

English 384: Early English Masterworks
Professor: Dr. Darci Hill
Room: Farrington 101
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Hours: MTWT 1-2, others by appt.
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Course Objectives:

Students should emerge from this course with a working knowledge of texts representing the masterpieces of Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance British literature. Students should be able to articulate the distinctive literary features of each historical period as well as understand how the texts under study relate to each other, encompassing an ongoing narrative of the human experience. Studying these masterpieces will provide students a foundation which will assist them in reading, analyzing, and interpreting literary texts from other time periods and other cultures as well.

Course Policies:

Electronic devices:

No cell phones, cd players or any other electronic devices will be allowed in the classroom. **Laptops are allowed for note-taking only.** Students who use laptops for any other reason will lose their privileges to use these devices in class.

Dress code:

Students will dress in an appropriate manner suitable for intelligent discussion. Students are not allowed to dress in revealing clothing which will distract others. A professional atmosphere will be maintained in this class. Therefore, **business casual** would be the best attire for class.

Disruptiveness or rude behavior:

Students who exhibit rude or disruptive behavior will be given one warning. After one warning, students persisting in such behavior will be removed from the class, will not be allowed to return, and will be given a grade of "F."

Children in the classroom:

Infants and children will NOT be allowed in the classroom for any reason.

Class Attendance:

If you must be absent for a class, write to your classmates through Blackboard to see what you have missed before writing your professor.

Two points will be added to your final grade for perfect attendance. Note: If you are officially enrolled in the class the very first day and you miss class that day, then you are automatically disqualified for the "perfect attendance" reward.

If you miss a week of class, your name will be turned in to **First Alert** and the Sam Advising office will be contacting you. If you do not answer their e-mails, they will contact you at home.

Do not give me messages through a fellow classmate concerning your absence.

Early departure: There will be no early departures. Schedule your doctor's and dentist's appointments so that they do not conflict with your classes. Also, schedule your appointments with your campus advisors so that they do not conflict with your classes.

Late arrivals: Students are to be on time to all classes. If this means leaving home an hour early to get a parking place, then do so. **Nothing is more disruptive to your professor or to your colleagues than your late arrival.**

Makeup Work/Late Work:

You will make up all work missed, including quizzes, the week preceding final exams. **NO MAKEUP WORK** will be allowed until that week.

Late work: There will be points deducted from late assignments. I will go into more detail on this subject later.

Texts:

Beowulf: The Oldest English Epic, translated by Charles Kennedy. London: Oxford UP, 1940.

The Canterbury Tales, verse adaptation by Nevill Coghill. Penguin Classics.

Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol I

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, trans. Brian Stone, Penguin Classics.

Requirements:

Annotated Bibliography	25%
Several reading quizzes	10%
Mid-term	15%
Final	20%
3-4 short papers	15%
1 or 2 oral presentations, as time permits	15%

Blackboard:

Check Blackboard at least 3 times weekly to check on your grades, to participate in a discussion forum with your classmates, to clarify assignments, to access course documents. If I post a new course document on Blackboard, I will notify you through your SAM e-mail.

Readings and Assignments:

Week 1

Tues: Course Introduction

Intro to Anglo-Saxon and Medieval literature

Thur: Begin discussing *Beowulf*, intro through "B's Welcome at Hrothgar's Court"

Week 2

Tues: Discuss B: through "B Slays Grendel"

Thur: Discuss B: through "The Troll-Wife Avenges Grendel"

Oral pres on "The Monsters and the Critics"

Week 3

Tues: Discuss B: through "Parting of B and Hrothgar"

Thur: Discuss B: through "B's Funeral"

Week 4:

Tues: Introduction to Chaucer and the *Canterbury Tales*; discuss General Prologue; study guide for G. Prologue due; begin working on recitation in Middle English—1st 18 lines of G. Prologue

Thur: Continue discussion of G. Prologue, structure, genres of tales; words of exchange between the pilgrims

Week 5

Tues: "The Franklin's Tale"

Thur: "The Clerk's Tale"

Due: Practice essay on Annotated Bibliography (10 %)

Week 6

Tues: "The Pardoner's Tale"

Thur: "The Nun's Priest Tale"

Week 7

Tues: Oral presentation on selected tales

Thur: "

Week 8

Tues: Exam I on B and CT

Thur: Intro to *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, structure, audience, complete Parts 1 and 2 from study guide over SGGK; discuss parts 1 and 2

Week 9

Tues: Complete Parts 3 and 4 of study guide on SGGK; discuss part 3

Thur: Discuss Part 4

(This will get you started on your reading assignments. Weeks 10-16 of your syllabus will be provided after Exam I.)