

British Literature: *Beowulf* to the Romantic Period

English 308

TR 9:45- 11:15

Gruening 205

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Office Hours: TR 1:00-3:30 and by appointment

Text: *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* volume I 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Other materials on ERes or handouts.

- 1 September. Introduction and review course syllabus
- 6 September. Read *The Middle Ages*, 1-24. Read Bede and *Caedmon's Hymn*, 24-27. Read "The Dream of the Rood," 27-29.
- 8 September. Read "The Wanderer," 112-113. Read "The Wife's Lament," 113-114..
- 13 September. Read *Beowulf*, 34-61. (Reference *Legendary Histories of Britain*).
- 15 September. Read *Beowulf*, 62-100.
- 20 September. Chaucer, "The General Prologue" to *The Canterbury Tales* 213-238. Paper #1 due—comparative translation.
- 22 September. Read "The Miller's Prologue and Tale," 239-254.
- 27 September. . Read "The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale," 284-297.
- 29 September. Paper #2--in class writing assignment.
- 4 October. Read *Gawain and the Green Knight*, 160-185. 213. (Reference *Piers Plowman*).
- 6 October. Read *Gawain and the Green Knight*, 185-213.
- 11 October. Read Julian of Norwich, 371-382. Read *The Book of Margery Kempe*, 383-397.
- 13 October. Read Thomas Malory, *Morte Darthur*, 438-455.
- 18 October. Read Thomas Hoby, *The Courtier*, 645-661. Read Mary, Queen of Scots, 675-686.
- 20 October. Read Elizabeth I, *The Passage...* 688-690; Speech at Tilbury and "The Golden Speech," 699-703. Read John Lyly, *Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit*, 944-947.
- 25 October. Read Philip Sidney, *The Defense of Poesy*, 953-974. (Reference Thomas Nashe)
- 27 October. Read Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, 714-732.

1 November. Read John Donne, 1260-1298; especially, “The Flea,” 1263, “The Canonization,” 1267-1268; “Song, (Sweetest love, I do not go),” 1269; “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning,” 1275-1276; Holy Sonnets, p 1295-1299, especially #1, 10, 14. Paper #2 due.

3 November. Read Francis Bacon, 1550-1572, especially “Of Truth” “of Superstition,” “Of Plantations,” “Of Studies (both). (Reference Swetnam and Speght, and *The Advancement of Learning* and *Novum Organum*).

8 November. Read John Milton, *Il Penseroso*, 1801-1805; *Areopagitica*, 1816-1825; and *Paradise Lost*, 1831-1850.

10 November. Read John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, 2142-2151. (Reference Aphra Behn).

15 November. Read Jonathan Swift, “A Description of a City Shower,” 2303-2304; “A Modest Proposal,” 2462-2468.

17 November. Read Joseph Addison and Richard Steele, 2468-2488; especially, “The Aims of the Spectator, 2473-2476; “Wit: True, False, Mixed, 2481-2485; and “The Pleasures of the Imagination,” 2488-2490. Read Samuel Pepys, 2133-2142.

22 November. Read Alexander Pope, “The Rape of the Lock,” 2513-2532; *An Essay on Man*, 2541-2547.

29 November. Read Samuel Johnson, 2664-2679; 2749-2763. (Reference *Rasselas*). Paper #3--Research Paper due.

1 December. Read James Boswell, 2778-2809.

6 December. Read Frances Burney, 2810-2827.

8 December. Read Olaudah Equiano, 2850-2860. Extra credit papers due.

December 12 is the last day of classes. There will be no final exam.

Grades will be based on the following:

- 1) Content Quizzes: there will be a brief quiz at the beginning of each class. There are 26 quizzes in all. Each one is worth 10 points for a total of 260 points. Quizzes can’t be made up. Quizzes won’t count if you show up late or leave early.
- 2) There will be three other written exercises:
  - \*The first is a 4-6 page comparison of different translations of passages of *Beowulf*. This is worth up to 40 points.
  - \*The second is an in-class writing exercise worth up to 60 points.
  - \*The third is a 6 page minimum mini-research paper. The paper should be on a work discussed in class, or on another work of literature from the Norton

Anthology volume I (check with me about topics *before* writing the paper). Each paper should be at least 1500 words, have a clear thesis, cite passages from the primary text, access at least one critical source, and include a Works Cited page in MLA form. This paper is worth up to 90 points.

4) You may do one 1000-1500 word research paper (see above for guidelines) for extra credit up to 50 points.

Grades:

Quizzes	(26 @10 points each).....	260
Class participation.....		50
Paper #1.....		40
Paper #2.....		60
Paper #3.....		90
	Total	500

\*extra credit paper worth up to 50 points or 10%.

Grades:

- A > 450
- B > 400
- C > 350
- D > 300
- F < 300