

ENGLISH 211: INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH LITERATURE 1

Winter-Spring 2003
Haag Hall 302
T-R 11:00-12:15
Office Hours: T 3:15-4:45, R 12:30-2:00
<http://georgehwilliams.net>

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 211 is a survey that spans several centuries, and as such it requires reading a bit from many different historical periods. You should consider this course an introduction to the early history of British literature rather than a comprehensive treatment. I hope that in the future you will decide to return – either on your own or through course selections – to one or more of the periods we will cover this semester, and at that time you can more fully investigate the era of your choice. 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, Vol 1 (ed. Abrams, et al)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

50% Exams: You will take three exams consisting of multiple choice questions, short-answer questions, and passage identifications.

35% Two papers: You will write two papers during the course of this class, a short analysis of a critical work (a précis), and a longer analytical paper. Each paper should adhere to Modern Language Association (MLA) citation style. You will be given a handout with advice and helpful information regarding your writing. More details forthcoming

5% Presentation: As part of a group of students, you will make a class presentation on one of the works we read. Details forthcoming.

10% Self-Directed Learning Tasks: You will earn up to ten points on your final grade by completing your choice of a selection of small assignments. Details are forthcoming.

Participation: Although I will sometimes present historical, biographical, or literary context for the readings, this is not a lecture-driven course. You are expected to be an alert, thoughtful, careful participant in discussion each time the class meets. Be on time, bring your book, have the material read, have something to say. Do not make unhelpful or hurtful comments, interrupt or talk while someone else is speaking, or ignore those speaking.

COURSE POLICIES

Communication: 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 hand it to me. 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 do not plan to take attendance, but I will if attendance begins to be a problem. In either case, if you miss more than a small number of classes, your final grade for the course will be affected.

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.

Late papers: I will accept one paper late by as much as one class period with no questions asked, but each additional day 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 - www.umkc.edu/disability/ - disability@umkc.edu

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to be familiar with the code of student conduct printed on page 513 of the August 2003 UMKC General Catalog and available online. 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.

CALENDAR

T Jan 14 Introduction to course and to each other

R Jan 16 *Beowulf*, 32-54

T Jan 21 *Beowulf*, 54-76

R Jan 23 *Beowulf*, 76-99

T Jan 28 *Canterbury Tales*, 215-220 (lines 1-207), 226 (ll 447-478), 232-235 (ll 717-860)

R Jan 30 *Canterbury Tales*, 253-262

T Feb 4 *Canterbury Tales*, 262-271

R Feb 6 *Canterbury Tales*, 271-281

T Feb 11 *The Book of Margery Kempe*, 367-379

R Feb 13 Mystery Plays, 381-400

T Feb 18 Mystery Plays, 400-419

R Feb 20 **Exam 1**

T Feb 25 Sonnets, TBA

R Feb 27 Sonnets, TBA

T Mar 4 Sonnets, TBA

R Mar 6 Sonnets, TBA **Précis Due**

T Mar 11 Spring Break

R Mar 13 Spring Break

T Mar 18 *Doctor Faustus*, 990-1007

R Mar 20 *Doctor Faustus*, 1007-1025

T Mar 25 *Paradise Lost*, Book 4

R Mar 27 *Paradise Lost*, Book 9

T Apr 1 *Paradise Lost*, discussion

R Apr 3 **Exam 2**

T Apr 8 *Oroonoko*, 2165-2190

R Apr 10 *Oroonoko*, 2190-2215

T Apr 15 *Gulliver's Travels*, 2331-2372

R Apr 17 *Gulliver's Travels*, 2372-2414 **Prospectus Due**

T Apr 22 *Gulliver's Travels*, 2428-2473

R Apr 24 "Debating Women: Arguments in Verse" 2584-2592

T Apr 29 "Debating Women: Arguments in Verse" 2592-2605

R May 1 **Final Paper Due: Main English Office, 106 Cockefair Hall**

Final Exam, Tuesday, May 6 – 3:30-5:30