

**Carleton University
Fall/Winter 2015-16
Department of English**

ENGL 2300B: British Literatures I

Prerequisite: 1.0 credit in ENGL at the 1000 level

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4.05 pm – 5.35pm
Location: Southam Hall 517 (Confirm location on Carleton Central)

Professor T. DeCook
Office: Dunton Tower 1803
Phone: 613 520 2600 ext. 1367
Email: travis_decook@carleton.ca
Office hour: Tuesday, 1- 2pm and by appointment

This course surveys English literature from its remote roots in the Anglo-Saxon past to the end of the seventeenth century. Traversing this historical span we will encounter the radically foreign as well as the shockingly familiar. We will study a diverse range of literary genres and examine the relationships between changing historical and cultural contexts and the literature which both influenced them and was shaped by them. Other main objectives include the development of close reading, analytical, and writing skills, as well as an engagement with the scholarship and intellectual dialogue that surround the literature we study.

cuLearn

Announcements and documents pertaining to the course will be posted on cuLearn. Students are fully responsible for reading all course material transmitted here. Information posted to cuLearn will be considered provided to all registered students within 24 hours of posting.

Course Work and Evaluation

First Essay (Oct 15, 800-1000 words) 10%
Fall Exam (Nov 19) 15%
Second Essay (Dec 3, 1300-1500 words) 15%
Third Essay (Apr 7, 1800-2000 words) 25%
Final Exam (April exam period) 25%
Participation 10%

Writing Attentive Guidelines

ENGL 2300 is a writing-attentive course. In ENGL 2300, "writing-attentive" means that students will spend a significant amount of class time improving and developing university-level forms of thinking and writing about early forms of literature in order to:

- Maintain and improve the ability to write grammatically and syntactically complex prose
- Build upon and extend skills in written close analysis of texts from a variety of genres in early forms of English
- Refine skills in generating and supporting argumentative thesis statements across essays
- Improve the ability to express in writing sophisticated ideas and opinions using proper, correct, and effective academic English practice
- Use, cite, and interpret primary literary texts in complex ways while following MLA documentation standards
- Expand fluency in and facility with genre-specific terminology from early periods

A portion of class time will be devoted to developing and improving essay-writing skills (see schedule below for dates of writing discussions).

In this section there will be one 3-hour exam, held in April. In addition to the final exam, there is a mid-year exam in the Fall term. Both exams will cover all material covered up to that point, and will consist of identification questions, passage analysis, and essay questions.

Description of Assignments

The first essay focuses on close reading, and you will develop an argument based on an analysis of a passage of your choice from a group of the texts we have read up to that point. Your second and third essays will be on assigned topics distributed in class. They must be submitted in hard copy, typewritten, handed in at the end of class on the due date, and citations must comply with the Modern Languages Association (MLA) format (see the *MLA Handbook* or <http://www.mla.org>). You are not required to use secondary sources. Late essays will be penalized at a rate of 2% for every day they are late, excluding weekends and holidays. A medical emergency, documented with a doctor's note, is the only legitimate excuse for a late paper. Computer problems and lost papers are not valid excuses for late assignments: it is your responsibility to maintain backup copies of all your work. Please note: In order to pass the course, all assignments must be completed.

Participation marks derive from two sources: a) your informed involvement in discussion periods (which includes bringing the text to be discussed to class) and b) your in-class written responses. Approximately ten times over the course of the year you will be required to write a brief, one-paragraph response to a question, which must be handed in at the end of class. To receive full marks on these written responses, you must demonstrate that you have read the texts in question and have given thoughtful

consideration to the question. Students will be called upon randomly to read out their responses, which we will discuss as a group. Please note: You are expected to attend every class. Significant absence from this course will lead to loss of participation marks gained through discussion and in-class written responses.

Classroom Protocols

Audio and visual recording devices are not allowed within the classroom. Students who want audio recordings of lectures must obtain authorization from the instructor. To avoid disrupting fellow students, please refrain from talking to neighbours during class, and turn off cell phones before class begins.

Academic Honesty (PLAGIARISM)

Plagiarism – making someone else’s work or ideas appear as your own – can happen accidentally. However, inadvertent plagiarism is treated the same as intentional plagiarism, and the consequences for this infraction are severe: expulsion from and an F in the course and, in some cases, expulsion from the university. For the code outlining plagiarism, see the section on “Instructional Offences” in the 2015-16 Undergraduate Calendar.

The Undergraduate Calendar indicates that submitting “substantially the same piece of work to two or more courses without the prior written permission of the instructors from all courses involved” constitutes an Instructional Offense which will be prosecuted under the guidelines specified in the Undergraduate Calendar. The Calendar states: “Minor modifications and amendments, such as changes of phraseology in an essay or paper, do not constitute a significant and acceptable reworking of an assignment.”

You must be extremely vigilant in documenting all of your sources (including the course lectures). Penalties are not trivial. For more information please go to: <http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and 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.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit

Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students>.

Required Texts (available at Haven Books, 43 Seneca Street)

The Norton Anthology of English Literature, 9th ed., volumes A, B
Behn, *Oroonoko*, ed. Todd (Penguin)

Texts designated in the schedule with an asterisk (*) are available online. See the bottom of this syllabus for Internet addresses.

Tentative Schedule (will be revised as necessary)

Fall Term

Sept 3: Introduction

Sept 8: Caedmon's Hymn, "The Dream of the Rood," "The Wanderer," "The Wife's Lament," "The Seafarer,"* "The Ruin"*

Sept 10: *Beowulf*

Sept 15: *Beowulf*

Sept 17: Writing Discussion 1; *Beowulf*

Sept 22: *Judith*; *Sir Orfeo*

Sept 24: Writing Discussion 2; *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Sept 29: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Oct 1: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Oct 6: Writing Discussion 3; *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Oct 8: Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, "General Prologue"

Oct 13: Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, "General Prologue"

Oct 15: Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, "The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale" (**first essay due**)

Oct 20: Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, "The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale"

Oct 22: More, *Utopia*

Oct 27: **Fall Break** -No class

Oct 29: **Fall Break** -No class

Nov 3: More, *Utopia*

Nov 5: No class

Nov 10: More, *Utopia*

Nov 12: Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella*

Nov 17: Shakespeare, Sonnets

Nov 19: **Fall exam**

Nov 24: Writing Discussion 4; Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, A Letter of the Authors, Book One

Nov 26: Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book One

Dec 1: Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book One

Dec 3: Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book One (**second essay due**)

Winter Term

Jan 7: Marlowe, *Hero and Leander*

Jan 12: Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*

Jan 14: Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*

Jan 19: Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*

Jan 21: Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*

Jan 26: Shakespeare, *King Lear*

Jan 28: Shakespeare, *King Lear*

Feb 2: Shakespeare, *King Lear*

Feb 4: Lanyer, *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*; Donne, "The Sun Rising," "The Ecstasy"

Feb 9: Donne, "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning," "Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward," "The Canonization"

Feb 11: Donne, Holy Sonnets

Feb 16: **Winter Break** –No class

Feb 18: **Winter Break** –No class

Feb 23: Herbert, "The Collar," "Love (III)," "Easter Wings," "Redemption," "The Pulley"

Feb 25: Marvell, "Bermudas," "The Garden," "An Horation Ode Upon Cromwell's Return From Ireland"

Mar 1: Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Mar 3: Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Mar 8: Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Mar 10: Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Mar 15: Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Mar 17: Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Mar 22: Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Mar 24: Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Mar 29: Milton, *Samson Agonistes**

Mar 31: Milton, *Samson Agonistes**

Apr 5: Behn, *Oroonoko*

Apr 7: Behn, *Oroonoko* (**third essay due**)

Online Materials

• "The Seafarer" is available at: <http://www.lightspill.com/poetry/oe/seafarer.html>

• "The Ruin" is available at: <http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/sechard/oeruim.htm>

• *Samson Agonistes* is available at:

http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/samson/drama/index.shtml