

**Carleton University  
Fall/Winter 2018-19  
Department of English**

**ENGL 2300 C: British Literatures I**

**Prerequisites:** *Second-year standing or permission of the department*

**Preclusions:** *None listed in undergraduate calendar*

**Tuesdays and Thursdays / 10:05-11:25am**

**Location:** *Please confirm location on Carleton Central*

**Professors: FALL: Dr. S. Bly Calkin**

**WINTER: Dr. T. DeCook**

**FALL: Email: [siobhain.calkin@carleton.ca](mailto:siobhain.calkin@carleton.ca)**

**Office: 1809 DT**

**Phone: (613) 520-2600x2337**

**Office Hours: Mondays 2:35-3:05pm; Tuesdays 11:45am-1:15pm**

**WINTER: Email: [Travis.DeCook@carleton.ca](mailto:Travis.DeCook@carleton.ca)**

**Office: 1803DT**

**Phone: (613) 520-2600x1367**

**Office Hours: Mondays, 10-11am and by appointment**

**Course Description:**

ENGL 2300 C introduces students to literature written in Britain between 500 and 1700 CE. The Fall term, taught by Professor Calkin, focuses on the medieval period (500-1500 CE) while the Winter term, taught by Professor DeCook, focuses on the Renaissance/Early Modern period (1500-1700 CE). The course 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.

**Fall Term:**

Monsters and magic, multilingualism and murder, religion and romance, chivalry and sainthood—these are just a few of the many concerns that animate texts by British authors writing in the Middle Ages, and the first term of ENGL 2300 is designed to introduce you to these texts and their passions. In this term, we will cover literature from the Old English (c. 500-1100 C.E.) and Middle English (c.1000-1500 C.E.) periods. 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. 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 the Middle Ages? We will also consider the portraits of heroism, gender,

love, lust, violence, magic, monstrosity, religion, art, authorship, conquest, and Englishness presented in these texts, and study the ways in which different writers handled such topics. Medieval literary conventions, genres, forms, and aesthetics (ideas about what is considered beautiful) will also be discussed. Some specific texts we will read include *Beowulf*, *Judith*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, some of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Marie de France's *Lanval* and Margery Kempe's *Book of Margery Kempe* as well as medieval plays, saints' lives, and lyrics.

### **Winter Term:**

The winter term surveys English literature in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, a period of dramatic upheavals which included transformations in religious thought and life, the spread of printing, engagements with new philosophies and reengagements with ancient ones, political revolution, and the beginnings of modern science. 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. Texts we will read include Thomas More's *Utopia*, Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*, Shakespeare's *King Lear*, poetry of John Donne and George Herbert, and John Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

### **Learning 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 its styles, 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 cultural concerns of its day while also relating to our day
- Consider the ideas about heroism, gender, religion, love, violence, Englishness, conquest, magic, monstrosity, authorship, and aesthetics that appear in literature from the medieval period, and the ways in which ideas about these issues change during that period
- Examine specific issues concerning social and political order, revolution, ethics, humanity's relationship to God, the destiny of the soul, heroism, tragedy, epic, narrative and storytelling, modes of allegory, symbolism, lyric styles, and many more related issues that appear in literature from the early modern period
- Become familiar with some of British literature's primary conventions and genres, and with the ways these vary over time
- Develop and extend their knowledge of key technical and literary terms and critical concepts for studying literature
- 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 a 3-hour formally scheduled examination at the end of each term.

#### **Required Texts:**

- *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: The Medieval Period* (Volume 1). Ed. Joseph Black et al. 3rd ed. Peterborough: Broadview, 2015. Paperback.
- *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt et al. 10th ed. Package 1, Volumes A and B. New York: Norton, 2018. Paperback.

#### **Recommended Text:**

- *MLA Handbook (Eighth Edition)*. New York: Modern Language Association, 2016. This book outlines and illustrates the quotation, citation, and bibliographic formatting expected on your term papers.

**Books available at Haven Books, 43 Seneca Street, tel: 613-730-9888 /e-mail: [havenbooks@cusaonline.ca](mailto:havenbooks@cusaonline.ca); [www.havenbooks.ca](http://www.havenbooks.ca)**

#### **Evaluation:**

**As stated in the Academic Regulations of the University, Section 2.1, students must complete all term papers and examinations to obtain credit for this course.**

**Winter term (50% of Final Grade):**

Term Paper (6-7 pages) 20%  
*(MLA format is required for this paper. I also require you to submit a draft thesis assignment and to workshop your drafts in an essay-writing workshop, so that you are aware of my expectations and so that you may plan and write your paper in good time before the due date. A detailed list of topics and of my expectations for the paper will be distributed in advance of the workshop.)*

Quizzes 5%  
*(2 quizzes; each will include short answer questions and passage identification and analysis; each quiz is usually about 30 minutes long)*

Examination 20%  
*(3-hour examination; will include essay and short answer questions, as well as in-depth passage identification and analysis; will be scheduled during official examination period)*

Attendance and Participation 5%  
*(This percentage of your grade will be assessed as follows: 2.5% will be determined by your active presence in class; the remaining 2.5% will be determined by your completion of designated in-class and/or at-home mini-exercises and completion of the draft assignments and workshops for your papers. Please note that surfing the web, e-mailing, texting, facebooking, sleeping etc. while in class does not constitute an active presence; you may be here physically but are elsewhere mentally, and your mark will reflect that absence)*

### **Late Paper Policy**

Your term 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 the professor, 3% of your paper grade will be deducted for each day it is late.** It is much better to hand in the paper than to drag out the process of writing.

### **Classroom Protocols:**

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.

### **Return of Work**

Quizzes will be returned to students in class meetings or office hours. Papers will be returned during the examination periods. The examinations will be available from Professor Calkin in January and Professor DeCook in May.

### **Plagiarism**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- 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 examination, 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 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 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 a final grade of "F" for the course. For more information please go to: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

**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.**

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.

**Please note:** Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations, hand-outs, assignments, lectures, 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).

**Requests 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:** Please contact 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, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**Religious obligation:** Please contact 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, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf).

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, please meet with me as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](https://carleton.ca/pmc)

**Survivors of Sexual Violence:** As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

**Accommodation for Student Activities:** Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both for the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

### **Schedule of Classes and Readings for Winter Semester:**

Check Class Location in Carleton Central. ***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.

Jan 8: Introduction

Jan 10: More, *Utopia*

Jan 15: More, *Utopia*

Jan 17: Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella*

Jan 22: Shakespeare, Sonnets

Jan 24: Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*

Jan 29: Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*

Jan 31: Shakespeare, *King Lear*

Feb 5 Shakespeare, *King Lear*

Feb 7: Shakespeare, *King Lear*; **QUIZ #1**

Feb 12: Lanyer, *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*; Donne, "The Sun Rising," "The Ecstasy"

Feb 14: Donne, "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning," "Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward,"  
"The Canonization"

Feb 19: No class

Feb 21: No class

Feb 26: Donne, Holy Sonnets

Feb 28: Herbert, "The Collar," "Love (III)," "Easter Wings," "Redemption," "The Pulley"

Mar 5: Milton, *Paradise Lost*; **DRAFT THESIS ASSIGNMENT DUE**

Mar 7: Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Mar 12: Milton, *Paradise Lost*; **QUIZ #2**

Mar 14: Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Mar 19: No class

Mar 21: Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Mar 26: **ESSAY DRAFT WORKSHOP** (please come with 3 copies of a draft of your essay)

Mar 28: Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Apr 2: Milton, *Paradise Lost*; **TERM PAPER DUE**

Apr 4: Milton, *Samson Agonistes* (text available online at

[http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading\\_room/samson/drama/index.shtml](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/samson/drama/index.shtml))

Apr 9: Milton, *Samson Agonistes*