
ENGL 2302 A: Literatures and Cultures 1500-1700

Professor Grant Williams

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Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2300 (no longer offered)

Prerequisite: second-year standing or permission of the department

Format: this is an “In-Person” course

*** This is a preliminary description only—assignments are subject to change. A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term. ***

Course Description

The main activity of this course is reading and studying a selection of canonical English literary texts from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (1500-1700). To introduce students to this literature, the course will use *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature Volume 2: The Renaissance and Early Seventeenth Century*. Classes will position literary texts, narrative and lyric poetry, as well as three plays, within the historical, cultural, and political contexts of early modern England.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. read and interpret a selection of early modern literary texts written by a variety of authors
2. identify, define, and analyze early modern literary form and language
3. understand the dynamic relationship between early modern literary texts and their cultural contexts across a period of significant historical changes
4. understand how English literary history connects with continental traditions

Textbook

The reading list is designed around *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature, Volume 2: The Renaissance and Early Seventeenth Century*, third edition:

<https://broadviewpress.com/product/the-broadview-anthology-of-british-literature-volume-2-the-renaissance-and-the-early-seventeenth-century-third-edition/#tab-description>. We will be reading

Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, so a recommended text is the Folger edition:

<https://www.simonandschuster.com/series/Folger-Shakespeare-Library>.

Evaluation	% of Grade
In-Class Reading Quizzes (unannounced and brief)	15
In-Class Assignments (unannounced and brief)	20
In-Class Test	25
Final Exam	40
TOTAL	100

Passing the Course

To be eligible to pass this course, you must fulfill the following conditions along with earning a 50% overall grade:

1. You must complete the in-class test and the final exam.
2. You must pass the identification question on *the final exam*.

Questions on Quizzes, Tests, and Exam

In this course, the questions on the tests and exam will take the following forms:

1. Identification of passages selected from our textbook: author and title, sometimes date.
2. Commentary on and analysis of identified passages. The analysis ranges from explaining the passage's significance to answering targeted questions about the passage.

Activities performed in classes will help you to digest the course materials and prepare you for answering these types of questions.

In-Class Test

The first test, which takes place over the entire period of a class (80 minutes), will involve the two questions above. The pool of texts includes everything we have read up until this point in the course.

Final Exam

The final exam will consist of the 2 types of questions above. The questions will involve all the texts on the course outline, whether we have discussed them in class or not. It will take place during the exam period.