Survey of English Literature I

This course has two main goals. First, it aims to provide a historical context for the study of literature by taking up a variety of important texts from the first thousand years of English literary history. As part of this survey, you will learn about many different authors, crucial historical events, and several literary forms that were prominent in the culture of medieval and early modern England. But English 260 seeks to develop the skills of literary analysis, too. While the course provides a broad historical survey, we also will pay close attention to specific works, examining their form as well as their content. So the second goal of the course is to extend your abilities as an attentive reader.

Required texts: The Norton Anthology of English Literature, vol. 1 (7th ed.)

Course requirements:

- 3 short papers (3-5 pp.) 20%
- Participation 15%
- Final exam 25%

Policies:

Absences: If you miss a class, you must write a 300-500 word response to the day’s reading. It will be due on the next day the class meets. At the bottom of the response, you must pledge either “My absence is excused because of personal illness, an official Rhodes extracurricular activity, or a family emergency” or “My absence is not excused.” If you turn in the response paper and your absence is excused, you will get full credit for attendance. If you turn in the response paper and your absence is unexcused, you will get only half credit for attendance. If you don’t write a make-up response at all, your participation grade will drop by one-third (5% of your course grade).

Tardiness: Repeatedly arriving late to class may harm your participation grade. Please come to class on time with your book. If you come to class without your book, I reserve the right to dismiss you, in which you will have to write a response to the reading for half-credit for attendance.

Late work: Late papers will lose one-third of the grade for each day they are late. That is, a B becomes a B-, and so forth.
Quizzes and short assignments: These may be factored into the participation grade, but will not make up for unexcused absences.

Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services as soon as possible.

Schedule of Readings:

Wed  8-28  Introductions.

Mon  9-2  No class (Labor Day).
Wed  9-4  Beowulf (29-60).
Fri  9-6  Beowulf (60-99).

Mon  9-9  Introduction to the Middle English period (9-20).
Fri  9-13  The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale ll. 1-862 (253-72)

Mon  9-16  The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale ll. 863-1270 (272-81)
Wed  9-18  The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale ll. 1-372 (281-89).
Fri  9-20  The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale ll. 373-680 (289-96).

Mon  9-23  Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, parts 1 and 2 (156-81)
Wed  9-25  Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, parts 3 and 4 (181-210)
Fri  9-27  Introduction to the sixteenth century (469-96).
    Utopia (503-23).

Wed  10-2  Sir Thomas Wyatt, intro (525-26); “Whoso list to hunt” (527); “They flee from me” (529-30); “Who list his wealth and ease retain” (534-35); “Mine own John Poins” (535-37). Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey (574-75). Castiglione on “Grace” (577-79).
Fri  10-4  Sir Philip Sidney, intro (909-11); Astrophil and Stella, intro (916-17); Sonnets 1, 2, 5, 15, 28, 45, 47, 53, 71, 72; “Fourth Song”; Sonnet 108.

Mon  10-7  Sidney, The Defense of Poesy (933-54).
Wed  10-9  Spenser and The Faerie Queene, intros (614-16, 622-27); FQ I.i (628-41)
Fri  10-11  FQ, Summary of Book II; FQ III.i and III.vi (783-800, 826-39), and read the summaries of III.ii-v.

Mon  10-14  FQ, Summaries of III.vii-x (839); III.xi-xii (840-63).
Wed 10-16 Christopher Marlowe, intro (970-71); **Doctor Faustus**, prologue-chorus 2 (990-1009).
Fri 10-18 **Doctor Faustus**, scene 7-epilogue (1009-23).

Mon 10-21 No class (Fall Recess).
Wed 10-23 Shakespeare, **Twelfth Night**, 1.1-2.3
Fri 10-25 **Twelfth Night**, 2.4-3.4

Mon 10-28 Twelfth Night, 4.1-5.1
Wed 10-30 Introduction to the seventeenth century (1209-30).
   John Donne, intro (1233-35); “The Flea” (1236); “The Good Morrow” (1236-37);
   “The Sun Rising” (1239); “The Canonization” (1240-41); (1247-48); “The Relic”
Fri 11-1 Donne, Holy Sonnets 5, 9, 14, 18, 19.
   George Herbert, intro (1595-96); “The Altar” (1597); “Affliction (1)” (1599-
   1601); “Jordan (1)” (1601-2); “Jordan (2)” (1605-06); “The Collar” (1609-10);
   “The Flower” (1610-12).

Mon 11-4 Queen Elizabeth, intro (593-94); “The doubt of future foes” (594); “On
   Monsieur’s Departure” (595).
   Mary Sidney Herbert, intro (957-58); Psalm 139 (961-64).
   Aemilia Lanyer, intro (1281-82); Salve Deus Rex Judæorum (1282-87).
   Mary Wroth (1422-32).
Wed 11-6 Ben Jonson, intro (1292-94); Epigrams (1393-99); “A Sonnet, to the
   Noble Lady, the Lady Mary Wroth” (1408); “To the Memory of … William
   Shakespeare …” (1414-16); “Ode to Himself” (1416-18).
   Robert Herrick, intro (1643-44); “The Argument of His Book” (1644-45);
   “Corinna’s Going A-Maying” (1648-49); “His Prayer to Ben Jonson” (1652).
Fri 11-8 Andrew Marvell, intro (1684-85); “To His Coy Mistress” (1691-92); “The
   Mower Against Gardens” (1694-95); “The Garden” (1698-1700); “An Horatian
   Ode” (1700-04).

Mon 11-11 John Milton, intro (1771-74); **Paradise Lost**, intro (1815-16); **Paradise
   Lost**, Book 1 (1817-36).
Fri 11-15 **Paradise Lost**, Books 4 and 8 (1874-95, 1948-61).

Wed 11-20 **Paradise Lost**, Book 12 (2030-44).
Fri 11-22 Introduction to the Restoration and the eighteenth century (2045-68).
   John Dryden, intro (2071-72); Absalom and Achitophel (2075-99); Mac Flecknoe
   (2099-2105).

Mon 11-25 William Congreve, intro (2215-17); **The Way of the World**, Acts 1-3
   (2217-54).
Wed 11-27 No class (Thanksgiving).
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>11-29</td>
<td>No class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>12-4</td>
<td>Jonathan Swift, intro (2298-99); “A Description” (2300-01); “A Modest Proposal” (2473-79).</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>12-6</td>
<td>Alexander Pope, intro (2505-08); The Rape of the Lock (2525-44).</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>12-9</td>
<td>Samuel Johnson, intro (2060-62); The Vanity of Human Wishes (2662-70); “On Pope and Dryden (2746-49). Essay 3 due.</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>12-11</td>
<td>Thomas Gray, intro (2825-26); “Ode on a Distant Prospect …” (2826-29); “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” (2830-33).</td>
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Final Exam: Date and time TBA.