

English 384W.02–Early English Masterworks
Spring 2008–3 Hours Credit
Prerequisites: 9 hours of English
Meeting Room: Ev 353

Instructor: Lee Courtney: Ev 406 / 936 294 1416 / eng_lfc@shsu.edu
Office Hours: MW 12-1:30 F 9-11 TTh 5-6--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 essay sets* totaling 1000-1500u words each and two examinations . (The Midterm Exam will be 100% objective. The Final Exam will be 80% objective and 20% essay.) A semester average of 90 earns an A in the course, 80 a B, and so on. There will be occasional (and announced) short in-class bonus assignments. No make-ups are available on bonus assignments: You have to be present to win.

*An “essay set” is a take-home essay exam.

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. When I am electronically interrupted, I get confused and start the lecture over: You do not want that.

Late Submissions: For each day an essay set 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:

January 16	Organizational
January 18	Lecture: The Early Middle Ages
January 23	
January 25	<u>Beowulf</u> , 27-91 in <u>LABL</u>
January 28	
January 30	
February 1	Lecture: The Later Middle Ages
February 4	<u>The Canterbury Tales</u> : "General Prologue," 251-71
February 6	
February 8	<u>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</u> , 169-225
February 11	
February 13	
February 15	Lecture: Poetry of the Early Modern Period / Essay Set I Assigned
February 18	John Donne: Assigned Poems
February 20	
February 22	
February 25	<u>Paradise Lost</u> : Books 1 and 2, 921-54
February 27	
February 29	Essay Set I Due
March 3	Book 9, 987-1013
March 5	Essay Set II Assigned
March 7	Midterm Exam
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March 17	Lecture: Drama of the Early Modern Period
March 19	
March 24	<u>Twelfth Night</u> , 742-96
March 26	
March 28	

March 31 Dr. Faustus, 685-733
April 2
April 4 Essay Set II Due / Essay Set III Assigned

April 7 Lecture: The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century
April 9
April 11 Assigned Poetry of John Dryden

April 14 Oroonoko, 1134-76
April 16
April 18

April 21 “The Rape of the Lock,” 1247-67
April 23
April 25 Essay Set III Due

April 28 The Beggar’s Opera, 1278-1322
April 30
May 2

May 5 Assigned Pre-Romantic Poetry
May 7

May 14 Final Exam