

THE MIDTERM

will consist of 2 parts:

Part I (60%) : Passage Identification – 15 Passages,
each worth 4 points

Part II (40%) : Short Answer – 20 short answer
questions, each worth 2 points

Sample questions for Part II:

1. Which text uses the “bob and wheel” form?
2. Who killed Holofernes?
3. Which character in the *General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales* is named Alison?
4. Name two texts that use the alliterative meter.
5. In what language is the text of *Beowulf* transcribed?

Directions for Part I:

Identify the (1) **author**, (2) **title**, (3) **speaker**, and (4) **context/situation** of the fifteen passages below. Each correct answer is worth one point; each passage is worth 4 points total.

For the author, title, and speaker of each passage, give the necessary information. If the author is unknown, write *Anonymous*. To identify context/situation, write a short (one sentence) description of the dramatic occasion; for example:

. . . Now now Sir knight, shew what ye bee,
Add faith unto your force, and be not faint:
Strangle her, else she sure will strangle thee.

(1) Edmund Spenser (2) *The Faerie Queene*

(3) Una (4) is advising Redcrosse Knight how to deal with the woman-serpent Error.

Sample passages:

But if a dullard should dote, deem it no wonder,
And through the wiles of a woman be wooed into sorrow,
For so was Adam by one, when the world began,
And Solomon by many more, and Samson the mighty—
Delilah was his doom, and David thereafter
Was beguiled by Bathsheba, and bore much distress;
Now these were vexed by their devices—‘twere a very joy
Could one but learn to love, and believe them not...

“Nay, nay,” quod he, “thanne have I cristes curs!
Lat be,” quod he, “it shal nat be, so theeche!
Thou woldest make me kisse thyn olde breech
And swere it were a relik of a saint,
Though it were with thy fundament depeint.
But, by the crois which that Sainte Elaine foond,
I wolde I hadde thy coilons in myn hond,
In stede of relikes or of saintuarye.
Lat cutte hem of: I wol thee helpe hem carye.
They shal be shrined in an hogges tord.”

Why then doest thou, O man of sin, desire
To draw thy dayes forth to their last degree?
Is not the measure of thy sinfull hire
High heaped up with huge iniquitie,
Agains the day of wrath, to burden thee?

Nay, _____, I say no.
As for a while I was lent thee;
A season thou hast had me in prosperity.
My condition is man's soul to kill;
If I save one, a thousand do I spill.
Weenest thou that I will follow thee?
Nay, from this world, not verily.