

ENGLISH 288
ENGLISH LITERATURE

BULLETIN INFORMATION

ENGL 288 - English Literature (3 credit hours)

Course Description:

An introduction to English literary history, emphasizing the analysis of literary texts, the development of literary traditions over time, the emergence of new genres and forms, and the writing of successful essays about literature. Designed for English majors

Prerequisites: ENGL 101 and 102 or equivalent

SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW

This introduction to British literature extends from 1500 to 1700, beginning with Thomas More's fictive travelogue *Utopia* and concluding with Aphra Behn's new-world novel *Oroonoko*. Readings will concentrate on selected canonical texts from this 200 year period, supplemented by a sampling of modern critical essays. We'll proceed chronologically, looking at ways these well-known works spoke to the times and to each other—about questions of monarchy, religion, rebellion, revolution, and new world contact, for example—and we'll give some thought to larger questions about print technology, readership, and audiences. In a series of short, web-surfing assignments using the on-line archive EEBO (Early English Books On-Line), you'll also have the chance to explore some of the popular reading that doesn't make it into standard "English Lit" anthologies—cheap pamphlets on witchcraft and necromancy, cookbooks and travel guides, for example, and all sorts of "how-to" manuals.

ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of English 288, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the British authors taught, their formal, thematic, and social concerns, and their fit within their literary/historical periods.
2. Read and interpret British literature carefully and closely.
3. Define, compare, contrast, justify, and interrogate the major British literary movements or periods covered in class.
4. Engage in meaningful debate about the literary texts we have studied.
5. Demonstrate critical reading skills of literary conventions.
6. Demonstrate understanding of and apply an analytical vocabulary to literature.
7. Identify and differentiate among key features of literary texts (e.g., themes, genres, forms, styles, movements)
8. Write effective analytical essays interpreting literary texts.

SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS

1. The Norton Anthology of British Literature, 8th ed.

2. Richard III: A Norton Critical Edition
3. The Tempest: Pelican Shakespeare
4. Oroonoko
5. pdf files of materials on Blackboard (BB)

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAM

1. **Examinations:** The exams will involve identifications of passages from the readings and an essay. To do well on the exams, it is important that you keep up with the readings and attend all the classes. The exams will evaluate not only your familiarity with the texts, but also your ability to synthesize material from our discussions and to write clearly and critically. The final exam will *not* be cumulative.
2. **Papers:** This course requires two critical papers (4-5 pages, 1250-1500 words). Topics will be assigned in advance of each due date. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, and in MLA format.
3. **Quizzes:** You will have quizzes on the assigned readings given at the beginning of class.
4. **EEBO:** For these assignments, you'll select and browse an early printed book or pamphlet using the on-line archive of early English books, submitting a one paragraph description (200-250 words) of your book along with a photocopy of the title page.
5. **Abstracts:** A one page narrative summary (200-250 words, *not to exceed* one page, double-spaced) of each critical reading (Berger and Orgel) isolating the argument, key claims, and connecting logic of the piece. This is not a critique of the argument but rather a concise summation. Abstracts are due at the start of class.

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS

- Week 1:** Introduction: Course overview
 "The Sixteenth Century" and Timeline (*Norton* 485-513)
 More's *Utopia, Book 1* (*Norton* 518-545)
- Week 2:** *Utopia, Book 2* (*Norton* 545-590)
- Week 3:** *Utopia* (in-class film clip: More's execution from *The Tudors*)
 "Faith in Conflict" (*Norton* 616-641)
 Greenblatt, "The Word of God in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" (BB)
- Week 4:** Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*, scenes 1-6 (1002-03; 1022-42)
Doctor Faustus, finish play
- Week 5:** Sonnets: Sidney and Spenser
 *EEBO #1 due (books printed between 1500-1600)

Shakespeare, *Richard III*, act 1

Week 6: *Richard III*, acts 2-3
Richard III, act 4
*Berger, "Conscience and Complicity in *Richard III*" (abstract due) BB/Norton

Week 7: *Richard III*, act 5
More's *Richard III* (BB) and McKellen's *Richard III* (in-class film clips)
**paper #1 due (close reading of passage)

Week 8: Sonnets: Shakespeare
*Exam

Week 9: John Donne (*Norton* 1260-1275)
Jonson, "Masque of Blackness" (*Norton* 1324-1333)
"The Wider World" (*Norton* 927-35); "The Early Seventeenth Century
1603-1660" and Timeline (*Norton* 1235-1259)

Week 10: Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

Week 11: *The Tempest*
*Orgel, "Shakespeare and the Cannibals" (BB—abstract due)
Florio's Montaigne, "Of the Cannibals" (BB)
Virginia Reports—Amadas and Barlowe (1584); Hariot (1585) *Norton*
935-43

Week 12: *Paradise Lost*, Book 1
Paradise Lost, Book 2

Week 13: *Paradise Lost*, Book 4
EEBO #2 (books printed between 1600-1700)
Paradise Lost, Book 9

Week 14: Behn, *Oroonoko*

Week 15: Milton, *from Areopagitica* (*Norton* 1816-25)
Borges, "Utopia of a Tired Man" (BB)
**Paper #2 due

Final Exam according to university exam schedule