ENGLISH 200A
SURVEY OF BRITISH LITERATURE I
(Section 04)

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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:

The following text is highly recommended:
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. Works marked with an asterisk will require more than one class.)

1. Anglo-Saxon lyrics:
   "Caedmon's Hymn" (17-18).
   "Three Riddles" (handout).
   "The Wanderer" (68-70).
   "A Woman's Message" (handout).

2. Selections from Beowulf:
   "The Hall Heorot Is Attacked by Grendel" (28-29)
   "The Fight with Grendel" (35-37).
   "Grendel's Mother's Attack" (43-46).
   "Beowulf Attacks Grendel's Mother" (46-48).

3. Some Middle English Lyrics:
   "Alison" (287-88).
   "I Have a Young Sister" (289).
   "Adam Lay Bound" (291).
   "Not Long Ago I Met a Clerk" (handout).
   "Brainy Teacher" (handout).
   "The Thrush and the Nightingale" (handout).

4. Chaucer, Selections from The Canterbury Tales:
   "General Prologue" (ll. 625-716); Description of the Summoner and the Pardoner (95-97).
   "The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale" (164-79).

5. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (202-254).


7. Sixteenth-Century Prose Selections:
   Raleigh, from The Discovery of the Large, Rich, and Beautiful Empire of Guiana (1028-30).
   Hariot, from A Brief and True Report of the Newfound Land of Virginia (1033-36).

8. Shakespeare, Pericles.

9. A selection of love poems:
   Sidney, Sonnet 9 (462).
   Spenser, Sonnet 64 (735); Sonnet 75 (737); Sonnet 79 (737-38).
   Shakespeare, Sonnet 60 (813); Sonnet 130 (820).
   Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" (767-68).
   Raleigh, "The Nymph's Reply" (1022-23).
   Donne, "The Good Morrow" (1082-83); "The Canonization" (1086-87); "The Flea" (1090-91).
   Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress" (1420-21).
   Lovelace, "To Lucasta" (1707)
   Anon., "Thule, the Period of Cosmography" (1040-41).
   Lady Mary Wroth, Sonnet 1 (1689); Sonnet 16 (1689-90).
10. A selection of religious poems:
   Donne, Sonnet 10 (1116); Sonnet 14 (1117): "Hymn to God My
   God" (1120).
   Herbert, "Easter Wings" (1372); "The Pilgrimage" (1381-82).
   Marvell, "Bermudas" (1416)
   Vaughan, "The Retreat" (1404-05).

*11. Milton, Selections from Paradise Lost:
   Book I, ll. 1-26 (pp. 1476-77).
   Book III, ll. 56-134 (pp. 1520-22).
   Book IV, ll. 393-535 (pp. 1541-44).
   Book V, ll. 1-94 (pp. 1549-51).
   Book IX, ll. 48-203, 385-1016 (pp. 1568-71, 1575-89).

12. Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-century Prose Selections:
   Bacon, "Of Superstition" (1263-64).
   Pepys, from his Diary (1846-50).
   Boswell, from the London Journal (handout).
   Mary Astell, from Some Reflections upon Marriage (1727-74).
   Addison and Steele, from The Spectator (handout).

    (2044-82).


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

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.)