

English 211
English Literature I (Beowulf to Pre-Romantics)
Fall 2023

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Office hours: Mondays 1:30-3; Wednesdays 1-2; Thursdays 2:30-3:30
 – in CCC 433, with Zoom option available on request
 Other times available by appointment

Texts

Rental: *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, tenth edition, volumes A, B, C

Optional purchase: *The Canterbury Tales*, trans. Beidler, Heatt, & Heatt, ISBN 9-780-553-21082-8 (\$5.99 new, \$4.49 used in the bookstore)

Description and Goals

English 211 surveys the literature of England from its beginnings to the eighteenth century. As a Humanities course in the General Education Program, it strives “to help students understand and critically engage a variety of worldviews and the ideas that give them meaning.” By the time you complete this course, you should be able to

- Read closely, think critically, and write effectively about texts that reflect on perennial questions concerning the human condition; and
- Investigate and thoughtfully respond to a variety of ideas, beliefs or values held by persons in situations other than your own.

This course is also intended to help English majors and minors develop broad knowledge of British literature and strong skills in literary analysis. By the time you complete this course, you should be able to

- analyze and interpret British literature from the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Restoration to demonstrate a comprehension of literary themes, of the conventions and language of literature, and of key concepts about British culture.

Assignments and Grading

Although some course content will be presented as lecture, the active involvement of students is important and much of our time will be spent in discussion. Plan to do a reading assignment for each class meeting, attend class regularly and participate to the best of your ability, complete a number of writing assignments, and take two exams.

Reading/preparation for class: In order to benefit from what we do in class, it’s important to do the reading before class and to do it thoughtfully. See p. 5 for some guidelines for effective preparation and review.

Attendance and participation: Regular attendance and meaningful engagement during class is expected. Collectively, your attendance, preparation, and participation will contribute **10%** of your course grade. This rubric will guide the determination of your grade:

A:

- Attends class, prepared, and engages in class activities (attentive, mentally engaged even if not speaking), at least 95% of the time.
- Treats other students and classroom community with respect.
- Contributions to discussions show careful listening, thoughtfulness, or effort to connect to others' ideas. May make an extra effort to contribute or to hold back occasionally to make space for others, or encourage other students to contribute.

B:

- Attends class, prepared, and engages in class activities (attentive, mentally engaged even if not speaking), at least 90% of the time.
- Treats other students and classroom community with respect.

C:

Attends class, prepared, and engages in class activities (attentive, mentally engaged even if not speaking), at least 75% of the time.

D:

Attends class, prepared, and engages in class activities (attentive, mentally engaged even if not speaking), at least 60% of the time.

Note: Expectations for attendance can be "fudged" to reflect valid reasons for absence. Examples of valid reasons include illness that makes meaningful participation impossible, unsafe, or disruptive; family or personal emergencies; field experiences for other classes; and travel for athletic competition. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor to have these circumstances taken into account.

Written Exercises: You will have five short writing assignments meant to provide practice and feedback for your critical thinking and close reading skills. These are each worth 5% of the course grade, for **25%** total.

Paper: Toward the end of the semester, you will write a paper, which will contribute **25%** of the course grade.

Exams: There will be a midterm exam and a final, each covering about one-half of the course material and contributing 20% of the course grade (for **40%** total).

Grading criteria for the written assignments will be included with each assignment, and details about the format of the exams will be provided in advance of each exam.

How I calculate grades: Letter grades are converted to points, and points back to a letter grade for the course, using the following scale: D, 60-66.99%; D+, 67-69.99%; C- 70-72.99%; C, 73-76.99%; C+, 77-79.99%; B-, 80-82.99%; B, 83-86.99%, B+, 87-89.99%, A-, 90-92.99%, A, 93-100%. An assignment not turned in or test essay not attempted is a 0, but an F paper/essay will earn points in the F range.

Policies

Attendance: You should plan to attend class regularly. Absences and late arrivals will impact your grade directly through the Attendance/Participation/Preparation part of your grade, and will likely have a negative effect on your performance on assignments. If you are ever absent, let me know the reason, if it is something that you want me to take into account in grading. If you are absent for any reason, it's a good idea to check Canvas for any handouts or powerpoints you missed and to ask a classmate to share their notes—but these are the next-best-thing, not a substitute for coming to class.

Late work: I accept late papers, but will lower the grade at the rate of one letter grade per week. This penalty may be waived if circumstances warrant. Other writing assignments can be turned in up to one week late for partial credit. If legitimate problems interfere with getting your work in on time, talk with me about them, the earlier the better. A make-up test will be permitted only under unavoidable circumstances.

Academic honesty: It's normal and expected that the ideas in your papers will be influenced by our class discussions, but they should also demonstrate your own thinking and analytic skill through your support and explanation of the interpretation that you adopt. It's also appropriate to make use of the editors' introduction or similar resources, though none of the paper assignments will require any research. Any ideas drawn from such sources should be acknowledged, and should assist you in developing your own interpretation, not substitute for it. Unacknowledged or inappropriate use of sources is unacceptable, as is any form of cheating on a test or any other academic dishonesty. Such behavior will be handled in accordance with the University policy on Academic Misconduct. If you are ever unsure about whether or how to use sources or help appropriately, please ask. (Information about the Academic Misconduct policy is available at <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/AcademicIntegrityBrochure.pdf>.)

Classroom Etiquette:

- Tablets and other devices can be used for taking or referring to notes, if you can resist their temptations. However,
 - Students may not make audio, video, or photographic recordings of lectures or other class activities without written permission from the instructor. Anyone violating this policy will be asked to turn off the device being used. Refusal to comply with the policy will result in the student being asked to leave the classroom, and possibly being reported to the Dean of Students. (English Department Policy)
- Diverse perspectives are an asset to class discussions. Please treat those whose ideas or experiences are different from yours with the same respect you want for yourself.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have a condition requiring accommodations for this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center. Call 715 346-3365 or email DRC@uwsp.edu to make an appointment or get more information, or visit them in Room 108 of the Collins Classroom Center. Visit their website at <https://www.uwsp.edu/disability-resource-center/>

Assessment: UWSP regularly assesses the General Education Program to ensure that we are providing you with the best education we can. As part of this effort, samples of student work may be shared, anonymously, with a small group of faculty members. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about how your work may be used in the assessment process.

Navigate student app: For those of you looking to connect with other students in the course for study groups, the Navigate student app has a feature called Study Buddies. Here, you can find a list of other students who have indicated they are interested in forming a study group. If you are the first, you will be sent notifications when other students join. You can select who you want to connect with and can leave the group at any time. For students who have already downloaded the Navigate smart phone app, choose the Study Buddies icon, and a full list of your courses will appear. Each section shows how many buddies are in the group. The free Navigate app is available to download from any mobile operating system. For students without a smart device, a desktop version of the app is available here: <https://uwsp.navigate.eab.com/app>

The **Tutoring-Learning Center** is located in Room 234 of the Collins Classroom Center. They provide a variety of services to support your learning. The Writing Center consultants are successful UWSP students who can discuss any type of writing at any stage of the drafting process, including brainstorming, outlining, and research or citations. They work with experienced writers as well as struggling writers; we believe that everyone benefits from discussions about their writing. In addition to the Writing Center, the TLC provides help with study skills, time management, and technology.

If you have questions or would like to make an appointment, please contact the TLC via email (tlctutor@uwsp.edu) or phone (715-346-3568). You can also schedule appointments through the Navigate app. Visit the TLC website for more information: <https://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/default.aspx>

Email: Your UWSP email account is the university's standard method of communication with you, and you should check it regularly. I may at times use email to contact the class or individual students; I will routinely use Canvas for reminders and announcements.

Tips for Preparation and Review

I don't expect you to come to class every day with a brilliant analysis of the reading already. What I do expect is that you will do what you can with the reading before class so that you are ready to get the most you can out of what we do in class.

Read actively. Just casting your eyes over the words isn't very useful, if you don't get anything out of the reading. It's better to do only part of the reading and really wrestle with it than to "read" everything and have nothing to show for it. (But do try to get through all of it!) Note: I do not assign the period introductions or introductions to specific authors and works, but you may find these useful or interesting to read, either before or after you read the primary works. I will point out those that I think are particularly likely to be useful.

Pause occasionally in your reading to check in with yourself. What's making sense to you and what's not? Where there are difficulties, try to identify what is causing you problems, and see if you can figure out a way to resolve these. If not, these can be useful to bring up in class. Where you are finding the going easier (or after you have resolved difficulties), start to take the next step: Identifying things about the text that interest you, that puzzle you (beyond basic comprehension), or that you can connect to other reading we have done, concepts we have used in class, etc.

Take notes as you read, or soon after, to record your grasp of basics (who are the characters? What are the important plot points? etc.) and your observations and questions.

Use posted resources. In Canvas I will post suggestions for things to think about in the reading and links to online resources, where I have them, which can help with basic comprehension, suggest other things to think about, or give more information about topics you may find worthy of further investigation.

Take notes during and/or after class, to record clarifications, new questions, insights, etc. that you hear (or think of) during class. What questions did we ask and what evidence did we look at to develop and support answers? What additional thoughts do you have? What other questions might be asked?

If helpful, take online quizzes to review basic comprehension, background material, terminology, etc. These are available in Canvas and are optional. Though they do not directly affect your course grade, I recommend taking each quiz soon after we discuss the material. This helps you and me both get a better sense of what points are well understood and which might need revisiting.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class and posted in Canvas.

	The Anglo-Saxon Period
Sept. 7	Bede and Cædmon's Hymn (<u>Volume A</u> , pages 30-33)
Sept. 12	"Dream of the Rood" (pages 33-37) Begin <i>Beowulf</i> (pages 42-59, to line 835)
Sept. 14	<i>Beowulf</i> to line 2509 (pages 59-96)
Sept. 19	<i>Beowulf</i> to end (pages 97-109) <i>Judith</i> (pages 110-118)
	The Later Middle Ages
Sept. 21	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , through line 690 (pages 204-218) Written Exercise 1 due
Sept. 26	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> to end (pages 218-256)
Sept. 28	Chaucer, <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , selections from "The General Prologue": Read lines 1-271 and 447-860. (Norton Anthology, pages 261-81; Beidler/Hieatt <i>CT</i> , pages 14-61). "The Miller's Tale" (Norton pages 282-98; Beidler/Hieatt <i>CT</i> , pages 202-243) Written Exercise 2 due
Oct. 3	Selections from "The Wife of Bath's Prologue": Norton Anthology pages 300-319: read at least lines 1-29, 199-240, 385-642, 717-862 Beidler/Hieatt pages 290-337: read at least lines 1-29, 193-234, 379- 636, 711-856 (See Canvas for a summary of what you're missing.)
Oct. 5	"The Wife of Bath's Tale" (Norton pages 319-328, Beidler/Hieatt pages 336- 359)

The Renaissance	
Oct. 10	Marlowe, <i>Dr. Faustus</i> , through scene 6 (pages 680-700) Written Exercise 3 due
Oct. 12	<i>Dr. Faustus</i> to end (pages 700-715)
Oct. 17	Wyatt: "The Long Love," "Whoso List to Hunt," "My Galley" (120-121, 123) Surrey: "The Soote Season" and "Love that Doth Reign" (134-35)
Oct. 19	Sidney, <i>Astrophil and Stella</i> (586-98), #s 1, 9, 49, 71 Spenser, <i>Amoretti</i> (487-90), #s 34, 64, 67, 68 Shakespeare, Sonnets (723-36), #s 1, 18, 29, 130 Wroth, <i>Pamphilia to Amphilanthus</i> (1116-1119), #s 1, 68
Oct. 24	Midterm exam
Oct. 26	Shakespeare, <i>Twelfth Night</i> , through Act 2, scene 3 (pages 741-62)
Oct. 31	TN Act 2, scene 4, through Act 3 (pages 762-787)
Nov. 2	TN Acts 4 and 5 (pages 787-802) Written Exercise 4 due
Nov. 7	Jonson: "On Lucy, Countess of Bedford" (1092-93) Donne: "The Flea" (923), "Song" (924-25), "The Sun Rising" (926), "The Canonization" (927-28), "Holy Sonnet #14" (963-64)
Nov. 9	Herbert, "Redemption" and "Easter Wings" (1258-59) Phillips, "On the Double Murder . . ." and "Friendship's Mystery" (1335-37) Herrick, "Corinna's Going a-Maying" (1310-12)
Nov. 14	Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> : Book 1, lines 1-330 and 587b-669, and Book 2, lines 1-42 and 299-485 (pages 1496-1503, 1510-11, 1515, and 1521-24) Written Exercise 5 due
Nov. 16	<i>Paradise Lost</i> : Book 3, lines 56-343, and Book 9, lines 179-411 (pages 1538-44 and 1647-52)

Nov. 21	<i>Paradise Lost</i> : Book 9, lines 412-1189 (pages 1652-68)
Nov. 23	Happy Thanksgiving!
Restoration & Eighteenth Century	
Nov. 28	Addison, "Aims of the <i>Spectator</i> " (<u>Volume C</u> , pages 465-67); Johnson, "Rambler #4" (723-26); Dryden, "Shakespeare and Ben Jonson Compared" (80-81), "Preface to Fables Ancient and Modern" (84-85); Locke, excerpt from <i>Two Treatises of Government</i> (962-65, just paragraphs #22, 123, 131); Astell, excerpt from "A Preface" (start bottom of 966-67)
Nov. 30	Swift, "A Modest Proposal" (454-60) Gay, <i>The Beggar's Opera</i> , through Act 1, scene 3 (659-662) Optional: Turn in draft of paper for feedback
Dec. 5	<i>Beggar's Opera</i> to end (662-703) (You may want to start the reading for Thursday—it's on the long side.)
Dec. 7	Swift, <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> , Part 1 (282-322)
Dec. 12	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i> , Part 4: read at least 407-441 Paper due
Dec. 14	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i> , Part 4 to end (441-454) Thompson, "The Seasons" (991-93) Gray, "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College" and "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" (994-1001) Smart, "Jubilate Agno" (1006-1008)
Dec. 21	Final exam (Thursday, 10:15-12:15)