

## ENGLISH 317: INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH LITERATURE I

Fall 2003  
Haag Hall 307  
MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m.  
Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
<http://www.chlt.org/~gwilliams/2003fall/317/>

Dr. Williams  
118 Cockefair Hall  
816-235-2559  
WilliamsGH@umkc.edu  
AOL/MSN IM: ghwumkc

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students will read some of the best-known written works in English from *Beowulf* in the eighth (or possibly tenth) century to *Gulliver's Travels* in the early eighteenth, works of poetry, drama, and prose concerning a wide range of subjects. Sometimes these works make an argument, sometimes they tell a story, sometimes they draw attention to themselves as finely wrought works of art, sometimes they aspire to utilitarian purposes. Sometimes they attempt to make us into better people, sometimes they try to entertain us, and sometimes they try to do both. We will, to some extent, discuss the cultural, political, literary, religious, and linguistic changes taking place during this time frame in that part of the world that is now loosely termed Britain. Students are expected to think for themselves, to form strong opinions, to disagree, to argue persuasively and eloquently when they speak and when they write.

### REQUIRED TEXT

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Volume 1* (seventh edition).

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

35%	3 Exams (highest grade is worth 15%)	Exam1: Wednesday, October 1 Exam2: Friday, November 7 Exam 3: Monday, December 15 1-3 pm
10%	2 Papers: "What are the issues?"	Two 3- to 4-page analytical papers (5% each) of the issues at stake in class and group discussions of a particular text. The due date will vary. You must sign up for one text before the October 8 and one text after.
10%	Paper: "Précis and Analysis"	A 3- to 4-page précis and analysis of a published critical essay from the last ten years(excluding book reviews and brief notes) and relevant to the topic of this class. Due November 21.
25%	Final paper	5%: A 1-page prospectus. Due December 5. 20%: A 6- to 8-page critical essay. Due December 15.
10%	Participation	Students will be called on by name. I'll give you detailed instructions for how to prepare for class participation.
10%	Ivanhoe	A text-based online literary role playing game in which you adopt the persona of an imaginary character found in (or extrapolated from) one of the course texts. November 17 to December 5.

## COURSE POLICIES

**Communication:** You should take advantage of my office hours, during which time I am happy to talk with you in person. You may also call me on my office telephone, send me an email, or instant message me (feel free to add me to your list of contacts in your instant messaging client). I respond to phone calls and IMs instantaneously (if you reach me), and I respond to emails within 48 hours. Note: In the time before and after class, I am usually distracted and concentrating on what I have to say that particular day. If you have something important to communicate to me, put it in writing and give it to me on paper or via email. You can also speak with me, of course, but I do not guarantee that I will remember what you've told me or asked me unless you also put it in writing. Do not assume that you have my assent or permission for something unless I have put it in writing and given it to you.

**Attendance:** I keep track of attendance. If you miss more than a small number of classes, your final grade for the course will be negatively affected. Your regular attendance and participation is vital to the success of this class.

**Format for written assignments:** All work done outside of class to be turned in must be typed or produced on a word processor. Your papers should have the following: no cover page; your social-security number, the due date, the course number, and my name on the first page in the upper left-hand corner; one-inch margins all the way around the page; text that is 12 point/10 cpi (type face of Courier or Times New Roman); page numbers on every page; one staple in the upper left-hand corner. Write your name on the back of the last page of the essay. I do not accept papers turned in as email attachments; however, to provide you with (hopefully) helpful feedback, I am happy to look at an early draft of a paper sent via email attachment. If I ask you to rewrite one of your papers, you must turn in the first graded version of the paper along with your revision.

**Late papers:** I will accept one paper late by as much as one class period with no questions asked, but each additional weekday after the one day of grace will lower your paper's grade by one letter grade. If you wish to take advantage of the late paper policy, you must attach a written explanation for the late paper to the paper. After that one paper, I will not accept late papers. You will receive no credit for any additional papers turned in late. Only documented, excused absences will deserve any special consideration. This policy is non-negotiable.

**Disabilities:** If you have a disability of any kind that will affect your performance in this course, please let me know as soon as possible so that I might work to meet your needs. If you have not done so already, you should consider visiting the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in room 350 of the Administrative Center. 816-235-5696 - <http://www.umkc.edu/disability/> - [disability@umkc.edu](mailto:disability@umkc.edu)

**Academic Dishonesty:** Students are expected to be familiar with the code of student conduct printed on page 563 of the 2003-2004 UMKC General Catalog and online at <http://www.umkc.edu/umkc/catalog/html/append/policy/0020.html>. In this course, any act of dishonesty on an assignment automatically earns a student a grade of 0 (zero) for that assignment as well as referral to the Student Conduct Committee.

## COURSE CALENDAR

M	Aug 25	Introduction to the course and to each other.
W	Aug 27	<i>Beowulf</i> , 32-47
F	Aug 29	<i>Beowulf</i> , 47-64
M	Sep 1	No class: Labor Day
W	Sep 3	<i>Beowulf</i> , 64-82
R	Sep 4	UMKC Day of Learning: <a href="http://www.umkc.edu/dayoflearning">http://www.umkc.edu/dayoflearning</a>
F	Sep 5	<i>Beowulf</i> , 82-99
M	Sep 8	Geoffrey Chaucer, <i>Canterbury Tales</i> , "General Prologue," lines 1-207, 447-478, 717-860
W	Sep 10	<i>Canterbury Tales</i> , "Wife of Bath," pages 253-259
F	Sep 12	<i>Canterbury Tales</i> , 259-265
M	Sep 15	<i>Canterbury Tales</i> , 265-272
W	Sep 17	<i>Canterbury Tales</i> , 272-276
F	Sep 19	<i>Canterbury Tales</i> , 276-281
M	Sep 22	Day in Computer Lab
W	Sep 24	<i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i> , 367-379
F	Sep 26	Mystery Plays, 381-400
M	Sep 28	Mystery Plays, 400-419
W	Oct 1	<b>Exam 1</b>
F	Oct 3	Day in Library
M	Oct 6	Sir Thomas More, <i>Utopia</i> , 506-525
W	Oct 8	Sonnets, History & Structure Petrarch, handout; Thomas Wyatt, 5 sonnets, pp 527-529; Henry Howard, "Love, that doth reign...", p 571
F	Oct 10	Sonnets, Edmund Spenser, from <i>Amoretti</i> , pp 864-868
M	Oct 13	Sonnets, William Shakespeare, beginning p 1026: 1, 3, 12, 15, 35, 71, 127, 130, 138
W	Oct 15	Sonnets, John Donne, beginning p 1268: 1, 5, 7, 10, 13, 14; John Milton, beginning p 1811: "How soon hath time...", "When I consider...", "Methought I saw..."
F	Oct 17	Sonnets, Mary Wroth, beginning p 1428: 1, 16, 39, 40, 68, 77, 103 This is the last day to withdraw without assessment. After this date, your transcript will read "Withdraw Failing" if you are failing at time of withdrawal.
M	Oct 20	Christopher Marlowe, <i>Dr. Faustus</i> , 992-1003
W	Oct 22	<i>Dr. Faustus</i> , 1003-1015
F	Oct 24	<i>Dr. Faustus</i> , 1015-1025
M	Oct 27	<i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book I, lines 1-375
W	Oct 29	<i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book 4, lines 1-535
F	Oct 31	<i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book 4, lines 536-1015
M	Nov 3	<i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book 9, lines 1-566
W	Nov 5	<i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book 9, lines 566-1189

F Nov 7           **Exam 2**

M Nov 10         *Oroonoko*, 2170-2185

W Nov 12         *Oroonoko*, 2185-2200

F Nov 14         *Oroonoko*, 2200-2215  
This is the last day to withdraw with assessment

M Nov 17         William Congreve, *The Way of the World*, 2217-2233  
**Ivanhoe begins.**

W Nov 19         *The Way of the World*, 2233-2249

F Nov 21         *The Way of the World*, 2249-2265  
**“ Précis and Analysis” due**

M Nov 24         *The Way of the World*, 2265-2280

W Nov 26         Thanksgiving: No class

F Nov 28         Thanksgiving: No class

M Dec 1           Alexander Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*, 2526-2535

W Dec 3           *The Rape of the Lock*, 2535-2544

F Dec 5           Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, 2331-2363  
**Ivanhoe ends.**

M Dec 8           *Gulliver's Travels*, 2363-2395

W Dec 19         *Gulliver's Travels*, 2395-2414, 2428-2442

F Dec 12         *Gulliver's Travels*, 2442-2473

M Dec 15         Exam 3, 1-3 p.m. **Final paper due.**