

## English 3309: English Literature from *Beowulf* to 1800

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**Course Description:** This course is a survey of English literature from the Anglo-Saxon period, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Students will become familiar with authors, literary forms, and representative works from each period.

### **Course Objectives:**

- Students will be able to identify the major authors and works of English literature from 900 to 1800.
- Students will learn the characteristics and study examples of these literary forms: epic, medieval romance, Renaissance drama, sonnet, novel, satire, biography, life writing.
- Students will conduct online and library research to further their understanding of literary works studied in class.

**Assignments and Methods of Evaluations:** Students will do reading assignments by the dates specified on the course calendar (attached). Small group discussions, lectures, and film-viewing will be the usual class activities. Assignments include class participation, exercises, a research essay (five pages long), and three exams. Grading percentages are given below:

<b>Exercises (SGGK and drama)</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Research Essay</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b><u>20%</u></b>
	<b>100%</b>

All specifications for these assignments will be distributed and discussed in class well before their due dates. Late papers will be accepted up until one week following the due date, but such assignments will be penalized one letter grade. Students who miss an examination because of a valid excuse (presented in writing) will have one week to make up the test. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of any anticipated absence and to make arrangements with the instructor for a make-up.

**Attendance:** Class attendance is governed by the SRSU policy stated in the schedule of classes. In this class you will be dropped with an "F" when you have accumulated six absences. Special arrangements will be made with students who miss class because of a school-sponsored event. Again, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor when such an absence occurs and to make arrangements with the instructor for a make-up of in-class work.

### **Texts:**

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Major Authors, Vol. A, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.,*  
Dover edition of *The Canterbury Tales* in modern English

## Graduate Students in English 3309

### READINGS

In addition to the readings on the undergraduate syllabus, graduate students will need to do the following additional reading:

Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales: The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale*

Spenser: *The Faerie Queene*: Selections from Books 2 and 3

Milton: "Lycidas," "When I Consider How My Light Is Spent"

Pope: *Essay on Criticism*

Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice* (This novel is not included in the anthology; you will have to find and purchase a copy on your own.)

All of the above works are on the reading list for the M.A. exam, which is why I am adding them to your reading for this course!

### WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Graduate students will write a 15-20 page research paper (instead of the shorter research essay assigned to undergraduates) on a topic pertaining to one (or more) of the works we are reading for the course. They will also write a short critique (2 to 3 pages) of *Pride and Prejudice*.

### GRADES

Graduate students' grades will be determined according to the following percentages:

Participation	10%
Test 1	15%
Test 2	15%
Research Paper	30%
Critique of novel	15%
Test 3	15%