

# British Literary History I

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## Course Description:

This course will introduce the students to the early developments of literature in English from the Anglo-Saxon period through the Middle English period and into the beginning of the Early Modern period. We will read representative and important works from those eras within their historical and cultural contexts. We will explore the different forms of writing, conceptions of genre, and literary conventions of early English literary history.

## Student Learning Outcomes (Course Goals):

- Students should become familiar with major authors and important texts of early British literature within their historical and cultural contexts.
- Students should learn the issues motivating and influencing early British authors and texts.
- Students should learn the historical developments of British literature.
- Students should learn modern critical approaches to understanding early British literature.
- Students should improve their skills of writing, critical thinking, and literary analysis.

## Required Texts:

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Volumes A, B, and C.* Edited by Stephen Greenblatt, et al. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Norton, 2005. ISBN 0393928330.  
(Anthology volumes are available separately, ISBNs 0393927172, 0393927180, 0393927199)

## Assessment Guidelines:

- **Participation:** 40%. Assignments must be read by the day on which they are listed on the schedule. Regular attendance without participation will result in a participation grade of C.
  - **Absences:** You may miss class four times for any reason without penalty. For each absence beyond the fourth, two points will be deducted from your final grade.
  - **Daily Responses:** On the WebCT course, post a response to each reading before coming to class. These responses *must not* be summaries of the readings nor general comments; the responses must make a specific point about the text. Late posts will not be counted.
  - **Draft Day:** A full class meeting will be devoted to peer review of paper drafts for each of the first three papers. Bring multiple copies of your paper to class on draft day; you will work in small groups to improve each other's papers. Attendance on draft days is required.
- **Four 7–10 page papers:** 15% each. Late papers will not be accepted without a valid excuse.
  - Paper due dates:
    - 9/18
    - 10/16
    - 11/13
    - 12/9

### **Other Information:**

- *Americans With Disabilities Act*: Faculty members are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. If you require an accommodation based on disability, it is your responsibility to inform the professor at the beginning of the semester and provide appropriate documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability). Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.
- *Academic Integrity*: All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. “Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts” (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2).
- *Classroom Decorum*: Treat the professor and the other students with respect. Do not come late to class or leave early, wear earphones of any type, use your laptop, read or send text messages, sleep, or perpetrate other disrespectful and/or disruptive behaviors.

### **Bibliography of Secondary Readings:**

- Borges, Jorge Luis. “Pierre Menard: Author of the *Quixote*.” In *Borges: Collected Fictions*, 88–95. Translated by Andrew Hurley. Penguin, 1998.
- Bullough, Vern L. “Cross Dressing and Gender Role Change in the Middle Ages.” In *Handbook of Medieval Sexuality*, 223–42. Edited by Vern L. Bullough and James A. Brundage. Routledge, 1999.
- Butler, Judith. “Bodily Inscriptions: Performative Subversions.” In *Gender Trouble*, 416–22. Routledge, 1990.
- Carey, John. “Milton’s Satan.” In *The Cambridge Companion to Milton*, 160–74. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Edited by Dennis Richard Danielson. Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Cohen, Jeffrey Jerome. “Monster Culture (Seven Theses).” In *Monster Theory: Reading Culture*, 3–25. Edited by Jeffrey Jerome Cohen. University of Minnesota Press, 1997.
- Heinemann, Margot. “Demystifying the Mystery of State: *King Lear* and the World Upside Down.” In *Shakespeare Survey 44: Shakespeare and Politics*, 75–84. Edited by Stanley Wells. Cambridge University Press, 1991.
- Johnson, Lynn Staley. “The Trope of the Scribe and the Question of Literary Authority in the Works of Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe.” *Speculum* 66 (1991): 820–38.
- Maley, Willy. “Spenser’s Languages: Writing in the Ruins of English.” In *The Cambridge Companion to Spenser*, 162–179. Edited by Andrew Hadfield. Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- McColley, Diane K. “Milton and the Sexes.” In *The Cambridge Companion to Milton*, 175–92. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Edited by Dennis Richard Danielson. Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Morrison, Susan. “Chaucerian Fecology and Wasteways: *The Nun’s Priest’s Tale*.” In *Excrement in the Middle Ages: Sacred Filth and Chaucer’s Fecopoetics*, 117–128. Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

## History of British Literature I: Schedule of Readings

		Primary Readings	Secondary Readings
M	8/24	Introduction; <i>Cædmon's Hymn</i>	
W	8/26	<i>Dream of the Rood, Judith, Wanderer, Wife's Lament</i>	"Pierre Menard"
F	8/28	<i>Beowulf</i> , lines 1–1061	"Monster Culture"
M	8/31	<i>Beowulf</i> , lines 1062–2199	
W	9/2	<i>Beowulf</i> , lines 2200–3182	
F	9/4	NO CLASS	
M	9/7	NO CLASS: Labor Day	
W	9/9	<i>Juliana</i> (PDF available on WebCT)	
F	9/11	<i>Euphrosyne</i> and <i>Eugenia</i> (PDFs available on WebCT)	"Cross Dressing"
M	9/14	Draft Day	
W	9/16	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , I and II	
F	9/18	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , III and IV	1 <sup>st</sup> PAPER DUE—9/18
M	9/21	Marie de France, <i>Lanval</i>	
W	9/23	Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe	"Trope of the Scribe"
F	9/25	Chaucer, <i>Canterbury Tales</i> , Miller's Prologue and Tale	
M	9/28	Chaucer, <i>CT</i> , Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale	
W	9/30	Chaucer, <i>CT</i> , Pardoner's Prologue and Tale	
F	10/2	Chaucer, <i>CT</i> , Nun's Priest's Tale, Chaucer's Retraction	"Chaucerian Fecology"
M	10/5	Edmund Spenser, <i>Faerie Queene</i> , Book 1, Cantos 1 & 2	"Spenser's Languages"
W	10/7	Spenser, <i>Faerie Queene</i> , Book 1, Cantos 7 & 8	
F	10/9	Spenser, <i>Faerie Queene</i> , Book 1, Cantos 11 & 12	
M	10/12	Draft Day	
W	10/14	Philip Sidney, <i>The Defense of Poesy</i>	
F	10/16	Christopher Marlowe, <i>Doctor Faustus</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> PAPER DUE—10/16
M	10/19	Shakespeare, <i>Sonnets</i> 18, 19, 55, 116, 126, 130, 138, 146	
W	10/21	Shakespeare, <i>Twelfth Night</i> , Acts I & II	"Bodily Inscriptions"
F	10/23	Shakespeare, <i>Twelfth Night</i> , Acts III–V	
M	10/26	Shakespeare, <i>King Lear</i> , Act I–III	"Demystifying"
W	10/28	Shakespeare, <i>King Lear</i> , Acts IV & V	
F	10/30	Metaphysical Poets I: Donne: <i>Flea, Sun Rising, Valediction: Forbidding Mourning, Holy Sonnet 1</i>	
M	11/2	Metaphysical Poets II: Herbert: <i>The Altar, Easter Wings, Jordan</i> Marvell: <i>To His Coy Mistress, The Garden</i>	
W	11/4	Mary Wroth, <i>Pamphilia to Amphilanthus</i>	
F	11/6	John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book I	"Milton's Satan"

M 11/9 Draft Day  
W 11/11 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book III  
F 11/13 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book IV  
M 11/16 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book IX  
W 11/18 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book X  
F 11/20 John Dryden, *Absolom and Achitophel*, *Mac Flecknoe*  
M 11/23 Alexander Pope, *Rape of the Lock*, *Eloisa to Abelard*  
W 11/25 NO CLASS  
F 11/27 NO CLASS: Thanksgiving  
M 11/30 Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, Part 1  
W 12/2 Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, Part 2  
F 12/4 S. Johnson, *Preface to Shakespeare*, *Lives of the Poets*

3<sup>rd</sup> PAPER DUE—11/13

“Milton and the Sexes”

4<sup>th</sup> PAPER DUE—12/9