

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
David Orvis	Section 1	10	Modern Languages 201
	Section 3	11	Modern Languages 201
Ryan Paul	Section 2	10	Modern Languages 404
	Section 5	12	Modern Languages 201
Tereza Szeghi	Section 4	11	Chavez 308
	Section 6	12	Chavez 308

FACULTY AVAILABILITY

Your instructors 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 Monday through Thursday, except when I'm teaching (Tuesday and Thursday from 8 to 9:15), or attending a meeting somewhere. You are welcome to drop by if you're in the neighborhood, but if you don't want to risk not finding me in my office, 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. Additional readings will be assigned in sections and may also be covered in exams.

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

20% = two short (1-2 page) papers, each worth 10%;

15% = average on weekly quizzes;

15% = class participation.

Unless your instructor asks for my assistance, I have nothing to say about 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. More than three unexcused absences will result in a student's being dropped from the class.

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. 21 INTRODUCTION

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

25 *Beowulf* (A 51-100)

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

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

Sep. 1

4 LABOR DAY

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

8

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

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

15

18 Julian of Norwich: *A Book of Showings* (A 371-82) & *The Book of Margery Kempe* (A 383-397)

20 William Langland: *Piers Plowman* (A 331-67)

22

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

27 *Everyman* (A463-84)

29

Oct. 2 Christopher Marlowe: *Dr. Faustus* (B 1002-04, 1022-57)

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

6

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

11 Mid-term Preview

13 MID-TERM EXAMINATION

- 16 “The Sixteenth Century” (B 485- 513) & Sir Philip Sidney: *The Defense of Poesy* (B 953-974)
- 18 Sonnets I: Petrarch (Englished): Sir Thomas Wyatt (B 592-606), Henry Howard (B 607-15),
Sir Philip Sidney (B 975-92), & Edmund Spenser (B 902-16)
- 20
- 23 Sonnets II: William Shakespeare (B 1058-77), Richard Barnfield (B 1233-34),
& Lady Mary Wroth (B 1451-61)
- 25 “The Early Seventeenth Century” (B 1235-59) & John Donne (B 1260-88)
- 27
- 30 John Donne (B 1289-1308)
- Nov. 1 George Herbert (B 1605-25)
- 3
- 6 Ben Jonson: *Volpone* (B 1324-26, 1334-1427)
- 8 John Webster: *The Duchess of Malfi* (B 1461-1533)
- 10
- 13 VETERAN’S DAY
- 15 The Gender Wars: Joseph Swetnam (B 1544-46), Rachel Speght (B 1546-49),
Aemelia Lanyer (B 1313-24), & Elizabeth Cary (B 1536-42)
- 17 MILTON MARATHON
- 20 Andrew Marvell (B 1695-1736)
- 22 The Culture Wars: “Faith in Conflict” (B 616-41) & “Religions in England” (Appendix 75-78);
John Milton: *Areopagitica* (B 1785-89, 1816-25)
- THANKSGIVING
- 27 John Milton: *Paradise Lost*, Books 1-4 (B 1830-1908)
- 29 John Milton: *Paradise Lost*, Books 5-8 (B 1908-73)
- Dec. 1 John Milton: *Paradise Lost*, Book 9 (B 1973-98)
- 4 John Milton: *Paradise Lost*, Books 10-12 (B 1998-2055)
- 6 Final Exam Preview
- 8 FINAL EXAMINATION
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.