

ENGL 325: BRITISH LITERATURE (MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE)

Professor: Shawn Smith
Office: Grainger B14
Office Hours: MW 2:30-4:00 (and by appointment---use e-mail below)
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Web Page: <http://www.longwoodshakespeare.net>
Class meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:15 in Grainger G18.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is a survey of English literature from its beginnings to the Renaissance. We will explore a number of important works and discuss the changes that took place in language and literature between the Anglo-Saxon period and the early modern period. We will also attend to the political, religious, social, intellectual, and cultural changes that took place in England during this period.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, eighth edition. Ed. Greenblatt and Abrams, et al.
- You should also have a good collegiate dictionary and a Bible.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

- A midterm and final exam, 25% each.
- Two papers (ca. 5 pages each), 20% each.
- Class preparation and participation, 10%.

POLICY MATTERS

Please arrive on time, and be prepared to listen, think, and contribute. Please turn off wireless phones, headphones, molecular phase inverters, sonic screwdrivers, and other electronic devices that might disrupt class. Please treat other students and your instructor in a civil and respectful manner.

The Longwood University attendance policy in the *Undergraduate Catalog* will be the attendance policy for this course. You will receive an F on work missed because of unexcused absences. Your grade will be lowered by one letter grade if you miss 10 percent of the scheduled class meeting times for unexcused absences. You will receive an F if you miss a total (excused and unexcused) of 25 percent of the scheduled class meeting times. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate (as well as announcements about syllabus changes or other matters). Exams can be made up only under the most grave circumstances, and with documentation from an MD or a Longwood University official. If you foresee a conflict, I expect you to discuss it with me beforehand. Written assignments handed in late will lose one letter grade for each class day late. Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of intellectual dishonesty will result in an F for the course and referral to the Longwood University Judicial system. For details on Longwood University's honor code and judicial system, direct your web browser to: <http://www.longwood.edu/judicial>. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability should contact me privately. If you have not already done so, please contact the Office for Disability Services (103 Graham Building, 395-2391) to register for services.

Note: the syllabus may be changed at any time if necessary. The online version of this syllabus is the most current one—please check it regularly for updates.

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CALENDAR

- 23 Aug.: Course introduction.
- 25 Aug.: *Beowulf* (to line 1650).
- 30 Aug.: *Beowulf*, continued.
- 1 Sept.: *Gawain and the Green Knight* (to line 1318).
- 6 Sept.: *Gawain and the Green Knight*, continued.
- 8 Sept.: Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, General Prologue.
- 13 Sept.: Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, The Miller's Prologue and Tale.
- 15 Sept.: Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale.
- 20 Sept.: Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, Pardoner's Prologue and Tale.
- 22 Sept.: The Wakefield *Second Shepherds' Play*.
- 27 Sept.: *Everyman*.
- 29 Sept.: **First essay due.**
- 4 Oct.: More, *Utopia*, Book 1.
- 6 Oct.: More, *Utopia*, Book 2.
- 13 Oct.: Chaucer, "Troilus's Song" (Norton 316-317); *Canzoniere* 132 (handout); Wyatt, "The long love that in my thought doth harbor" and "Whoso list to hunt," as well as the accompanying poems by Petrarch in the Norton; Henry Howard, earl of Surrey, "Love, that doth reign and live within my thought."
- 18 Oct.: Wyatt, "What vailleth truth?," "They flee from me" (first version), "My lute, awake!," "Mine own John Pains."
- 20 Oct.: **Midterm exam.**
- 25 Oct.: Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book 1, cantos 1-6
- 27 Oct.: Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book 1, cantos 7-12.
- 1 Nov.: Spenser, *Epithalamion*; *Astrophil and Stella* 1-9
- 3 Nov.: Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*.
- 8 Nov.: Donne, "The Flea," "The Good-Morrow," "The Sun Rising," "The Canonization," "Elegy 19: To His Mistress Going to Bed," "Holy Sonnets."
- 10 Nov.: Herbert, "The Altar," "Redemption," "Easter Wings," "Prayer (I)," "Church Monuments," "The Pilgrimage," "The Collar," "Love (3)."
- 15 Nov.: Herrick, "To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time," "Upon the Nipples of Julia's Breast"; Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress."
- 17 Nov.: Milton, *Paradise Lost* 1.
- 22 Nov.: Milton, *Paradise Lost* 2.
- 29 Nov.: Milton, *Paradise Lost* 9.
- 1 Dec.: Milton, *Paradise Lost* 10, 12 (lines 606-649). **Final paper due.**

FINAL EXAM:

7 December (Wednesday) from 11:30-2:00