

English 373A: British Literature from *Beowulf* to *Paradise Lost*

John Ulreich

Mod. Lang. 494 Office Hours by Appointment
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SECTION LEADERS	SECTIONS	TIMES	PLACES
Mary Bell	001	10:00-10:50	EDUC 318
	004	11:00-11:50	EDUC 333
Susan Thomas	002	10:00-10:50	COMM 311
	005	11:00-11:50	COMM 311
Cyndi Headley	003	10:00-10:50	GITT 203
	006	11:00-11:50	GITT 201

FACULTY AVAILABILITY

Your section leaders will keep regular office hours and will be available by appointment. Though your primary faculty contact will usually be with your section leader, I am always happy to meet with you, briefly after class or at greater length in my office, to talk about the material of the course, to answer questions, and to offer reassurances. I enjoy working closely with students who wish to develop that kind of educational relationship. I will not keep office hours, but I am generally in my office on Tuesdays and often on Thursdays. You are welcome to drop by if you're in the neighborhood, but if you don't want to risk not finding me, please make an appointment.

GRADING POLICIES

The Mid-Term Exam will count as 20% of your final grade.

The Final Exam will count as 30% of your final grade.

Exams will be based on the assigned readings in the syllabus and on lectures. During the course of the semester, there will be a number of Handouts; these are also required reading.

The remaining 50% of your grade will be determined as follows:

20% = two short (2-3 page) papers, each worth 10%;

15% = average on weekly assignments; 15% = class participation.

Grading is primarily the responsibility of your section leaders, who will work together with me to ensure a reasonable uniformity of expectations across sections. If you believe that you are the victim of a misunderstanding, you may appeal to me directly. Your communication with me will be kept in confidence. Unless you request such an intervention, or your instructor asks for my assistance, I have very little involvement in assigning your grades. The only exception to that rule concerns the grade of "Incomplete." Section leaders *may not* assign a grade of "I" without my express permission, which I shall be extremely reluctant to grant. In other words: first you have to persuade your instructor to assign an "I"; then your instructor has to persuade me. My decision will take account of, but will not necessarily endorse, a positive recommendation by the instructor.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is required for successful participation in this class. Students who miss more than three classes during the first eight weeks of the semester will be dropped from the class. After the first eight weeks, excessive absences will be severely penalized.

TEXTS

The Norton Anthology of English Literature

Volume 1A: The Middle Ages

(A)

Volume 1B: The Sixteenth Century & The Early Seventeenth Century

(B)

SYLLABUS

All of the texts below are to be read BEFORE the lecture/discussion for which they are assigned. If you have not read the assignment, you will not be able to follow the lecture, since I do not devote much time to going over the plot. Even more importantly, if you have not read the assignment, you will not be able to participate intelligently in discussions of the readings. In other words: DO YOUR HOMEWORK.

Au. 25 INTRODUCTION

27 Introduction to "The Middle Ages" (A 1-23) & *Beowulf* (A 29-51)

29 *Beowulf* (A 51-100)

Sep. 1 LABOR DAY

3 *Judith* (A 100-108) & *The Dream of the Rood* (A 27-29)

5

Sep. 8 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (A 160-213)

10 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (A 160-213)

12

15 Geoffrey Chaucer: *General Prologue* (A 213-38)

17 Geoffrey Chaucer: *The Pardoner* (A 284-98)

19

22 Geoffrey Chaucer: *The Wife of Bath* (A 256-84)

24 Geoffrey Chaucer: *The Nun's Priest's Tale* (A 298-312)

26

29 *The Second Shepherds' Play* (A 406-35) & *The York Play of the Crucifixion* (A 398-406)

Oct. 1 *Everyman* (A463-84)

3

6 Christopher Marlowe: *Dr. Faustus* (B 1002-04, 1022-57)

8 Edmund Spenser: *The Faerie Queene*, Book I, Cantos 1-6 (B 714-86)

10

13 Edmund Spenser: *The Faerie Queene*, Book I, Cantos 7-12 (B 786-856)

- 15 Mid-term Preview
- 17 MID-TERM EXAMINATION (also the last day on which classes may be dropped with a “W”)
- 20 “The Sixteenth Century” (B 485- 513) & Sir Philip Sidney: *The Defense of Poesy* (B 953-974)
- 22 Sonnets I: Petrarch (Englished): Sir Thomas Wyatt (B 592-606), Henry Howard (B 607-15),
Edmund Spenser (B 902-16), & William Shakespeare (B 1058-77)
- 24
- 27 Sonnets II: Sir Philip Sidney (B 975-92) & Lady Mary Wroth (B 1451-61)
- 29 “The Early Seventeenth Century” (B 1235-59) & John Donne (B 1260-88)
- 31
- Nov. 3 John Donne (B 1289-1308)
- 5 George Herbert (B 1605-25)
- 7
- 10 Ben Jonson: *Volpone* (B 1324-26, 1334-1427)
- 12 John Webster: *The Duchess of Malfi* (B 1461-1533)
- 14
- 17 The Gender Wars: Joseph Swetnam (B 1544-46), Rachel Speght (B 1546-49),
Aemelia Lanyer (B 1313-24), & Elizabeth Cary (B 1536-42)
- 19 John Milton: *Areopagitica* (B 1785-89, 1816-25)
- 21 MILTON MARATHON (in the Main Library Special Collections Meeting Room)
- 24 Andrew Marvell (B 1695-1736)
- 26 The Culture Wars: “Faith in Conflict” (B 616-41) & “Religions in England” (Appendix 75-78);
- 28 THANKSGIVING
- Dec. 1 John Milton: *Paradise Lost*, Books 1-4 (B 1830-1908)
- 3 John Milton: *Paradise Lost*, Books 5-8 (B 1908-73)
- 5 John Milton: *Paradise Lost*, Book 9 (B 1973-98)
- 8 John Milton: *Paradise Lost*, Books 10-12 (B 1998-2055)
- 10 Final Exam Preview
- 17 FINAL EXAMINATION
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.