

COURSE SYLLABUS FALL SEMESTER 2007
Eng 384.02/.03: Early English Masterworks (3 hours)
TTh 12:30-1:50 (02) (EV 251); 2:00-3:20 (EV 356)

Dr. Kimberly Bell
E-mail Address: eng_kkb@shsu.edu
Office Telephone: 936-294-1437

Office: EV 455
Office Hours: TTh: 3:30-5:00
and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

English 384 is an intensive reading and writing course that focuses on select works of British literature from the early-medieval period through the eighteenth century. Over the semester, we will concentrate on reading, understanding, and enjoying these texts, while discussing the cultural and historical contexts in which they were written. Students will demonstrate a knowledge of material by taking Midterm and Final exams, responding to in-class writing prompts, and writing a Thesis with an Annotated Bibliography Assignment (5 sources, minimum) and a Final Paper (10-12 pages, 10 sources). Prerequisites: A passing grade in Eng 164, Eng 165, and Eng 265, 266, or 267 (or their equivalents).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- * To enhance understanding of assigned texts by learning literary terminology.
- * To develop oral, written, analytical, and critical skills through oral communication (in-class discussions or Blackboard postings) and written assignments.
- * To become familiar with early English literary texts and to gain a deeper appreciation of the English literary tradition by exploring the cultural contexts in which these texts were written.

TEXTBOOKS:

The Norton Anthology of English Literature. Volumes A-C. 8th edition.
William Shakespeare. *Macbeth*. Signet edition (any other edition is fine)

GRADING:

	Percentages	Due Dates
In-class Writings:	10%	Daily/Weekly
Midterm Exam:	20%	October 4
Thesis Assignment:	20%	November 13
Paper (w/ Thesis Assignment):	30%	December 6
Final Exam (cumulative):	20%	TBA

NB: There are no extra credit assignments offered in this course

Grading rubrics are available on Blackboard. Grades will always be distributed in class, never on Blackboard or via e-mail or phone.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. If a student misses more than four classes for any reason (excused or unexcused), the student's final grade will be penalized 2% per additional absence. Every 2 instances of arriving late or leaving early count as an absence. Coming to class unprepared, sleeping, or doing work for another class all count as absences. Students are responsible for obtaining missed materials or assignments from their colleagues. Students should also check Blackboard for any announcements or handouts.

Reading: Learning how to read closely and critically is essential to understanding literature. Students should arrange their schedules to allow ample time for reading (and re-reading) all of the material by the appropriate due dates, including assigned readings and introductions to periods and authors. Students are expected to write comments in the margins of books. Students are also strongly encouraged to keep an open mind when approaching these difficult texts and to make a genuine effort to appreciate them.

Writing: All out-of-class assignments must be typed, double-spaced, and free from grammatical errors and typos. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade (10%) and will not be accepted after the beginning of the following class. Students who plagiarize papers will receive an E for the course and will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Papers: Students will submit a Thesis Assignment (an introductory paragraph with thesis and an annotated bibliography of at least five sources) that will serve as the basis of a longer research paper. Failure to submit the Thesis Assignment will result in a 0% on the assignment **and** a 0% on the paper.

Midterm and Final Exam: both exams will allow students to showcase their knowledge of objective information by responding to identifications and demonstrate critical skills by writing a fully developed essay. A make-up exam will **only** be administered when documented, extenuating circumstances are presented and only then at the professor's discretion. The final exam is cumulative.

In-Class Writings: In-class writings will be subjective or objective in nature. These cannot be made up under **any** circumstances other than an absence for a religious holy day (see below). I will drop the lowest grade at the end of the semester. This is a gift.

Detailed handouts on each writing assignment are / will be posted to Blackboard

Writing Center: Sam Houston's Writing Center, located at 111 Farrington, is open M W Th 8-7, Tu 8-10, Fri. 8-3, and Sun. 2-7. Writing tutors will work with students to help them generate, organize, or revise a draft of any assignment. Drop by or call 936-294-3680 to schedule an appointment. To learn more about their services, visit their website at <http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr/>. Students should utilize their "resources and handouts" link regarding any questions about the writing process. Ultimately, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the information is accurate.

Incompletes: University policy dictates that any student who seeks an incomplete for a course must have passed a minimum of 50% of the course requirements with a C or better and have extenuating circumstances (e.g., documented health problems) that prevent the student from completing the course. Incompletes cannot be given to keep a student from receiving an E.

Visitors in the Classroom: Students who wish to bring visitors to class must discuss it with the professor well in advance. Visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance.

Professor Evaluations: Students will be asked to complete a course evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cell phones must be turned off and iPods put away before class begins. Students are prohibited from making offensive remarks, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, doing work for other classes, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Such inappropriate behavior in the classroom will result in the immediate dismissal from class and an absence; those students who are especially disruptive will also be reported to the Dean of Students for immediate disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

For more information on the following policies, visit www.shsu.edu/syllabus/

Americans with Disabilities Acts: Any student who has a disability that may adversely affect his or her work in this class is encouraged to register with the Counseling Center and to talk with the professor about any necessary accommodations. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Note: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. Contact the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or call 936-294-1720.

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience 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, including a final grade of F in the class. 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. Put simply, plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of someone else's ideas or words without giving that person credit; plagiarism is also the purchasing or borrowing of a paper or assignment. Students should review their handbooks as they are responsible for knowing this information.

University Policy Regarding Student Absences for Religious Holy Days: Any student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day must make up any coursework (exam, assignments, *et cetera*) within a reasonable amount of time, to be determined by the professor. Students have until the twelfth day of classes to inform the professor of any absences for religious holy days.

COURSE OUTLINE: This outline is tentative; deviation should be expected. You must read introductions to periods and authors in addition to all assigned readings.

Week One: August 21-23: Course Overview

T: Introduction to British Literature and Language; Old English
Th: *The Middle Ages*: "Anglo-Saxon Lit" and "Anglo-Norman Lit"; and "Old & Middle English Prosody"; Discussion: Monsters, Critics, & Manuscripts; Old English

Week Two: August 28-30:

T: *Beowulf*: (Intro); Prologue to Celebration at Heorot (lines 1-835)
Th: *Beowulf*: "Celebration at Heorot" to "Another Celebration at Heorot" (lines 836-1650)

Week Three: September 4-6:

T: *Beowulf*: "Another Celebration at Heorot" to "Beo Attacks the Dragon" (lines 1651-2509)
Th: *Beowulf*: "Beowulf Attacks the Dragon" to end (lines 2510-3182)

Week Four: September 11-13:

T: *Beowulf*, *The Middle Ages*: "Middle English Lit"; "Medieval English"; "Old & Middle English Prosody"
Th: Chaucer: (Intro); *Canterbury Tales*: "General Prologue" (lines 1-42; 671-716); *Introduction and Prologue to the Pardoner's Tale* (lines 1-174)

Week Five: September 18-20:

T: Chaucer: *Pardoner's Tale* and *Epilogue* (lines 175-680)
Th: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Intro); Part 1 (lines 1-490)

Week Six: September 25-27:

T: *SGGK*: Parts 2-3 (lines 491-1125; 1126-1997)
Th: *SGGK*: Part 4 (lines 1998-2530)

Week Seven: October 2-4:**Mid-term Exam Thurs., Oct 4**

T: Mid-term Review; Paper Assignments
 Th: Mid-term Exam

Week Eight: October 9-11:

T: Intro: "The Sixteenth Century"; Marlowe (intro): "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love";
 Raleigh (intro): "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd"
 W: Last day to drop classes without receiving an E
 Th: Shakespeare (intro): *Sonnets*: #18, 55

Week Nine: October 16-18:

T: Shakespeare (intro): *Sonnets*: #106, 130
 Th: *Macbeth* (Act 1)

Week Ten: October 23-25:

T/Th: *Macbeth* (Acts 2-4)

Week Eleven: October 30-November 1:

T: *Macbeth* (Act 5)
 Th: Thesis Assignments

Week Twelve: November 6-8:

T: Intro: "The Early Seventeenth Century"; Donne (intro): "The Flea"; "The Sun Rising"; "The Funeral"
 Th: No Class (work on papers)

Week Thirteen: November 13-15:**Thesis Assignments Due Tues. 11/13**

T: Herrick (Intro): "Corinna's Going A-Maying"
 Th: Marvell (Intro): "The Mower's Song"; "The Garden"

Week Fourteen: November 20-22:

T: Paper Workshop
 Th: Thanksgiving Holiday: NO CLASSES

Week Fifteen: November 27-29:

T: Intro: "The Restoration and the 18th Century"; Swift (Intro): "A Modest Proposal"
 Th: Pope (Intro); *Rape of the Lock* Cantos 1-2

Week Sixteen: December 4-6:**Final Paper Due Thurs., 12/6**

T: *RL* (Cantos 3-5)
 Th: Final Exam Review (PAPER DUE W/ GRADED THESIS ASSIGNMENT)

FINAL EXAM TBA

Nota Bene: This syllabus is a contract; your continued enrollment implies agreement with and adherence to the requirements of the course.