ENGLISH 200A (04)
SURVEY OF BRITISH LITERATURE I

AL 207

Instructor: Paul Kreller
Office: HH 258
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs.
12:30-2:00.

Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-10.

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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 six 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.
6) To give you some enjoyment reading (I hope!).

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:
William Shakespeare, Othello (Signet Classics).

The following text is recommended:
Jane E. Aaron and Murray McArthur, The Little, Brown Compact Handbook, First Canadian Edition (Addison-Wesley). [This text has very useful sections on punctuation, grammar, and sentence errors, as well as suggestions for writing essays and a summary of the MLA style. Please note: All royalties derived from the sale of this text will be donated to the Department of English scholarship fund.]

In addition, 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 about three classes.)

1. Anglo-Saxon lyrics:
   "Caedmon's Hymn" (17-18).
   "Three Riddles" (handout).
   "The Wanderer" (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).
   "Beowulf and the Dragon" (55-59).
   "Beowulf Attacks the Dragon" (59-63).
3. Some Middle English Lyrics:
   "Alison" (287-88).
   "The Wily Clerk" (handout).
   "I Have a Young Sister" (289).
   "Adam Lay Bound" (291).
4. Chaucer, Selections from The Canterbury Tales:
   "General Prologue" (lines 625-716): Description of the Summoner and the Pardoner (95-97).
   "The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale" (164-79).
8. A selection of love poems:
   Sidney, Sonnet 9 (462).
   Spenser, Sonnet 64 (735); Sonnet 75 (737).
   Shakespeare, Sonnet 18 (810); Sonnet 130 (820).
Lady Mary Wroth, Sonnet 1 (1689).
Donne, "The Flea" (1090-91); Elegy 19 (1101-03).
Herrick, "To the Virgins" (1361-62).
Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress" (1420-21).

9. A selection of religious poems:
   Donne, Sonnet 14 (1117); "Hymn to God My God" (1120).
   Herbert, "Easter Wings" (1372).
   Marvell, "Bermudas" (1416).

*10. Milton, Selections from Paradise Lost:
   Book I, lines 1-49 (pp. 1476-77).
   Book II, lines 629-898 (pp. 1509-15).
   Book III, lines 56-134 (pp. 1520-22).
   Book IV, lines 393-535 (pp. 1541-44).
   Book V, lines 1-94 (pp. 1549-51).
   Book IX, lines 412-1016 (pp. 1576-89).

12. Eighteenth-century Social Writings:
    Boswell, from the London Journal (handout).
    Addison and Steele, from The Spectator (handout).
    Lady Montagu, "Epistle from Mrs. Yonge" (2005-07).

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 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.

(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.)
Department of English
University of Waterloo
Professor J.S. North
September, 1998

English 200A
Survey of British Literature I

Time: MWF 11:30 A.M.
Place: ES 1 Rm 350

Office hours: HH 223, MWF 10:30-11:30,
T,R: 10:00-1200;2:00-4:00 or by appointment.
Phone: 885-1211, ext 3743

Texts: M.H. Abrams, The Norton Anthology of English Literature
       Aaron & McAthur, The Little, Brown Compact Handbook [All
       royalties to the English Dept Scholarship Fund].

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 16  20 marks
         Mid-term Fri Oct 30  20
         Essay 2 Fri Nov 20  30
         Final Examination  30
         Total 100

Students ought to read the Calendar on Academic Discipline (p. 1:100).

Lecture Schedule

Sept Mon 14 Introduction
       16 Bede & Caedmon's Hymn; The Wanderer; Beowulf (to p.37)
       18 The Canterbury Tales: General Prologue (81-100)

Mon 21 Julian of Norwich (292-297)
       23 More: Utopia (415-431)
       25 Spenser: Sonnets 1, 68, 75 (p. 734, 736, 737)

Mon 28 Shakespeare: Fear no More; Full Fathom Five (807)
       30 Sonnets 30, 55, 129

Oct 2 Marlowe: The Passionate Shepherd; Ralegh: The Nymph's Reply
       (767, 1022)

Mon 5 Hooker: Ecclesiastical Polity (1014-21)
       7 Donne, "Go and catch a falling star" (1083); A Valediction
         Forbidding Mourning (1093)
       9 Donne: Holy Sonnets 1,14 (p. 1116-17)

Mon 12 Thanksgiving Day

Mon 17 Donne: The Language of God; On Falling Out of God's Hand
       16 Bacon: of Truth; Of Studies; The Advancement of Learning