



English 3309: English Literature from Beowulf to 1800
Spring 2017

Dr. Sarah Roche

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Office: Castroville 100C; Office Hours are Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 3:00 and by appointment

Course Description

In English 3309 we will closely and carefully read early English literature, including the Anglo Saxon poem, *Beowulf*, Geoffrey Chaucer's tales, seventeenth and eighteenth-century poems, and some travel fiction. You will read the assigned literature, reflect on it, write weekly questions which will fuel class discussions. Please plan now to devote at least two hours per day for your reading and writing.

Required Text

The Norton Anthology of English Literature. Any Edition. Some editions are available as one book—Volume 1; others are available in three smaller books—Volumes A, B, C.

English Program Student Learning Outcomes

The graduating student in English will demonstrate that he/she can:

- construct essays that demonstrate clear topic/thesis, development, organization, and appropriate language
- select, evaluate, and synthesize primary and secondary sources and correctly document those sources
- demonstrate knowledge of a variety of literature, of elements of literature, and of literary genres necessary for success in teaching or in graduate school.

Course Outcomes

In this course, students should acquire and demonstrate the following:

- knowledge of the historical, social, and textual contexts of Medieval, sixteenth-seventeenth-century English literature (assessed by quizzes, Middle Ages Paper)
- analysis of literary elements for their contributions to meaning in the literature (assessed by midterm and final exams and Poetry Paper)
- critical reading skills (assessed by weekly questions and class discussions)
- competent writing skills (assessed by two papers and final exam)

To help you achieve the outcomes of the course, I have designed a variety of assignments described below.

Grade Determination

Assignment	Due Date	Points Possible
Weekly questions	Sundays by 11:59 pm	100
Presentation of Question	See sign-up	50
Weekly Norton Quizzes	Fridays by 11:59 pm	50
Middle Ages Paper	Feb 17 by 11:59 pm	200
Midterm	Mar 6 on Blackboard	200
Poetry Paper	Apr 14 by 11:59 pm	200
Final Exam (cumulative)	May 8 in-class	200

Grading

A: 90 – 100

B: 80 – 89

C: 70 – 79

D: 60 – 69

F: 0 – 59

Summary of Assignments (All assignments will be described in Handouts on Blackboard)

Weekly Questions

Due Sunday night, these brief questions supported by textual references will contribute to the following class discussions. Each week, one of you will present this question to the class.

Presentation of Question

Each week, according to the sign-up schedule, one student or a pair of students will lead class discussion by developing their weekly question into a seven-minute presentation.

Weekly Norton Quizzes

Due Friday nights, these online quizzes will provide you with a review of the week's content and prepare you for the midterm and final exam.

Middle Ages Paper

Using resources provided by Dr. Roche, you will develop a contextual paper that will contribute to the class's understanding of Middle Ages literature.

Midterm

A Blackboard test of the literature and contextual information discussed in class and reviewed in weekly Norton quizzes

Poetry Paper

Using class discussions and notes, you will explicate a Renaissance poem.

Final Exam (cumulative)

Course Policies

Scholastic Honesty

All work submitted must be your own and must be written exclusively for this class; the use of sources must be appropriately, correctly, and consistently documented. Quotations, paraphrases, or summaries that are not documented and the use of papers written by others constitute plagiarism.

Three different acts are considered plagiarism:

- (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas,
- (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and
- (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words.

A grade of "F" for the course is earned if the work exhibits any of these kinds of scholastic dishonesty.

Course Texts

In order to succeed in this course, you must read the course texts; not having texts does not constitute an excuse for not completing assignments.

Late Papers/Assignments

To pass the class you must successfully complete and turn in to me each assignment by the due date.

ADA Statement

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Kathy Biddick in Student Services, Room C-102, Uvalde campus. The mailing address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Rio Grande College-Sul Ross State University, Uvalde, Texas 78801. Telephone: 830-279-3003. E-mail: kbiddick@sulross.edu.

Schedule

Week 1 January 23

Introduction to the course and to close reading and writing; discussion of *Beowulf* lines 1 – 661; everyone signs up for Question Presentation

Week 2: January 30

Beowulf lines 662 – 1382

Week 3: February 6

Beowulf lines 1383 – 2195

Week 4: February 13 **Middle Ages Paper is due at the end of this week**

Beowulf lines 2196 – 3182

Week 5: February 20

Geoffrey Chaucer, The General Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales*

Week 6: February 27

Geoffrey Chaucer, The Miller's Prologue and Tale

Week 7: March 6 **Midterm Test on Blackboard**

No Class Meeting; I will be at Online Teaching Conference, Sam Houston State University

Week 8: March 20

Sonnets: Sir Thomas Wyatt, Sir Philip Sidney, William Shakespeare, John Donne, Mary Wroth, George Herbert

Sir Thomas Wyatt

"The long love that in my thought doth harbor"

"Whoso list to hunt"

"My galley"

"They flee from me"

Sir Philip Sidney

1 "Loving in truth, and fain in verse my love to show"

5 "It is most true that eyes are formed to serve"

William Shakespeare

18 "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?"

55 "Not marble nor the gilded monuments"
73 "That time of year thou may'st in me behold"
116 "Let me not to the marriage of true minds"
130 "My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun"

Week 9: March 27 Sonnets and Lyrics

John Donne, Mary Wroth, George Herbert,

John Donne

"The Flea"

"The Sun Rising"

"The Canonizataion"

"A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning"

Holy Sonnets:

10 "Death, be not proud, though some have called thee"

14 "Batter my heart, three-personed God; for you"

Mary Wroth

39 "Take heed mine eyes, how you your looks do cast"

40 "False hope which feeds but to destroy, and spill"

64 "Love like a juggler comes to play his prize"

68 "My pain, still smothered I my grieved breast"

George Herbert

"The Alter"

"Easter Wings"

"Jordan (I)"

"The Collar"

"The Pulley"

"Love"

Week 10: April 3

Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*

Week 11: April 10 **Poetry Paper is due at the end of this week**

John Bunyan, *Pilgrim's Progress*

Week 12: April 17

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko, or The Royal Slave*

Week 13: April 24

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko, or The Royal Slave*

Week 14: May 1

Johathan Swift, "A Modest Proposal"

Week 15: May 8 **Final Exam in-class**