English 200A: Survey of British Literature I

Time: MWF 11:30 A.M.
Place: EL 204
Office hours: HH 223, MWF 10:30-11:30; 2:30-4:00 or by appointment.
Phone: 888-4567, ext 3743
       Aaron & McArthur, The Little, Brown Compact Handbook

Purpose:
This course is an historical survey of major figures, types, and trends in British literature from the Middle Ages to the late 18th century.

Assignments:
Reading: an average of 10 pages per lecture.
Writing: Essay 1 Fri Oct 15 20 marks
          Mid-term Fri Oct 29 20
          Essay 2 Fri Nov 19 30
          Final Examination December 30
          Total 100

Lecture Schedule
Sept Mon 13 Introduction
       15 Bede & Caedmon's Hymn; The Wanderer; Beowulf (to p.37)
       17 The Canterbury Tales: General Prologue (81-100)
Mon 20 Julian of Norwich (292-297)
       22 More: Utopia (415-431)
       24 Spenser: Sonnets 1, 68, 75 (p. 734, 736, 737)
Mon 27 Shakespeare: Fear no More; Full Fathom Five (807)
       29 Sonnets 30, 55, 12
Oct  1 Marlowe: The Passionate Shepherd; Ralegh: The Nymph's Reply (767, 1022)
Mon  4 Hooker: Ecclesiastical Polity (1014-21)
       6 Donne, "Go and catch a falling star" (1083); A Valediction
          Forbidding Mourning (1093)
       8 Donne: Holy Sonnets 1,14 (p. 1116-17)
Mon 11 Thanksgiving Day
       13 Donne: The Language of God; On Falling Out of God's Hand
       15 Bacon: of Truth; Of Studies; The Advancement of Learning
Oct  Mon 27
       29
       30
Nov  2
Mon  5
    7
    9
Mon 12
    14
    16
Mon 19
    21
The Prudent Jailer
C.S. Lewis (Poems, 1964)

Always the old nostalgia? Yes.
We still remember times before
We had learned to wear the prison dress
Or steel rings rubbed our ankles sore.

Escapists? Yes. Looking at bars
And chains, we think of files; and then
Of black nights without moon or stars
And luck befriending hunted men.

Still when we hear the trains at night
We envy the free travellers, whirled
In how few moments past the sight
Of the blind wall that bounds our world.

Our Jailer (well he may) prefers
Our thoughts should keep a narrower range.
'The proper study of prisoners
Is prison,' he tells us. Is it strange?

And if old freedom in our glance
Betrays itself, he calls it names
'Dope'--'Wishful thinking'--or 'Romance',
Till tireless propaganda tames.