

Carleton University  
Fall/Winter 2016-17

ENGL 2300A: British Literatures I  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11.35am - 12.55pm  
Classroom: TB 236 (confirm location on Carleton Central)

**Prerequisite: 1.0 credit in ENGL at the 1000 level**

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Office hour: 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 20, 800-1000 words) 10%  
Fall Exam (Nov 3) 15%  
Second Essay (Dec 8, 1300-1500 words) 15%  
Winter Exam (Jan 31) 15%  
Third Essay (Apr 6, 1300-1500 words) 15%  
Final Exam (April exam period) 25%  
Participation 5%

## 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, one exam will be held in class in the fall term, and one in the winter term. These three 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 your attendance and informed involvement in discussion periods (which includes bringing the text to be discussed to class). Significant absence from this course will lead to loss of participation marks and will have deleterious consequences for your mid-term and final exams.

## 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 – 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 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).

### **Request For 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](mailto: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*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website ([www.carleton.ca/pmc](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc)) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

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

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Schedule of readings (subject to change)**

Fall Term

Sept 8: Introduction

Sept 13: Caedmon's Hymn, "The Dream of the Rood," "The Wanderer," "The Wife's Lament," "The Seafarer,"\* "The Ruin"\*

Sept 15: *Beowulf*

Sept 20: *Beowulf*

Sept 22: Writing Discussion 1; *Beowulf*

Sept 27: *Judith*; *Sir Orfeo*

Sept 29: Writing Discussion 2; *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Oct 4: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Oct 6: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Oct 11: Writing Discussion 3; *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

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

Oct 18: Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, "General Prologue"

Oct 20: Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, "The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale" (**first essay due**)

Oct 25: No class

Oct 27: No class

Nov 1: Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, "The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale"

Nov 3: **Fall exam**

Nov 8: More, *Utopia*

Nov 10: More, *Utopia*

Nov 15: More, *Utopia*

Nov 17: Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella*

Nov 22: Shakespeare, Sonnets

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

Nov 29: Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book One  
Dec 1: Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book One  
Dec 6: Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book One  
Dec 8: Marlowe, *Hero and Leander* (**second essay due**)

## Winter Term

Jan 5: Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*  
Jan 10: Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*  
Jan 12: Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*  
Jan 17: Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*  
Jan 19: Shakespeare, *King Lear*  
Jan 24: Shakespeare, *King Lear*  
Jan 26: Shakespeare, *King Lear*  
Jan 31: **Winter exam**  
Feb 2: Lanyer, *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*; Donne, "The Sun Rising," "The Ecstasy"  
Feb 7: Donne, "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning," "Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward," "The Canonization"  
Feb 9: Donne, Holy Sonnets  
Feb 14: Herbert, "The Collar," "Love (III)," "Easter Wings," "Redemption," "The Pulley"  
Feb 16: Marvell, "Bermudas," "The Garden," "An Horation Ode Upon Cromwell's Return From Ireland"  
Feb 21: No class  
Feb 23: No class  
Feb 28: Milton, *Paradise Lost*  
Mar 2: Milton, *Paradise Lost*  
Mar 7: Milton, *Paradise Lost*  
Mar 9: Milton, *Paradise Lost*  
Mar 14: Milton, *Paradise Lost*  
Mar 16: Milton, *Paradise Lost*  
Mar 21: Milton, *Paradise Lost*  
Mar 23: Milton, *Paradise Lost*  
Mar 28: Milton, *Samson Agonistes*\*  
Mar 30: Milton, *Samson Agonistes*\*  
Apr 4: Behn, *Oroonoko*  
Apr 6: 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/oeruin.htm>
- *Samson Agonistes* is available at:  
[http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading\\_room/samson/drama/index.shtml](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/samson/drama/index.shtml)