

Carleton University

Full Summer 2015

Department of English

ENGL 2300 A: British Literature I

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11.30 to 2.30.

Location: Room 201 Patterson (but please confirm on Carleton Central)

Instructor: Dr. Rosemary Daniels

Email: rosemary.daniels@carleton.ca

Office: Room 1914 Dunton Tower

Phone: (Secretariat) 613 520 2310

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3.00 to 4.00. Other times: by appointment.

It is not surprising that the nearly-thousand year period between the creation of two of the most important epics in British literature, *Beowulf* and *Paradise Lost*, encompassed challenging and often traumatic changes in each successive century: multiple invasions (successful and unsuccessful), tyrannies, regicides, famines, plagues and political, social, religious and scientific revolutions. It was also a period in which a belief in a distinctive English-speaking (and writing) nation developed, together with concepts which evolved into our modern understanding of democracy, equality before the law and social justice. This course will introduce students to the various ways that writers of this extended and dynamic period attempted to comprehend and explore their world in stories, plays and poetry. By the end of the course, students should have a good grasp of the relationship between the texts we study and the social, religious, political, economic, intellectual and artistic history they illuminate. Students should thus be well-prepared for the more specialised studies of third and fourth year. In particular, I hope that members of the course will simply enjoy these powerful narratives.

Students are expected to be fully engaged in this course. Not only is the reading schedule intense, but an important element of the work of the course involves several writing assignments designed to ensure that students are competent in completing intellectually rigorous and well-written analyses of text.

Nota Bene: Students shouldn't find the reference to epics intimidating. Anyone who has read the three-volume (or more) epics of *The Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter*, *The Hunger*

Games, Divergent, All Souls Trilogy or Mortal Instruments, will have no problem with *Beowulf* or *Paradise Lost* (which are considerably shorter).

Required Text:

The Norton Anthology of English Literature: Ninth edition. Volumes A (The Middle Ages) and B (The Sixteenth Century / The Early Seventeenth Century).

The texts will be available in the University Bookstore.

A dictionary, a grammar reference and a guide to the MLA system of documentation are **indispensable** for students of English literature or anyone who wishes to write well. There is a good selection in the University Bookstore.

Grading:

1st Assignment: Short essay: due **4th June**. Worth **15%**

2nd Assignment: In-class writing assignment: due **16th June**. Worth **10%**

3rd Assignment: Short essay: due: **16th July**. Worth **15%**

4th assignment: Research paper: due **13th August**. Worth **25%**

Final exam: date TBA. Worth **30%**

Attendance: Worth 5%

See Academic Regulations, Section 2.1: students must complete ALL assignments and examinations to obtain credit for this course.

What this means is that if you have not, for example, completed the first essay worth a potential 15% by the time of the final exam then **you will fail the entire course**.

Note that 2300 A is defined as a “Writing Attentive” Course, which encompasses the following:

Students will spend a significant amount of class time learning, and improving, university-level forms of thinking and writing, particularly essay-writing skills, which will concentrate on the following:

The establishment and refinement of literary-critical skills through close analysis of texts from a variety of genres;

The generation and substantiation of an argumentative thesis across an essay;

The establishment and refinement of sophisticated ideas and opinions using a proper, correct and effective academic English style;

The use and citation of primary literary texts in appropriate and convincing ways;

The development of fluency in and facility with genre specific literary terminology;

An introduction to the fundamentals of secondary research (including critical evaluation, use and citation of academic sources).

In addition, students will complete a minimum of two graded writing assignments per term in which they will be expected to demonstrate the above skills.

Students will write at least one formally scheduled examination.

Attendance: Attendance is noted at each class and represents a small reward (a potential 5 points) for regular attendees. It is **your** responsibility to ensure that your name has been noted for attendance. If you are not sure whether or not your name has been recorded, or if you arrive in class after attendance has been taken, make sure that you see me at the end of *that particular class*. **I will not under any circumstances** retroactively note a student's attendance in a previous class.

Students may miss **2** classes **per term** without penalty; after that half a point will be deducted for each abstention. If you are **unavoidably** absent from class because of unexpected and /or **serious extenuating circumstances** (such as accident, illness, religious obligation etc.), you may avoid the deduction with the production of a medical certificate or other documentation. Do not ask for this accommodation without documentation.

Those students, who **choose** to absent themselves from class **regularly without cause**, should not embarrass regular attendees by asking for their notes before tests or exams and should not ask me to cover missed class material in office hours.

Class Behaviour: Please arrive for class on time, with your required text ready to use and remain for the duration of the class. Whenever this is not possible, please be courteous to your fellow students and if you arrive late or need to leave early, do so as quietly as possible.

During lectures, please turn off cell-phones, smart phones, mp3 players and other electronic devices before class begins. Laptops **may** be used in class for taking lecture notes, but **not** for accessing the internet, Face Book, You Tube etc. *It is disrespectful to me and distracting to the students around you*. I will be forced to prohibit laptop use during class if there is sustained and disruptive abuse of this privilege.

I would also request that you do **not** record lectures and class discussions.

While questions and comments from students are very welcome and, indeed, encouraged, please refrain from personal whispered conversations during class. Note that this behaviour is not made less obvious by a hand or book placed in front of the face. Again, it is *disrespectful, distracting and annoying* not only to me, but ***even more so to your fellow students***.

I am always happy to talk to students at the end of class; however, note that I will **not, under any circumstances**, discuss students' grades, potential extensions / deferrals or attendance concerns at this time. These are all private matters that are better discussed via email or during office hours.

Class Preparation: You are advised to attend lectures regularly and to take **extensive notes** from lectures and discussions. **I do not post my lectures** and material discussed in class **will** be included in the exam; knowledge of the texts without knowledge of the ways in which they were addressed in class will **not** be enough to excel in it.

Students should make a sustained effort to stay ahead of the reading schedule as posted on the class syllabus. The fifteen weeks of the summer term go by very quickly, ***we cover the work of a normal two semester term of twenty four weeks, and it is easy to get behind with readings***. This will make lectures and discussions unproductive and exam revision more stressful than it need be. As already noted, you are requested to always bring the relevant text with you to class and to have read the assigned material for that day, as I will often call on students for readings and analysis.

Be aware that I do not normally give my lectures a second time during office hours (and, as noted, I do not post my lectures). You are advised to acquaint yourself with fellow students who can share notes with you in the event that you inadvertently miss class(es) because of late registration, ill- health or traffic problems etc.

Papers: Papers are due **IN CLASS on the date(s) specified**.

Papers handed in after the due date without permission will be penalized at 5 points a day for 7 days. They will be given a grade but not corrected. Note that the clock will start ticking on late papers from the end of class on the due date.

Papers that are handed in *more* than 7 days late, without permission, will be accepted but will be given a grade of zero.

It is, in ***exceptional*** cases, possible to obtain an extension on an assignment, but **only** because of **serious and unavoidable extenuating circumstances** (for example, significant illness, bereavement, religious obligation) for which you **MUST** supply a medical certificate or other documentation. There is **no exception** to this requirement, and you should, if possible, ***already have documentation in hand*** or in preparation when you ask for an extension. Be aware that, as much as it may pain me at the time, **I will** demand such documentation.

Be aware that extensions that have been provisionally approved can later be **denied** if documentation is not forthcoming in a timely manner.

Note that a request for an extension **MUST** be made **in writing** via email, followed, if necessary, by a discussion during office hours. As noted, I will **not** discuss a request for an extension before, during or after class.

If possible, you should notify me of your need for an extension **at least 24 hours** before the due date – extensions will **not** be granted if they are requested on or after the due date except in cases of **proven** illness or bereavement. Extensions that are requested *more than 7 days* after the due date will be **automatically refused**.

******* I will give you a generous amount of time to prepare for all papers. Therefore, if you think that you might be busy with other assignments or with employment / sports / hobbies / family obligations in the week(s) before, or of, the due dates, you should undertake and finish your papers for **this** class in good time. **Be aware** that a **busy schedule** or an activity known about in advance (such as a sporting event, a wedding or participation in a play etc.) does **not** normally constitute an acceptable reason for an extension. ******* .

All essay assignments MUST be submitted for grading in order to obtain credit for this class. So that even if you know you will obtain zero for an assignment because it is more than seven days late, you must nevertheless hand it in or fail the course.

Note that, in accordance with the policies of the Faculty of Arts, **rewriting of assignments** in order to improve grades is **not permitted**. If you are unhappy with a grade on an assignment, do come and see me in office hours (**AFTER and only after** you have read my comments and thought about why you received the grade you obtained) to discuss how you can improve your performance in future assignments. As noted above, I will **not** under any circumstances discuss a disappointing grade at the end of class.

Note that it is **your responsibility** to ensure that I receive your paper. I do not normally accept papers through email or through Canada Post. You are strongly advised not to rely upon friends. Be aware that if you slide a paper under my office door, I may not see it for several days. **In this circumstance, I will date the paper from the date I first see it.**

If you are unable to attend class on the due dates, you may leave your paper(s) at the Secretariat of the Department of English at **1812 Dunton Tower** where they will be date stamped before being placed in my mailbox. When the Secretariat is closed, you may leave your paper(s) in the drop-box next to the office counter. Note that papers left in the drop-box will be date-stamped the following morning (on the following Monday at weekends). **I will date the submission of any essay not received in class from the date of the date-stamp.**

Papers do very occasionally go astray; you are advised always to keep a copy in your computer.

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide.

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (**PMC**) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact **PMC at 613-520-6608** or **pmc@carleton.ca** for a formal evaluation.

If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable).

After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Exams: Absence from final exams will **only** be excused because of **serious extenuating circumstances** (see above). Deferrals can be arranged **only through the Registrar's office** and with appropriate documentation, which **must** be submitted as soon as possible. **Note** that the Registrar's office does not set exam dates until late in each term, so you should plan to be available throughout the entire exam period. Travel or absence for employment, business, pleasure or family obligations is **NOT** considered a valid reason for failure to attend an exam.

Do not undertake obligations or make travel plans or book tickets until the dates of all your exams are known, and ensure that employers, family and friends are aware of this restriction. Surprise airline tickets bought for a date prior to the completion of your exams represent wasted money.

Plagiarism / Academic Fraud: The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as ones’ own.”

Types of plagiarism include the following:

Reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;

Submitting a take-home exam, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;

Using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;

Using another’s data or research findings;

Failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and / or failing to use quotation marks;

Handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.”

In other words, **using the ideas, research data or words of others without proper acknowledgement or citation (including “cutting and pasting” from the internet), unauthorized collaboration with other students (such as allowing another student to see your exam responses), buying essays from third parties or using work already submitted to one instructor as an assignment for another instructor are all *serious academic offenses***, which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s Instructor.

The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work is plagiarized or any act of academic fraud has taken place. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course, suspension from the programme or even expulsion from the university; Letters of reprimand are also placed on the student’s file.

See the Section on Academic Integrity in the Student Conduct Portion of the Undergraduate Calendar.

You can also access some useful sources on the correct use of citation in any grammar reference book (such as *Checkmate*, or *The Little Brown Handbook*, for example) or at the following website:

<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>.

Another helpful resource can be found at the OWL Purdue Online Writing Lab at www.owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/3/33/

If, whilst working on the assignments, you are unsure about attribution of primary and secondary sources, do not hesitate to consult me.

It can be useful to discuss assignments with fellow students or to form study groups, but be very careful to ensure that any assignment you submit for grading is ***your own original work***.

Office Hours and Email Protocol: As well as responding to questions and comments in class, I am always happy to speak to students at the end of class and during office hours. If these times are not convenient for you, please do not hesitate to arrange another time and date with me.

I am also available to answer questions through **email** (note that I check my email every day from Monday morning to Friday afternoon – so that an email sent to me on Friday evening will not receive a response until Monday).

Please be mature and courteous in your questions and comments. In particular, please give your **full name** and **the title of the class** you are taking with me when you ask a question through email.

I also request that you address me as ***Prof. / Ms / Mrs. / Dr. Daniels*** (your choice) in an email, rather than simply “Hi / Hey” or no greeting at all. For example, “Hi Mrs. Daniels, This is Sue Smith from 2300” is very much to be preferred to “Hey – I need an extension.”

I do not guarantee a response to any email that does not follow this protocol.

Be aware that I share an office and a telephone with other Instructors and that we do not have access to voice mail. I am not in the office every day, and the best way to contact me is through email.

Attending office hours and sending an email are, in fact, the most confidential ways of letting me know if there are any problems that will affect your attendance or performance in class, assignments or exams. As already noted, I do request documentation for exemptions from course requirements (see above), but do not hesitate to use office hours and email to discuss any academic issue with me.

Finally, while I hope you enjoy the class and stay with it to the end, I understand that you may decide to drop the course. If so, be careful to ensure that you drop it **officially** through the

Registrar's Office. Do not assume that failure to attend classes or even an email to me constitutes official withdrawal; you will still be officially registered and I may be required to give you a grade of zero for the course.

Course Timetable

(While every effort will be made to follow this schedule exactly, be aware that some lectures may take a longer or shorter time than indicated below).

5th May: Introduction to the course. Introduction to Anglo-Saxon culture and literature.

7th May: "The Dream of the Rood" (p. 32, *Vol. A Norton Anthology*); *Beowulf* (p. 36).

12th May: *Beowulf*.

14th May: Introduction to Medieval culture and literature. Introduction to the Romance tradition. Marie de France: "*Chevrefoil*" (p. 167).

19th May: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (p. 183)

21st May: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Geoffrey Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales*; "The General Prologue" (p. 243).

26th May: Chaucer: "The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale" (p. 282). Middle English Lyrics (p. 478).

28th May: Introduction to Mystery and Morality Plays: *The York Play of the Crucifixion* (p. 439);

2nd June: *The Wakefield Second Shepherd's Play* (p. 449); *Everyman* (p. 507).

4th June: Introduction to the Renaissance and the Reformation. Introduction to the Sonnet and Lyric tradition. Sir Thomas Wyatt: "Whoso list to hunt" (*Vol. B. Norton Anthology*, p. 649); Petrarch: "Rima 190" (p. 649). **1st Assignment due.**

9th June: Wyatt: "My galley" (p. 651); Petrarch: "Rima 189" (p. 652); "They flee from me" (p. 653); "Who list his wealth and ease retain" (p. 658); Earl of Surrey: "The soote season" (p. 662); Petrarch: "Rima 310" (p. 663); "Th'Assyrian's king" (p. 664); "So cruel prison" (p. 665).

11th June: Elizabeth I: "On Monsieur's Departure" (p. 758); "Speech to the Troops at Tilbury" (p. 762); "The 'Golden Speech'" (p. 763); Sir Philip Sidney: *Astrophil and Stella*: numbers 1 (1084), 7 (1086), 15 (p. 1087), 108 (p. 1101); Sir Edmund Spenser: *Amoretti*: numbers 34 and 37 (p. 986), 64 (p. 987), 67 (p. 988), 75 (p. 989).

16th June: Catch-up. In-class written assignment.

17th June to 1st July: Summer break.

2nd July: William Shakespeare: *Sonnets*: numbers 18 (p. 1172), 55 (p. 1175), 73 (p. 1177), 130 (p. 1184), 138 (p. 1184), 144 (p. 1185). Spenser: *The Fairy Queen*. Book 1 (p. 781)

7th July: *The Fairy Queen*. *King Lear* (p. 1251).

9th July: *King Lear*.

14th July: Introduction to the Seventeenth Century. Ben Jonson: "To Penshurst" (p. 1564); "A Sonnet" (p. 1550).

16th July: Mary Wroth: *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*: numbers 16, 25 (p. 1567) and 64 (p. 1569). Aemilia Lanyer: *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*: "Eve's Apology in Defense of Women" (p. 1433); "The Description of Cookham" (p. 1436). **2nd Assignment due.**

21st July: John Donne: "The Flea" (p. 1373); "The Sun Rising" (p. 1376); "The Canonization" (p. 1377); "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" (p. 1385); *Holy Sonnets*; numbers 10 (p. 1412) and 14 (p. 1413); "Good Friday, 1613, Riding Westward" (p. 1415).

23rd July: George Herbert: *The Temple*: "The Altar" (p. 1707), "Redemption" (p. 1708), "Easter Wings" (p. 1709), "Church Monuments" (p. 1712), "The Windows" (p. 1713), "The Collar" (p. 1720), "The Forerunners" (p. 1723), "Love (3)" (p. 1725).

28th July: Civil War Poets and Beyond. Robert Herrick: "Corinna's Going A-Maying" (p. 1760); "The Hock-Cart" (p. 1762); Richard Lovelace: "To Althea, From Prison" (p. 1781); Katherine Philips: "Upon the Double Murder of King Charles" (p. 1785); "To Mrs. M.A. at Parting" (p. 1787).

30th July: Andrew Marvell: "To His Coy Mistress" (p. 1796); "The Garden" (p. 1804). Thomas Traherne: "On Leaping Over the Moon" (p. 1883); Margaret Cavendish: "The Hunting of the Hare" (p. 1886).

4th August: John Milton: *Paradise Lost* (p. 1943).

6th August: *Paradise Lost*.

11th August: *Paradise Lost*.

13th August: Catch-up. Review and exam preparation. Research paper due.

17th to 23rd August: exam period.