

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

ENGL 2300, Section C: *British Literatures I*

**Tuesdays and Thursdays / 11:35am-12:55pm
Location: *Please confirm location on Carleton Central***

**Professor: Dr. S. Bly Calkin
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Office Hours:

FALL: Wednesdays 1:15-3:15pm, or by appointment

WINTER: Wednesdays 2:45-3:45pm, Thursdays 1-2pm, or by appointment

Course Description:

Monsters, mystics, magic, multilingualism, and mayhem . . . These are just a few of the many concerns that animate texts by British authors from the Middle Ages and Renaissance. ENGL 2300 C introduces students to literature written in Britain between 500 and 1700 CE. 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 strive to 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 C.E.), Middle English (c. 1000-1500 C.E.), and Renaissance and Restoration periods (c. 1500-1700 C.E.). One of the focal questions underlying our reading will be: How does a historical understanding of British culture enhance and enrich our reading of English literature from different historical periods? We will also consider the portraits of heroism, gender, love, lust, violence, magic, monstrosity, religion, art, authorship, colonialism, and Englishness presented in these texts, and study the ways in which different writers handled such topics. Finally, we will explore ideas about literary conventions, genres, aesthetics, and form as we examine the very different ways in which medieval and Renaissance authors wrote about topics important to them and their audiences.

Course Objectives:

Students in this course will:

- Read a variety of British literature from its earliest stages to its seventeenth-century forms
- Gain a general sense of the chronology of British literature, and of various writers' relations to history and literature
- Develop an awareness of the ways in which literature from different historical periods articulates and explores the central concerns of its day
- Consider the ideas about heroism, gender, religion, love, violence, Englishness, colonialism, magic, monstrosity, authorship, and aesthetics that appear in literature from

- different periods, and the ways in which ideas about these issues change over time
- Become familiar with some of British literature's primary conventions and genres, and with the ways these vary over time
- Become familiar with some key technical and literary terms
- Acquire and improve the skills used to analyze and write about texts from early literary periods and various genres

Please Note:

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 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

Students will write at least one 3-hour formally scheduled examination. If there is just one exam it must take place at the end of the course. (In this section there will be two exams, a mid-year and a final)

Required Texts:

- *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: The Medieval Period* (Volume 1). Ed. Joseph Black et al. 3rd ed. Peterborough: Broadview, 2014. Paperback.

- William Shakespeare. *The Tragedy of Richard II*. Ed. Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine. Folger Shakespeare Library Series. Toronto: Simon and Schuster, 2005. Paperback.

- *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt et al. 9th ed. Package 1: Vols A, B, and C. New York: Norton, 2012. Paperback.

- Edmund Spenser. *Edmund Spenser's Poetry*. Ed. Anne Lake Prescott and Andrew D. Hadfield. 4th ed. New York: Norton, 2014. Norton Critical Edition. Paperback.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a shrinkwrapped package of these two Norton titles so that you can get the Spenser edition for free when you buy the Norton anthology.

- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works 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.

Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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 can include failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, suspension from a program, suspension from the university, or even expulsion from the university. For more information please go to:

<http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>

Please note: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Attendance and Late Paper Policy:

I expect you to be at class mentally as well as physically, and to contribute to our discussions and activities. For this reason, I have dedicated a portion of the grade to attendance and participation. Attendance will be taken regularly after our first meeting. Participation will be assessed through class discussion and/or on-line discussion via CULearn, completion of designated mini-assignments, and your prepared participation in writing workshops (i.e. coming with a draft to workshop). 5% of your grade will be determined by your active presence at class and contribution to discussions; another 5% will be determined by your completion of designated mini-assignments and your prepared participation in writing workshops. As stated above, sitting in class while surfing the web, e-mailing, texting, facebooking, sleeping etc. does not constitute an active presence; you may be here physically but are elsewhere mentally, and your mark will reflect that absence.

Your papers are due at class on the dates specified. E-mailed versions will only be accepted as a temporary solution to printing problems and must be followed by submission of a hard copy within twenty-four hours. **Unless you have serious extenuating circumstances (illness, bereavement, religious obligation) and discuss these with me, I will deduct 3% of your paper grade for each day it is late.** Trust me—it is much better to hand in the paper than to drag out the process of writing. Please note as well that both papers must be handed in in order to receive credit for this course.

Please Note: If one of your assignments is lost, misplaced, or not received by the instructor, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be submitted immediately upon request.

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 <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students/>

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 above.

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 requiring accommodation. 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 exams.

Other Carleton Services:

Please note that the following services are available to you: the Writing Tutorial Service, 4th Floor, MacOdrum Library, 613-520-2600x1125, <https://carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/> (offers assistance with developing and improving writing skills); the Student Academic Success Centre (SASC), 302 Tory Building, 613-520-7850, <https://carleton.ca/sasc/> (offers a variety of programs to assist with understanding academic rules and regulations, choosing or changing a major, finding a tutor, and polishing study skills); the staff at MacOdrum Library, reference services desk, 613-520-2735, www.library.carleton.ca/ (offer assistance with research, using the library, learning, and IT); the Office of Student Affairs or Health and Counselling Services, 613-520-2600 x2573; www.carleton.ca/studentaffairs or www.carleton.ca/health (offer assistance coping with stress or crisis).

Other resources you may wish to utilize include the Career Centre, 401 Tory Building, 613-520-6611, career@carleton.ca www.carleton.ca/career (useful ideas about employment and career paths), and Departmental Academic Advising (offers advice about your program of study as an English Major or Minor, and checks your fulfillment of program requirements for graduation). To make an appointment for academic advising, contact Professor Wallace at Andrew.wallace@carleton.ca.

Please note: Student or professor materials created for this course (including hand-outs, assignments, quizzes, drafts, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Schedule of Classes and Readings:

Check Class Location in Carleton Central, as it is scheduled to change between terms. Readings are to be completed for class by the date under which they are listed. Please note that I reserve the right to adjust this syllabus to meet the needs of the class; however, major changes will be announced in advance. All on-line readings will also be available via links on CULearn.

First Semester:

- Th. Sept. 3 Introduction to Course
- T. Sept. 8 Introduction to Anglo-Saxon Culture
Introduction to Manuscript Culture
Old English Language and Literature
Anglo-Saxon Chronicle excerpts re: coming of Angles and Saxons (**Broadview**, pp. 146-7)
Bede, “The Story of Cædmon,” from *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (**Norton 1**, pp. 29-32)
- Th. Sept. 10 Finish “The Story of Cædmon” if necessary
Begin *Beowulf*, ll. 1-1191 (**Broadview**, pp. 68-85)
- T. Sept. 15 *Beowulf*, ll. 1192-2199 (**Broadview**, pp. 85-98)
- Th. Sept. 17 *Beowulf*, ll. 2200-3182 (**Broadview**, pp. 98-111)
- T. Sept. 22 Finish *Beowulf*
- Th. Sept. 24 *Judith* (**Norton 1**, pp. 109-17)
- T. Sept. 29 *The Wife’s Lament* (**Broadview**, pp. 46-47)
Dream of the Rood (**Broadview**, pp. 49-52)
- Th. Oct. 1 **QUIZ #1 (early feedback)**
Finish *Dream of the Rood*
Ælfric of Eynsham, *The Passion of Saint Edmund, King and Martyr* (**Broadview**, www.broadviewpress.com/babl; you will need your textbook’s access code to access the reading from this page; click on the Medieval Period tab or the access online readings link)
Anglo-Saxon Chronicle excerpts (**Broadview**, pp. 147-51) if time
- T. Oct. 6 Finish Old English material
Early Medieval Drama: *Quem Quaeritis* (**Broadview**, pp. 698-99)
- Th. Oct. 8 Irish Medieval Literature: *Cúchulainn’s Boyhood Deeds*, “The Scholar and His Cat” (**Norton 1**, pp. 122-8)
Welsh Medieval Literature: Taliesin, “Urien Yrechwydd”, “The Battle of Argoed Llwyfain”, and “The Death-Song of Owain” (**on-line** at: www.celtic-twilight.com/camelot/poetry/taliesin/urien.htm
www.celtic-twilight.com/camelot/poetry/taliesin/argued_llwyfain.htm
www.ancienttexts.org/library/celtic/ctexts/t44.html)
- T. Oct. 13 Finish Irish and Welsh poems if necessary
The Norman Conquest; Anglo-Norman England and its Literature
Introduction to Arthurian Tradition

- Th. Oct. 15 Geoffrey of Monmouth, *History of the Kings of Britain* (excerpts) (**Broadview** pp. 164-67, 175-85)
 Begin Chrétien de Troyes, opening of *Lancelot, ou Le chevalier de la charrette* (**on-line** at: <http://omacl.org/Lancelot/lancelot1.html>, Read Vv. 1-982)
- T. Oct. 20 **DRAFT THESIS ASSIGNMENT DUE**
 Finish Chrétien
 Marie de France, *Lanval* (**Broadview**, pp. 219-33)
- Th. Oct. 22 Introduction to Middle English Language and Literature
Stanzaic Life of St Margaret (**on-line** at:
www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/22sr.htm)
 Introduction to the Fourteenth Century and Chaucer if time
- T. Oct. 27 **NO CLASS—READING WEEK**
 Th. Oct. 29
- T. Nov. 3 **WRITING WORKSHOP**
 (Please come with 3 copies of a 4-6 page draft of your essay)
- Th. Nov. 5 Introduction to The Fourteenth Century and Chaucer
 Geoffrey Chaucer, *General Prologue* (**Norton 1**, pp. 243-63)
- T. Nov. 10 **1ST PAPER DUE**
 Finish *General Prologue*
- Th. Nov. 12 Chaucer, *The Miller's Prologue and Tale* (**Norton 1**, pp. 264-80)
- T. Nov. 17 **QUIZ #2**
 Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale* (**Norton 1**, pp. 282-310)
- Th. Nov. 19 Finish *Wife of Bath's Tale*
 Chaucer, *Pardoner's Prologue and Tale* (**Norton 1**, pp. 310-25)
- T. Nov. 24 Finish Chaucer
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Fitts 1-2 (**Broadview**, pp. 288-317)
- Th. Nov. 26 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Fitts 3-4 (**Broadview**, pp. 317-54)
- T. Dec. 1 Finish *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
 Middle English Lyrics (**Norton 1**, pp. 408-11, **Broadview** pp. 250-51, p. 257
 "I have a gentil cock" and p. 259 "Of all creatures women be best")
- Th. Dec. 3 Finish Middle English Lyrics
 Margery Kempe, excerpts from *The Book of Margery Kempe* (**Norton 1**, pp. 424-38)
 [IF TIME: Scottish Contexts: The Scots "makars" (**Broadview**,
www.broadviewpress.com/babl; you will need your access code)]
 Brief Review for Mid-Year Examination

Second Semester:

- Th. Jan. 7 Medieval Into Renaissance I: Religion
The York Play of the Crucifixion (**Norton 1**, pp. 439-47)
- T. Jan. 12 Medieval into Renaissance I: Religion/The Protestant Reformation
Medieval Anticipations
“Lollardy” (**Broadview**, pp. 690-94)
Hoccleve, *Regiment of Princes*, lines 4978-5019 (**on-line** at:
www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/hoccfm.htm)
Wycliffite Bible, Jonas 2 and Luke 15.11-32 (**on-line** at
[en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_\(Wycliffe\)](http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_(Wycliffe)))
Reformation Writings (**Norton 2**, pp. 671-92)
- Th. Jan. 14 Finish Reformation Writings
Begin Medieval into Renaissance II: Sonnets and Sonneteering
Selections from Petrarch, Wyatt, Surrey (**Norton 2**, pp. 648-52, 662-5)
- T. Jan. 19 Sonnets and Sonneteering:
Sidney (**Norton 2**, p. 1084→ Sonnets 1, 2, 5, 69, 71, 72, 74, 81)
Spenser (**Norton 2**, pp. 985→ Sonnets 1, 54, 65, 67, 74, 75, 79)
Shakespeare (**Norton 2**, p. 1170→ Sonnets 20, 23, 126-30, 146-7)
Wroth (**Norton 2**, p. 1566→Sonnets 1, 16, 40, 68, 77)
- Th. Jan. 21 Finish Sonnets and Sonneteering
Elizabeth I, Selected Poems and Speeches (**Norton 2**, pp. 753-6, 758-9, 762-6)
- T. Jan. 26 Colonization and Conquest:
Sir Walter Raleigh, on *Guiana* (**Norton 2**, pp. 1030-3)
The Wider World (**on-line**
www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael9/ebook.aspx; go to “The
Sixteenth Century” link, then read pp. 211-28; you will need the
password from your text to access the site)
Introduction to *The Faerie Queene* if time
“A Letter of the Author’s” (*Edmund Spenser’s Poetry* [ESP]), pp. 402-5)
- Th. Jan. 28 Edmund Spenser, *Faerie Queene*, Book III, Cantos 1-3 (**ESP**, pp. 231-78)
- T. Feb. 2 Spenser, *Faerie Queene*, Book III, Cantos 4-6 (**ESP**, pp. 278-320)
- Th. Feb. 4 Spenser, *Faerie Queene*, Book III, Cantos 7-9 (**ESP**, pp. 320-61)
- T. Feb. 9 Spenser, *Faerie Queene*, Book III, Cantos 10-12 (**ESP**, pp. 361-401)
- Th. Feb. 11 **QUIZ #3**
Finish Spenser
- T. Feb. 16 **NO CLASS—READING WEEK**
- Th. Feb. 18

- T. Feb. 23 Renaissance Drama: William Shakespeare, *Richard II*, Act 1 (**Richard II**)
- Th. Feb. 25 Shakespeare, *Richard II*, Acts 2-3 (**Richard II**)
- T. Mar. 1 **DRAFT THESIS ASSIGNMENT DUE**
Shakespeare, *Richard II*, Acts 4-5 (**Richard II**)
- Th. Mar. 3 Finish *Richard II*
Introduction to the Early Seventeenth Century
John Donne, Satire 3 (**Norton 2**, pp. 1394-7) if time
- T. Mar. 8 **WRITING WORKSHOP**
(Please come with 3 copies of a draft of your paper)
- Th. Mar. 10 Donne, Satire 3 and selections (**Norton 2**, 2-3 poems from pp. 1373-91; 1-2 poems from pp. 1410-15; poems will be chosen by students in class)
Aemilia Lanyer, "Eve's Apology in Defence of Women" (**Norton 2**, pp. 1433-36)
- T. Mar. 15 **2ND PAPER DUE**
Introduction to the Civil Wars and Restoration
Richard Lovelace, selections (**Norton 2**, pp. 1779, 1781-2)
Katherine Philips, "Upon the Double Murder of King Charles" (**Norton 2**, p. 1785)
Equivocal Verse Hand-Out
- Th. Mar. 17 Irish Contexts: Oliver Cromwell, Letter to William Lenthal, Sept. 17, 1649
(available online at
http://www.irishhistorylinks.net/Historical_Documents/Cromwell.html#Top)
: "John O'Dwyer of the Glen" (mid-1600s) in *Irish Minstrelsy, or Bardic Remains of Ireland* (1831), vol. 2 pp. 86-93 (available **on reserve**)
Begin John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1 if time (**Norton 2**, pp. 1943-64)
- T. Mar. 22 **QUIZ #4**
Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Bks 1-2 (**Norton 2**, pp. 1943-86)
- Th. Mar. 24 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Bks 3-4 (**Norton 2**, pp. 1987-2024)
- T. Mar. 29 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Bks 5-6, 8 (**Norton 2**, pp. 2024-63, 2077-91)
- Th. Mar. 31 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Bks 9-10 (**Norton 2**, pp. 2091-2140)
- T. Apr. 5 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Bks 10-12 (Bks 11-12 will be covered by the prof in summary in lecture)
- Th. Apr. 7 Finish *Paradise Lost* /Catch-Up
Review for Final Examination