dec 2 Johnson, *Rasselas*, Chapter 10
Dec 4 Gray "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"
Dec 6 Review, and Exam strategies.