This challenging lecture course surveys representative literary works from the Old English, Middle English, and Early Modern periods in relation to their cultural and historical backgrounds. The course will also focus on the historical development in England of drama, epic, romance, allegory, and lyric poetry. Satisfies the Humanities requirement for General Education; required of all English majors.

1. Introduction to the course; lecture on early British history from the Celts to Canute; review of European geography; handout on what Old English looks and sounds like.
2. Bede: from An Ecclesiastical History of the English People (trans. from Latin); Judith and The Dream of the Rood (both trans. from Old English).

• Labor Day—no class
3. The Wanderer; Beowulf, ll. 1–1690 (trans. from Old English); exercise in reading aloud.
4. #1 BLACKBOARD OLD-ENGLISH QUIZ COMPLETED; Beowulf, ll. 1691–2796; essay topic handed out.

5. Marie de France: from Lais (“Prologue,” “Lanval,” “Chevrefoil”) (trans. from Norman French); lecture on the Norman Conquest and the development of Middle English, distinguishing the genres of epic and romance.
6. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, parts 1–2 (trans. from Middle English).
7. Sir Gawain, parts 3–4; lecture on how to tell one medieval author apart from another; ESSAY #1 DUE (15 SEPTEMBER).

8. Middle English Lyrics; Geoffrey Chaucer: “General Prologue” to The Canterbury Tales: lines 1–34; exercise in reading aloud (from now on, no more translations).
9. Chaucer: “General Prologue” (focus on: knight, prioress, merchant, clerk, wife of Bath, parson, plowman, miller, and pardoner); lecture on estates satire. Read in both Middle and Modern English.

11. #2 BLACKBOARD CHAUCER QUIZ COMPLETED; Chaucer: “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale.”
15. The Second Play of the Shepherds; lecture on medieval drama and the guilds.
16. #3 BLACKBOARD SCANSION QUIZ COMPLETED. Switch to Volume 1B now. Tudor verse forms; Sir Thomas Wyatt: “W hose List to Hunt,” “My Galley,” “They Flee from Me”; Queen Elizabeth 1: “The Doubt of Future Foes”; practice in telling one poet from another.

18. Late 16th-century sonnets. Sir Philip Sidney: 1, 7, 9, 31,45, 52, 90, 106 from Astrophil and Stella; Edmund Spenser: 1, 4, 13, 22, 68, 75 from Amoretti; William Shakespeare: 15, 18, 29, 60, 73, 87,130 from Sonnets; practice in telling one poet from another.
19. MIDTERM EXAMINATION (13 OCTOBER).

20. Edmund Spenser: The Faerie Queene (1590), Book 1, cantos 1–2; lecture on reading allegory.
21. The Faerie Queene 1: cantos 3–6 (only stanzas 45–53 of canto 5 and verse synopsis of canto 6).

• No class—Fall Break
22. The Faerie Queene 1: cantos 7–9; exercise in reading aloud.
24. No class—I am at a conference; why not watch a DVD of Twelfth Night over the weekend.
27. #4 BLACKBOARD SHAKESPEARE QUIZ COMPLETED; Twelfth Night: acts 4–5.
31. Donne: Holy Sonnets 2, 3, 4, 6, 9,10; Sir Walter Raleigh: “On the Life of Man.”
32. John Milton: “L’Allegro” and “Il Penseroso”; exercise in reading aloud; lecture on the Civil Wars, the execution of Charles I in 1649, the establishment of the Commonwealth, and the subsequent restoration of the monarchy in 1660; ESSAY #2 DUE (15 NOVEMBER).
33. John Milton: Paradise Lost (1667), Book 1; Genesis 2–3 (pp. 1756–58).
34. Paradise Lost, Book 2.
• No class—Thanksgiving Break
35. Paradise Lost, Book 2; exercise in reading aloud.
36. #5 BLACKBOARD MILTON QUIZ COMPLETED; Paradise Lost, Book 3.
37. Paradise Lost, Book 4.
40. course evaluations; review for the final.

FINAL EXAMINATION: Monday 11 December 9 am to noon

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Email: ltroost@washjeff.edu
Office: Davis 24 (second floor)
Office Hours: Monday 2–4 and by appointment/chance
Office phone: 724-223-6144

MATERIAL FOR THE COURSE
• Blackboard. I will post announcements, documents, quizzes, topics, and links.
• Dictionary. Get one that has “college” or “collegiate” in the title and numbers about fifteen-hundred pages. You need to keep this by your side when you read and look up words you do not know (only words no longer in modern use are footnoted in the texts; the rest will be in a good dictionary). You will find the library’s subscription to the database version of the OED (Oxford English Dictionary useful when you write your essay).

OBJECTIVES FOR THIS COURSE AS ESTABLISHED BY THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
• Students will read a variety of representative works— including major works by major authors— in each of these areas: Old and Middle English literature, Tudor literature, Stuart and Commonwealth literature (including Paradise Lost).
• Students will gain experience in reading these genres: drama, romance, epic, allegory, and lyric poetry.
• Students will learn to recognize the traditions, both continental and native, in which writers during the various periods worked or against which they rebelled.
• Students will gain an understanding of the literary history of both poetry and drama in Britain and the influence of one text upon another.
Students will learn how literature adapts to a changing society, absorbing a significant amount of information about the impact of religion, government, class, gender, and history upon the writers and works of these periods.

Student will learn about a text’s audience and methods of disseminating the text to that audience.

Students will absorb much knowledge about the authors, works, and literary terms relevant to the periods and be able to connect author to quotation or title, recognize literary devices, and identify features of style.

Students will learn about changes in the English language and be able to connect literary quotations with the era in which they were written.

Students will develop their skills in reading older texts and in thinking, writing, and speaking about literature.

Students will learn about the geography of the British Isles, Scandinavia, Western Europe, and the Mediterranean.

**HOW TO PREPARE FOR CLASS**

- Bring the correct book, the course syllabus, and your notes to class every day.
- Do the reading—once before class and again before an essay, quiz, or test. The reading load is heavy, with some of the works looking distinctly odd to 21st-century eyes. Please be prepared for this and allow enough time to do the work.
- Look up and write down the meanings of words you do not know. Most interpretation problems are vocabulary problems. Archaic words will be glossed in your book; the rest should be in any college dictionary. You might also explore the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) in the “databases” section of the library’s website.
- Write down questions as you think of them and bring them to class. I am impressed by students who ask questions.
- Take notes on the reading before class, in class, and after class. There is a strong correlation between how much you write down and how much you remember.
- I also advise you acquire some knowledge about English history, Roman mythology, the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches, art, and music. In short, much of what you learn in college or on your own will come in useful. Aim to make connections.

**ASSESSMENT**

You will have the chance to earn **185** points, divided as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Five BLACKBOARD quizzes (10 points each); each must be completed by 9 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Two essays (25 points each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Midterm examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Final examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Attendance/participation before midterm (standards on Blackboard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Attendance/participation after midterm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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You will lose 2 points from your total score for each absence after 3.

**THE TESTS**

The tests and BLACKBOARD quizzes will ask you to do the following:

- recognize famous quotations,
- identify author and title when given a passage from a work,
- identify the genre and general historical period of a work,
- describe narratives, major characters, and settings accurately,
- identify the meter and rhyme scheme of verse,
- paraphrase passages in your own words,
- interpret the texts, applying appropriate literary terminology or Latin phrases,
- identify the stylistic features and attitudes characteristic of each author,
- identify the stylistic features and attitudes characteristic of the time periods.

Therefore, mark in your book those passages we linger over in class. I tend to draw passages for the exam from those I read aloud or discuss in class. It certainly will not hurt to memorize famous lines and passages because you will then have examples to use on exams (and they come in handy for impressing people at parties).
THE QUIZZES

- The quizzes are available on Blackboard during a limited “window of opportunity” of 48 hours: for example, a quiz due by 10 am Wednesday may be taken between 10 am Monday and 10 am Wednesday. You will have unlimited opportunities to retake the quiz if you don’t like your score. The questions, however, may not always be the same. Each will take about 10 minutes.
- Here’s my advice on how to take these quizzes: first, carefully do the reading and then take the quiz—without consulting your book as you take it. If you don’t like your score, review the material and then retake the quiz, once again with the book closed. The idea is to learn the material, not just to look it up. Trying to do these as “open book” will slow you down and you won’t be able to finish the quizzes within the time limit of 15 minutes.
- The quizzes sometimes freeze—if something goes wrong, email me as soon as possible, and I will unfreeze your quiz from my end of Blackboard (be sure to check Blackboard several times after you email me to see when your quiz becomes available again. Of course, if you wait until the last hour of the window of opportunity, there isn’t much I can do for you.

THE ESSAYS

- The topic will be posted on Blackboard: Assignments.
- The grading standards for the essay will also be posted at Blackboard: Assignments so you can get a sense of what I am looking for.
- I will not allow you to rewrite an essay for a new grade after the due date; however, I am happy to look at a draft before the due date. Either set up an appointment to talk to me or email me your draft. Remember to allow enough time afterwards to revise your essay. In general, you need to email drafts to me no later than 48 hours before the essay is due.
- Use MLA style for documenting quotations from the text in your essay. All quotations from the anthology must have author-page or author-line references keyed to a Works Cited page (and I mean the author of the literary work, not the editor of our anthology). Buy yourself an MLA Handbook if you no longer have your comp handbook. Every English major should own a copy.
- See the chapter in The MLA Handbook for information about the proper formatting of your essay. You may find the chapter on Mechanics very useful to review, too. I expect your grammar and punctuation to be up to standard.
- Only submit work that you yourself wrote. It is all right to study with someone; it is not all right to collaborate on an essay or a quiz, especially if only your name appears on it. It is all right to consult secondary sources; it is not all right to pretend that someone else’s published (or unpublished) work is your own. “Published work” includes material from the Internet, the reserve shelf, and encyclopedias as well as books and articles. Please don’t insult me (and don’t violate copyright).
- I will expect you to abide by the college’s code of academic honesty (posted on Blackboard and elsewhere). In this class, cases of plagiarism or cheating will be forwarded to the dean and will result a score of 0 for the assignment.

OTHER ISSUES

- English majors should remember that the material in this course will form the basis for several other courses to be taken—try to learn the material for the long-term, not for the short-term. Also, keep your textbooks: you will need them in future semesters, if only for reference. The introductions to the various periods and authors are extremely useful now and will be equally useful in next year.
- If a catastrophe or difficulty will prevent your handing in an assignment or taking a quiz/test, call or email me in advance, not two days later. I have no obligation to accept any work after its due date.

ATTENDANCE

- This is a lecture course, so we cover a lot every day. I do take attendance. I will grant you three “free absences.” After three, I will deduct two points from your attendance score for each additional class missed (severe lateness or unconsciousness may also count as an absence). I assume you have a very good reason for not coming to class—as good a reason as you’d have for not showing up for your job. You are encouraged to attend every single class and not miss any!
- In case of a major disaster that will significantly affect your attendance (such as your hospitalization, not your grandparent’s), quickly contact both Dean Shiller (x6006) and me (x6144), and we’ll work something out.