

ENGLISH 2500 -- INTRODUCTION TO BRIT. LIT. I
DR. TIM BYWATER
FALL 2006

OFFICE: MCD 227
OFFICE PHONE: 652-7808
HOME PHONE: 628-2490

OFFICE HRS: MWF 9-11, & 10:30-12, (or arranged)--which means if you can't find me during office hours, check with me after class to set up an appointment.

SYLLABUS

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

The purpose of this course is to acquaint you with some of the major works of English Literature from the 8th century to the dawn of Romanticism . Upon completing the course, you should have a better understanding of these works in terms of their historical contexts and thematic concerns, as well as a rudimentary understanding of the authors' lives. You will study some of the critical approaches developed to analyze these works. You will critically analyze some of these works in class discussions, on examinations, in critical reflections, and in out-of-class essays (see below).

ESSAYS/EXAMS/PREP CHECKS/CLASSROOM DISCUSSION/REFLECTIONS

You will write two analytical essays based on your readings, there will be two mid-term exams and a final exam; occasionally, there will be unannounced multiple choice quizzes during the first five minutes of class (called prep checks), you are required to underline passages taken from your readings that you were especially fond of (or especially confused by) that you may be asked to discuss in class, and you must write weekly reflections based on critical (analytical) articles related to our texts that you find by Googling on the Internet. These one-page reflections will be discussed in class (when you're called on) and handed in at the end of the semester. Also, I'll read some passages from our text that haven't been listed on the syllabus. You are responsible for knowing where these come from; they might show up on a test. Each of these course requirements will be graded--including class discussion passages--based on a points/check-off system, which I will explain early in the semester. Also, you will be given a brief Assessment Exam at the beginning and again at the end of the semester to satisfy a Utah Legislature directive. I'll explain that better, later.

CLASS POLICIES/GRADES

The final grade will be based on grades given on in-class and out-of-class assignments, on the examinations/prep checks, and on participation in class, which includes being prepared to read your selected passages/reflections when called on in class. I will grudgingly accept a late paper, but I will grade it grudgingly--through clenched teeth. (You're not going to like it, since the grade will probably be reduced!) I will, however, smilingly accept papers turned in early if you can't be in class the day the paper is due. I have to admit, I have deep, hidden, psychological animosity (that I try to repress but usually can't) that gnaws at me when you're ABSENT or LATE to class. EXCUSES SIMPLY MAKE IT WORSE. However, I'm not heartless: if you're having serious problems making it to class on time (or at all), please touch base with me to explain what's happening. My guess is, I'll understand, and we'll be able to work something out. Your papers and reflections must be typed--double spaced and folded in the middle--fat-wise. I will make out-of-class writing assignments at least three days in advance. Prep Checks--10 points each, Tests-- 100 points each, Reflections-- 5 points each, Essay I-- 45 points, Essay II, 60 points, Underlined Passages-- checked at semester's end.

TEXTS

The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Abrams, et al. Seventh Edition.
Dixie College Writing Guide (if needed)

ENGLISH 2500 Assignment Schedule

All assigned readings should be finished by dates listed. Also, the schedule may be slightly changed to accommodate instructional needs.

AUGUST

- 23 Introduction to English 2500: Kenneth Clark, **The Skin of Our Teeth**
- 25 **The Skin of Our Teeth** concluded. “The Persistence of English,” xli-lv
- 28 “The Dream of the Rood,” p. 21, Beowulf pp.23 through p.44 “The Fight With Grendel”
- 30 Beowulf pp. 21-44 continued

SEPTEMBER

- 01 Beowulf, p.44 “Celebration at Heorot” through conclusion p.94
- 04 **Labor Day No Class**
- 06 Beowulf
- 08 Beowulf
- 11 Kenneth Clark, **Romance and Reality**
- 13 **Romance and Reality** concluded. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, pp. 119-173 (You may skim Part 3)
- 15 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
- 18 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
- 20 “Introduction to Chaucer” pp.173-178 (Prologue handout)
- 22 Chaucer “The General Prologue
- 25 Chaucer “The General Prologue”
- 27 Chaucer “The Pardoner’s Prologue, Tale, Epilogue” (handouts)
- 29 Chaucer “The Pardoner’s Prologue, Tale, Epilogue” (handouts)

OCTOBER

- 02 **FIRST MIDTERM**
- 04 Kenneth Clark, **Protest and Communication**
- 06 **Protest and Communication** concluded. Wyatt “The long love that in my thought doth harbor”
“Whoso list to hunt” Earl of Surry “Love, that doth reign and live within my thought”
The English Bible from “Tyndale’s Translation” Selections from Queen Elizabeth’s writing pp.350-357
- 09 Spenser The Faerie Queen pp. 357-61 and including Book One: Canto 1, Canto 2
- 11 Cantos 11 and 12
- 12 **Semester Break– No Class**
- 13 **Semester Break– No Class**
- 16 Spenser from the “Amoretti” Sonnets, 1, 37, 68, 70, 75, 79
- 18 Shakespeare - Sonnets: # 15,18, 29, 30, 33, 55, 71, 73, 94 97,106, 116, 118 129, 130, 138, 144
- 20 Shakespeare - Henry IV Part 1, pp. 492-575
- 23 Shakespeare - Henry IV Part 1
- 25 Shakespeare - Henry IV Part 1
- 27 Shakespeare - Henry IV Part 1
- 30 Shakespeare - Henry IV Part 1

NOVEMBER

01 SECOND MIDTERM

- 03 Donne pp. 599-601, "The Flea" "The Good-Morrow," "Song," pp. 602-604 "The Canonization,"
06 Donne pp. 607, "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" p. 611, Holy Sonnets: 1, 5, 7, 10, 14, 18
08 Milton: pp. 691-695, "On Shakespeare" p. 695, "Sonnets" pp. 720-722
10 Milton "Lycidas" pp. 704-09
13 Milton Paradise Lost pp. 722-23, "Book One, Book Two, From Book Seven, Summary Book Eight
15 Milton (handout) From Book Nine "The Fall" begins with "Thus saying" pp. 819-836 Summary
17 Milton and Steps to Redemption" Book Ten pp. 840-849 From Book Twelve "Departure from
Eden" pp. 849-53
20 Kenneth Clark, **The Smile of Reason**
22-24 **Thanksgiving Holiday– No Class**
27 **The Smile of Reason** concluded. Dryden pp. 877-79 "Mac Flecknoe" pp. 903-09
29 Swift "Description of a City Shower" pp. 966-69 "A Modest Proposal" pp. 1113-19

DECEMBER

- 01 Swift
04 Pope "Essay on Criticism" Parts One and Two pp. 1119-1134
06 Pope "Essay on Criticism"
08 A peek at the Romantics– Ahh, I feel better!
13 **FINAL EXAM Wednesday 10:00 AM– 12:00 NOON**

Be sure to read the authors' biographical introductions (page numbers included) to get an overview their lives. And finally, don't borrow stuff either from outside sources (without a works cited) or from your neighbor during a test--that's called plagiarism, and it can get you in big academic trouble. Not worth it!

Extra Credit: I'll Surprise You!

AND FINALLY: If you are a student with a physical or mental impairment and would like to request accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center (652-7516) in the Student Service Center. The Disability Resource Center will determine your eligibility for services based upon professional documentation. If you are eligible, the Disability Resource Center will evaluate your request and authorize accommodations that are appropriate for your disability.