

English 384W.01–Early English Masterworks
Fall 2007–3 Hours Credit
Prerequisites: 9 hours of English
Meeting Room: Ev 356

Instructor: Lee Courtney: Ev 406 / 936 294 1416 / eng_lfc@shsu.edu
Office Hours: MWF 9-11 TTh 12-2--or by appointment

Text: The Longman Anthology of British Literature: Volume A (Second Compact Edition)

Course Description: English 384W.01 is “a study of the major figures in English literature from the beginning to 1798.”

Purposes of the Course: The course has four primary purposes: to introduce (or re-introduce) you to some of the most important works in the literature of our language, foundational elements in all Anglophone cultures; to help you understand better the social, intellectual, and aesthetic contexts from which those works emerged; to assist you in becoming a more capable and critical reader; and to give you an opportunity to improve your own writing skills.

About Your Grade: There are five equally-weighted graded assignments—three essays of a thousand words each and two multiple-choice examinations. A semester average of 90 earns an A in the course, 80 a B, and so on.

Attendance Policy: On-time, full-time, every-time attendance is the best policy. Beginning with your fifth unexcused absence, I will deduct a point from your semester average for each such occasion. Coming to class late or leaving early counts as half-an-absence.

Classroom Decorum: Cell phones off, remember. If I am electronically interrupted, I start the lecture over.

Late Submissions: For each day an essay is late, its value decreases by 10 points (unless there is an instructor-approved excuse).

Missed Exams: All missed midterm exams will be made up on a common late date (to be announced).

Academic Dishonesty: “All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.”

Evidence of the unacknowledged or inappropriate use of another’s ideas or words will mean a zero on the assignment in question.

Americans with Disabilities Act: “It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified should not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the University. Further, they should not be denied the benefits of these programs, nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.”

No accommodations can be made for a student who has not registered with the Counseling Center. All communications with (and from) the Center will be kept strictly confidential.

Religious Holidays: “Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment form which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.”

Schedule of Assignments:

August 20 Organizational
August 22 Lecture: The Early Middle Ages
August 24

August 27 Beowulf, 27-91 in LABL
August 29
August 31

September 5 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, 169-225
September 7 Essay I Assigned

September 10 The Canterbury Tales: "General Prologue," 251-71
September 12
September 14

September 17 Lecture: Poetry of the Early Modern Period
September 19 Paradise Lost: Books 1 and 2, 921-54
September 21

September 24 Book 9, 987-1013
September 26
September 28 Essay I Due

October 1 John Donne: Assigned Poems
October 3
October 5 Midterm Exam / Essay II Assigned

October 8: Lecture: Drama of the Early Modern Period
October 10
October 12 The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus, 685-733

October 15
October 17
October 19

October 22 Twelfth Night, 742-96
October 24
October 26 Essay II Due / Essay III Assigned

October 29` Lecture: The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century
October 31
November 2 John Dryden: Assigned Poems

November 5

November 7 "The Rape of the Lock," 1247-67
November 9

November 12 The Beggar's Opera, 1275-1322

November 14

November 16 Essay III Due

November 19

November 26 Oroonoko, 1134-76

November 28

November 30

December 3 Lecture: Pre-Romantic Poetry

December 5

December 12 Final Exam