ENGLISH 200A

SURVEY OF BRITISH LITERATURE I
(Section 05)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

English 200A is an introductory survey of British literature from the Middle Ages to the late eighteenth century. Although it is a required course for English majors, it is also suitable for non-majors or students majoring in other disciplines.

The course will focus on representative authors from the various literary periods: the Middle Ages (c. 1000-1485), the sixteenth century (1485-1603), the early seventeenth century (1603-1660), and the Restoration and eighteenth century (1660-1798).

For students wishing to continue their study of English literature, English 200B continues the survey through the Romantic period (1798-1832), the Victorian period (1832-1901), and into the twentieth century.

OBJECTIVES:

English 200A has five related objectives:

1) To give you practice and training in reading and interpreting individual pieces of literature with greater insight and in making comparisons among them.
2) To make you aware of the historical context of the works.
3) To make you aware of the different artistic forms of the literature.
4) To give you practice in critical analysis of individual works and comparative analysis of several works.
5) To help you write more effectively.

These objectives will be achieved by your own reading and studying of the primary texts, by reading the secondary historical and critical material included in the texts, and by writing essays and one examination.

TEXTS:

The following texts are required:
Daniel Defoe, Moll Flanders (Penguin).

The following text is recommended for students who have not taken English 109 and who have some difficulty with the technical aspects of writing, such as punctuation, grammar, documenting sources, and bibliography:

Some poems and short works on the course will be provided on handouts.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF READINGS:
(NOTE: Page references are to the Norton Anthology. We will spend approximately three lessons on works marked with an asterisk. On other works, we will spend one or two lessons.)


2. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (183-238).

5. *Shakespeare, Pericles*.
6. A selection of love poems:
   - Spenser, Sonnet 64 (417) and Sonnet 75 (419).
   - Shakespeare, Sonnet 60 (495) and Sonnet 130 (500).
   - Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" (handout).
   - Raleigh, "The Nymph's Reply" (handout).
   - Lovelace, "To Lucasta" (handout).
   - Donne, "The Good Morrow" (589) and "The Flea" (597).

7. A selection of religious poems:
   - Donne, Sonnet 14 (616) and "Hymn to God My God" (620).
   - Vaughan, "The Retreat" (handout).

8. *Milton, Selections from Paradise Lost*:
   - Book I, ll. 1-26 (pp. 680-81).
   - Book III, ll. 56-134 (pp. 727-28).
   - Book IV, ll. 393-535 (pp. 749-52).
   - Book IX, ll. 48-203, 385-1016 (pp. 778-81, 785-800).

9. Some seventeenth- and eighteenth-century prose selections:
   - From the Diary of Samuel Pepys (handout).
   - From the London Journal of James Boswell (handout).
   - Some Essays from The Tatler and The Spectator (handout).


11. *Defoe, Moll Flanders*.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS:
Two essays of six to eight double-spaced, typewritten pages, or the equivalent in handwriting (1500-2000 words). These two essays, taken together, will account for 60% of the final grade (i.e., 30% each).

One two-hour final exam will account for the remaining 40% of the final grade.

(You may also be asked to submit two short questions or comments on particular works [preferably some aspect of the work that you had trouble understanding or that you feel is worth discussing].)

Class participation and attendance will affect the final grade positively (up to 5%). There may be some deduction of marks (up to 5%) if your attendance is noticeably irregular or if you neglect to submit the questions or comments.

(NOTE ALSO: One number grade (1%) may be subtracted for each day a paper is late, unless an extension has been granted in advance. No paper will be accepted after the other students' papers have been returned to them.)