

**Carleton University
Fall 2014 and Winter 2015
Department of English**

ENGL 2300B: British Literatures I

Thursday 6:00-9:00 PM

Location: 238 TB (Fall) and 202 TB (Winter)

Please confirm locations on Carleton Central

Prof. Micheline White

Office: Paterson Hall 2A 45

Phone: ext 1356

email: Micheline.white@carleton.ca

For emergencies only. I do not read or respond to work email from Friday at 5:00 until Monday 08:30.

Office Hours: TBD

Course Description:

This course introduces students to texts by British authors from the Middle Ages and Renaissance. It is designed to communicate a sense of the chronological development of English literature in Britain as well as an awareness of the dynamic cultural contexts this literature engages. In order better to appreciate the cultural importance of the texts we study, we will situate them in relation to their literary and historical backgrounds and to appreciate the ways in which these texts shaped, were shaped by, and commented on, the issues of their day. The course will cover literature from the Old English (c. 500-1100), Middle English (c. 1000-1500), Renaissance (1500-1640), and the period of the Civil War to Restoration (c. 1640-1700). In studying Shakespeare we will compare a number of his plays to contemporary movie productions by Mel Gibson, Julie Taymor, and Ralph Fiennes.

Authors to be Studied and Required Texts:

The books are available at **ALL BOOKS at 327 Rideau Street** (between King Edward and Nelson. On the #7 bus-route, just beside the Bytown Cinema). M-Sat Open 10:00 AM-9:00 PM. Sunday 12:00-6:00. (613) 789-9544. Some movies are on reserve at the library; others are available through iTunes.

Beowulf in *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt et al. 9th ed. Vol. 1. New York: Norton, 2012. Print.

Selections from Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, in *The Norton Anthology*

Selections from *The Book of Margery Kemp* in *The Norton Anthology*

Selections from Julian of Norwich's *The Book of Showings* in *The Norton Anthology*

Sir Thomas More's *Utopia*, text TBD

Petrarch's *Canzoniere*, Wyatt's Sonnets, Spenser's *Amoretti*, and Shakespeare's *Sonnets*

Queen Elizabeth I: speeches, poems, portraits, prayers.

Shakespeare, *Othello* (Signet Classic); movie directed by Oliver Parker with Laurence Fishburne (1998; available on reserve and on iTunes)

Shakespeare, *Coriolanus* directed by Ralph Fiennes (2012; available on iTunes)

Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Signet Classic); movie by Julie Taymor (2011; on iTunes)

Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (Signet Classic); movies directed by Franco Zeffirelli (with M. Gibson, 1990, on reserve) and Kenneth Branagh (1996; on reserve and on iTunes)

John Donne, selected Poems.

ENGL 2300 is a writing-attentive course. In ENGL 2300, "writing-attentive" means:

Students will write at least one examination.

Students will write a number of formal essays in which they are expected to

- * develop an argumentative thesis statement across each essay.
- * develop complex ideas using correct and effective expression, according to academic English practice
- * use and cite evidence from primary texts appropriately.
- * read genres and language from early periods critically.
- * demonstrate mastery of MLA documentation practices

A portion of each class will be devoted to developing and improving essay-writing skills.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students must fulfill *all* course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade.

1. Quizzes and mini-assignments: **5%**

Will include short answer questions, passage identifications, and group work

2. Two collaborative oral presentations (20 minutes each) with a formal paper write-up (5 pages each)

Fall: 20%

Winter: 20%

3. One formal written paper:

Winter paper: 7-8 pages **15%**

4. Fall midterm. **15%**

2.5 hour exam in mid-November: will include passage identification and a pre-prepared essay question. Will be held during class hours.

5. Final examination: **20%**

2.5 hour examination: will include passage identification and a pre-prepared essay question. Will be scheduled during official exam period.

6. Attendance and Participation: **5 %**. I will take attendance every week and will take private notes on your participation every week.

GRADING

A+ Extraordinary work that greatly exceeds the requirements of a second year paper. This grade is rarely awarded.

A Excellent work: very insightful analysis; clear and persuasive thesis that goes beyond the ideas presented in lecture; free of any typographical or grammatical errors;

A-/ B+ Very strong work: insightful and clear, but in need of a bit of clarification, revision, or proofreading.

B/B- Good work. Demonstrates a solid understanding of the text and lectures, but requires more significant revision, clarification, or proofreading

C+ /C/C- Average to poor work. Lacks a clear or insightful thesis and requires extensive revision, clarification, or proofreading

F Unacceptable or non-existent work.

EXPECTATIONS

I am assuming that most of you have had very little exposure to the material we will study this year. In the weeks that follow, you are encouraged to read the texts slowly, to ask a lot of questions, and to take the initiative in seeking ways to answer those questions. I expect you to come to class with things to **CONTRIBUTE**.

You are **NOT** permitted use your laptop to read **ANYTHING** during lecture and class. Humans are terrible at multi-tasking, and it is incredibly rude and distracting (to the professor and other students) to be on facebook, CNN, etc. during lectures. Students who do not follow this rule will be asked to turn-off their laptops or leave the classroom.

You are expected to work collaboratively with others on several projects. In recent position papers on Post-Secondary Education, Canadian employers have cited “collaborative working” as a key skill that they want to see further developed in university graduates. I have designed the assignments so that students can contribute to a group project while still focusing their energies on topics that interest them. **HAVE FUN!**

LATE WORK

Your presentations or papers are due in class on the dates specified. If you have extenuating circumstances, please discuss them with me in advance. I will deduct 3% of your paper grade for each day work is late.

UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as *“to use and pass off as one’s own idea or product the work of another without expressly giving credit to another.”* This can include:

- Copying from another person's work without indicating this through appropriate use of quotation marks and footnote citations.
- Lengthy and close paraphrasing of another person's work (i.e. extensive copying interspersed with a few phrases or sentences of your own).
- Submitting written work produced by someone else as if it were your own work (e.g. another student's term paper, a paper purchased from a term paper "factory", materials or term papers downloaded from the Internet, etc.).
- Handing in *"substantially the same piece of work to two or more courses without the prior written permission of the instructors...involved."* (University Senate)

Plagiarism is a serious offence 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 has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of "F" for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B+ = 77-79 (9)	C+ = 67-69 (6)
A = 85-89 (11)	B = 73-76 (8)	C = 63-66 (5)
A - = 80-84 (10)	B - = 70-72 (7)	C - = 60-62 (4)
D+ = 57-59 (3)	D = 53-56 (2)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F Failure. No academic credit

WDN Withdrawn from the course

ABS Absent from the final examination

DEF Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")

FND “Failed, no Deferral” – assigned when the student is absent from the final exam and has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from Fall/Winter term courses is 8 April, 2015.

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

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 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. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov. 7, 2014 for the Fall term and March 6, 2015 for the Winter terms. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a FINAL assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please contact the Registrar's Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within 5 working days of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

Registrar's Office 520-3500 300 Tory

Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850 302 Tory

Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937 501 Uni-Centre

Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125 4th Floor Library

Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 4th Floor Library

LECTURE SCHEDULE FOR ENGL 2300

Fall term (subject to minor changes)

TH 4 Sept: Introduction to the course.

TH 11 Sept: Introduction to Anglo-Saxon literature and Culture
Introduction to Manuscript Culture
Beowulf, editors' intro (36-41) and lines 1-1250.

TH 18 Sept: *Beowulf*, ll. 1250-2200. mini-quiz.

TH 25 Sept: *Beowulf*, ll. 2200-3180.

TH 2 Oct: *Beowulf* oral presentations; short *Beowulf* papers due.

TH 9 Oct: Introduction to the Norman Conquest
Introduction to Middle English Language
Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, *General Prologue* (**Norton 1**, pp. 243-63).

TH 16 Oct: Chaucer, *The Miller's Prologue and Tale* (Guest lecture, pp. 264-280)

TH 23 Oct: Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale* (**Norton 1**, pp. 282-310)

TH 30 Oct: NO CLASS. Fall Reading week.

TH 6 Nov: Chaucer, *Pardoner's Prologue and Tale*; and more Chaucer TBD

TH 13 Nov: 2.5 hour in-class mid-term test on Chaucer. Short answers and pre-prepared essay question.

TH 20 Nov: Margery Kempe, excerpts from *The Book of Margery Kempe* (**Norton 1**, pp. 424-38) and extra handout and Julian of Norwich, from *A Book of Showings* (Norton, pp. 412-24).

TH 27 Nov: Kempe and Julian of Norwich group-work mini-assignment. If time: Medieval Drama: York Crucifixion Play.

TH 4 Dec: Medieval Drama: “York Crucifixion Play.” Term review. class party.

Winter Term: TBD