

English 220a Representative Literary Works (3)

Fall 2012

CLASS:
Fall 2012
T Th 4:00-5:15pm
Room A2133
Office Hours: W F 2:00-3:00pm

INSTRUCTOR:
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DESCRIPTION

A foundational course in literary studies, this class provides an introduction to a wide range of literary works in English from the eighth century to the late eighteenth. The course introduces students to the breadth of genres that comprise the English literary tradition. Significant attention will be given to critical reading skills and further development of writing skills.

OBJECTIVES

This course considers many of the most important landmarks of writing in English. These landmarks, though, are not simply sights to be seen or texts to be read; rather, they teach us something about *how* to read, and how people have read in the past. Students will thus gain a valuable ground for further literary and humanistic studies, and for becoming more thoughtful, civilized human beings.

"It is but the clouds gathered about our own judgement that makes us think all other ages wrapped up in mists."
- Samuel Daniel

REQUIRED TEXTS

Baldick, Chris. *Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2008.

Greenblatt, Stephen, et al, eds. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Major Authors, Volume A*. 8th ed. New York: Norton, 2006.

Shakespeare, William. *Much Ado About Nothing*. The Pelican Shakespeare. Ed. Peter Holland. London: Penguin, 1999. (though any edition of the play will do)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- All assignments are **due at the beginning of class** on the date specified.
- **Readings** must be completed before the class for which they are assigned.
- **Extensions** may be granted on essay assignments in exceptional circumstances, but must be arranged in advance. **Late papers** will be marked down one refined letter grade per class day late.
- **All** assignments must be submitted to receive a passing final grade.
- You are responsible not only for assignments and readings, but for everything discussed **in class**, including any **changes** announced to our course schedule.
- The most current version of this syllabus and any supplementary handouts will always be available on Moodle.

Participation & Reading quizzes – 15%

Participation is your visible engagement with the class and the texts: look alert, ask questions, share your thoughts, and visit my office when you need help. It goes without saying that this requires regular attendance: skip classes and your grade will suffer. **Short reading quizzes** will occasionally be inflicted at the beginning of class-time to ensure that you are keeping up with the course readings.

Reading questions – 10%

By **noon** on the day we read the text you are interested in, submit by email a document containing:

1. Your name;
2. The title of the text to be discussed;
3. A succinct **question** that you have about it;
4. A short paragraph explaining *why* you want to ask that question. Don't answer it; only justify it.

Format your question according to the assignment formatting template (available on Moodle). **Three*** of these are required at your leisure during the course. They will be graded on the degree to which they perceive and query significant traits of the work and author in question.

*The bold may substitute for one of these the **memorization and recitation** of a poem or portion of a larger work (in either case, at least 14 lines long) that we are studying. Please inform me if you intend to take up this option.

Midterm examination – 10%

This will consist of quotation-based short- and essay-answer questions about the texts we've read. **In class, October 23.**

Two essays – 15%, 20%

Topics will be assigned for each paper. For the first, you must also submit your **thesis statement** via Moodle on **September 27. Essay 1 due October 4 (1500 words); Essay 2 due November 29 (2000 words).**

Final examination – 30%

The final will be comprehensive of the entire course. **December 6.**

Further directions for these assignments will be given well before they are due.

To guide your study in this course:

“...the one thing that is indispensable for the study of literature is intimate familiarity with texts – familiarity of such a kind that the student cannot open any text at random and read more than ten lines without being reminded of a second passage, in some other text, which is relevant, and therefore illuminatory, in form and context. It is this kind of recollection which makes it possible to interpret literature without confinement to paths trodden by previous communications. It does not always come...as a result of deliberate efforts at memorization, it comes rather from the constant reading of texts for different purposes, with different questions in mind.” *K. J. Dover*

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

In order for each of us to get the most out of this class, please observe the following points:

- Arrive on time. Attendance will be taken. If you arrive after a quiz begins, you may not write it.
- Do not talk compulsively. Be self-aware and leave space for others' voices.
- Do not be silent. Speaking is a crucial aid to formulating your thoughts on a topic.
- No eating in class. Unslurped beverages are fine.
- Students may not use any device more technologically complex than a pen in our classroom. Beeping mobile phones will be confiscated.

AMBROSE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension" from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline (as listed in the Academic Calendar). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise due to circumstances beyond the student's control.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person's ideas or words. **Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college.** Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Course Schedule

Tuesday	Thursday
	September 6 Course Introduction
September 11 <i>Beowulf</i> (ll. 1-661) <i>Dictionary</i> : “epic”	September 13 <i>Beowulf</i> (ll. 661-3182) <i>Dictionary</i> : “narrative,” “narrator”
September 18 Geoffrey Chaucer, <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> : “General Prologue” <i>Dictionary</i> : “stock character,” “type”	September 20 Chaucer, “The Miller’s Prologue and Tale” <i>Dictionary</i> : “fabliau”
September 25 The English Bible – “1 Corinthians 13” <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i> – “The Solemnization of Matrimony” (handout)	September 27 Community Day – No Class Essay 1 Thesis Statement Due (submit to Moodle)
Tuesday	Thursday
October 2 Rhetoric and the English Lyric: Sir Thomas Wyatt, “I am as I am and so will I be” (handout) Sir Philip Sidney, <i>Astrophil & Stella</i> 31 (“With how sad steps”) Christopher Marlowe, “The Passionate Shepherd”; Sir Walter Raleigh, “The Nymph’s Reply” <i>Dictionary</i> : “rhetoric,” “figure,” “lyric”	October 4 The Sonnet (1): Wyatt, “The long love”; Surrey, “Love that doth reign” Sidney, <i>Astrophil & Stella</i> Edmund Spenser, <i>Amoretti</i> <i>Dictionary</i> : “Petrarchan,” “sonnet,” “conceit” Essay 1 Due
October 9 William Shakespeare, <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> (1.1-2.1) <i>Dictionary</i> : “comedy,” “humours”	October 11 Shakespeare, <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> (2.2-4.1) <i>Dictionary</i> : “convention,” “plot”
October 16 Shakespeare, <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> (4.1-5.4) <i>Dictionary</i> : “comedy of manners”	October 18 The Sonnet (2) Shakespeare, <i>Sonnets</i> Lady Mary Wroth, <i>Pamphilia to Amphilanthus</i>

October 23 Mid-Term Examination	October 25 John Donne <i>Songs & Sonnets</i> : “The Flea,” “The Sun Rising,” “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning” <i>Holy Sonnets</i> <i>Dictionary</i> : “metaphysical poets”
Tuesday	Thursday
October 30 Ben Jonson, <i>Epigrams</i> George Herbert, <i>The Temple</i> (selections) <i>Dictionary</i> : “epigram”	November 1 Class cancelled: Presidential Installation
November 6 Amelia Lanyer, <i>Salve Deus Rex Judeorum</i> Katherine Philips	November 8 John Milton <i>Paradise Lost</i> : Book 1 <i>Dictionary</i> : “blank verse”
November 13 <i>Paradise Lost</i> : Book 3.1-134; Book 4.1-775	November 15 <i>Paradise Lost</i> : Book 9
November 20 Jonathan Swift, <i>Gulliver’s Travels</i> : Forewords and “Part I” <i>Dictionary</i> : “irony,” “satire”	November 22 Alexander Pope, <i>Essay on Man</i> – Epistles 1 & 2 <i>Dictionary</i> : “heroic couplet”
November 27 Samuel Johnson, <i>Rambler</i> No. 4 <i>Dictionary</i> : “criticism”	November 29 Johnson, “The Preface to Shakespeare” <i>Lives of the Poets</i> : “Milton” Essay 2 Due
Tuesday	Thursday
December 4 Thomas Gray, “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” Course Review Final Class	
Final Examination: Thursday, December 6, 9:00am-12:00pm	