English 200 A

Fall Term 1995

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H.H. 325

Office Hours:
Tues./Thurs. 10:30-12:30
Wed. 9:00-10:30

English 200A is a survey of English literature from the Middle Ages through the Eighteenth Century. It is, of course, absurd to think that we can do anything like justice to nine centuries of literary history in three months. All that is possible is to look at a few texts and attempt to distinguish some of the characteristic ideas and methods of these diverse periods of British history.

Please read the assigned works in advance of the class session even if it seems that we will not get to them in that day's discussion. You should also anticipate the longer assignments--the plays and Gulliver's Travels, for example--by reading ahead.

All of the assignments are to be found in The Norton Anthology, Sixth Edition. Be sure to read the introductions to each section as well as the introductions to the individual works and authors.

Requirements:

Two essays:

Essay 1: Due October 17
A brief paper on one of sonnets 1, 54, or 67 from Spenser's Amoretti in the Norton Anthology. This essay should be approximately 2-3 pages in length (i.e. 800-900 words).

Essay 2: Due 21 November
The texts for this essay will be announced at beginning of term. On 9 November, you will be asked to submit a brief paragraph briefly outlining the topic you have selected and the something of the argument you will make in your paper.

Two examinations:

Mid-term examination of one hour on 2 November.
Final examination; the date to be set by the university.

Schedule of Readings:

September
12  Introduction: "The Middle Ages"; Caedmon (account from Bede and poem); Deor.


21.  Sir Gawain and the Green Knight


28.  Chaucer: The Miller and his Tale.
October
3. Lyrics: Cuckoo song; I sing of a Maiden.
   Ballads: Lord Randall; Barbara Allen; Three Ravens; Sir Patrick Spens.

5. Noah (Chester) Play
   Second Shepherd's Play

10. Everyman

12. Introduction to the Sixteenth Century; Marlowe: Dr. Faustus.

17. Sidney: Defense of Poetry
   Spenser: Amoretti, Sonnets 1, 34, 54, 75, 79.
   Shakespeare: Sonnets No. 18, 60, 73, 116, 130, 146.
   Marlowe: The Passionate Shepherd to his Love.
   Raleigh: The Nymphs Reply to the Shepherd.

   **Essay 1: Due**

19, 24. Shakespeare: 1 Henry IV

26, 31. Introduction to the Seventeenth Century;
   Donne: The Good-Morrow; The Sun Rising; The Flea; Valediction: Forbidding
   Mourning; The Ecstasy; The Relic; Holy Sonnets 5, 10, 14; 17; Good
   Friday, 1613. Riding Westwards; Hymn to God My God...; Meditation 17.

November

   **MID-TERM--November 2 (in class)**

7. Jonson: Volpone

9. Herbert, The Collar; Easter Wings; The Altar.
   Marvell, Ode to his Coy Mistress.

   **Paragraph outlining the topic for Essay 2 due.**


16. Introduction to the Restoration and Eighteenth Century; Dryden, Mac Flecknoe.
   Finch: On Myself; A Nocturnal Reverie.


   **ESSAY 2: Due**

23, 28. Swift: Gulliver's Travels (in Norton Anthology); A Modest Proposal.

30. Pope: Rape of the Lock.

December