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British Literature I

Camin Melton

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Number: ENGL 2322

Course Title: British Literature I

Course Description: A survey of the development of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the Eighteenth Century. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical, linguistic, and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from a diverse group of authors and traditions.

Course Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: ENGL 1302 or ENGL 2311

Student Learning Outcomes:

- **State-mandated Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
 1. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.
 2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods. (Social Responsibility)
 3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.
 4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
 5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature. (Critical Thinking and Communication Skills)
- **Additional Collin Outcome:** Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:
 1. Demonstrate personal responsibility through the ethical use of intellectual property. (Personal Responsibility)

Withdrawal Policy: See the current *Collin Registration Guide* for last day to withdraw.

Collin College Academic Policies: See the current *Collin Student Handbook*

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: Collin College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the ACCESS office, SCC-D140 or 972.881.5898 (V/TTD: 972.881.5950) to arrange for appropriate accommodations. See the current *Collin Student Handbook* for additional information.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor's Name: Camin Melton

Office Number: C152A

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:25-8:25am and 11:20-1:20

Phone Number: 972-881-5132

Email: cmelton@collin.edu

Class Information: ENGL 2322 – British Literature I

Section Number: XW1

Meeting Location: Online via Canvas

Netiquette Expectations: I will frequently contact the class via email and/or via Canvas announcements, so make sure to check your Collin College email account and our Canvas page regularly. I respond to emails within 24 hours. I will post grades for assignments within two weeks of the due date.

Class Resources:

Greenblatt, Stephen. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: Volume 1*, 9th edition, New York.
ISBN: 978-0-393-91247-0

All of the texts we will be studying (except for the modern translation of *Beowulf*) are out of copyright, so you can find them online if you can't afford the textbook. Many of the texts in translation, however, have been translated many times, so you'll want to get in touch with me to make sure you're using the "right" translation (that is, the same one the rest of the class is using).

Additional readings to augment online discussions, assignments, and student comprehension will be made accessible via Canvas.

Attendance Policy: As this is a fully online class with no scheduled classroom meeting time, it is your responsibility to keep up with the readings and assignment deadlines and to regularly contribute to our class discussion board (see the "Let's Talk about British Lit" forum under the "Discussions" link on our Canvas page). This is NOT a self-paced class. There are assignment deadlines every week that you need to keep up with to do well in the course.

Method of Evaluation:

Participation	10%
Reading Questions	15%
Response Papers	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

To succeed in this class, your main requirement is to read carefully and critically every text on the syllabus. Some of the texts are difficult to get through, so there will be resources provided to help you understand them and directions available for getting the most out of your readings. But there is no substitute for reading and rereading the texts and carefully noting (in the margins or on a separate notepad) key ideas, themes, literary devices, etc. along with the moments in the texts that stand out to you or give you pause. Such moments are often the key to "interacting" with the texts to make your reading of them your own.

Your **Participation** grade in this course is determined by your contributions to the "Let's Talk about British Lit" forum on our Canvas page (found under the "Discussions" link on the left-side course menu). This is our space to communicate about the readings, exchange ideas (with the instructor and with your classmates), and ask questions about the texts. There are no formal questions or prompts to guide your discussions here, but I will occasionally post ideas to get us thinking or to augment our discussions. Feel free to respond to others, start new ideas altogether, or build on/redirect the conversations that are generated here. Your grade for this part of the course will be dictated by your level of engagement with the forum. You will need to contribute to the forum at least once per week, but you will be evaluated not just by the frequency of your posts but by the quality of your posts. Your posts should include analysis of the texts, not just summaries. Be thoughtful and engaged, and remember that this is a place for conversation about the texts and topics at hand. At the midpoint

of the semester I will indicate your participation grade so far and offer feedback via email including suggestions for improving your posts and your participation grade.

Your **Reading Questions** grade is determined by the quality of your responses to the Reading Questions I will post for each week of the course. During the week a Reading Question is due, you will need to post on the “Reading Questions” forum for that week an answer to **one of the Reading Questions** from the appropriate section of the course and then reply to the response of one of your peers. These responses needn't be long (ranging roughly from three or four sentences to two paragraphs), but they do need to be thoughtful and they need to refer specifically to at least one of the texts at hand. These Reading Questions will often be featured on the Midterm and the Final Exam, so it is in your best interest to read and think about every question and to read over your classmates' responses to each question.

Two Response Papers are due over the course of the term and will be submitted on Canvas. These are short (one to two page) responses to the texts and topics we are discussing. Each one should refer specifically to the texts at hand, using direct quotes from the texts, and should make connections between the texts, your own ideas, and our online discussions. You are not required to engage secondary sources for response papers. You might want to look at your own responses and your classmates' responses to the Reading Questions to get ideas about what to write for your Response Papers. The Response Papers will be graded primarily on the quality of their insights and their level of engagement with the texts and themes from the class; these papers must be analytical in nature rather than summaries of the texts. And though this is not a writing class *per se*, papers that are written in a concise, well-formatted, and error-free style will be more successful than those that are poorly formatted or littered with mechanical errors (grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.). The Response Paper Rubric will be available on our Canvas page every week a Response Paper is due; on this rubric you can find general expectations for an “A paper,” a “B paper,” and so on.

You will receive feedback on each of these Response Papers in the form of interlinear notes and an end note via Canvas. This feedback will serve as our chief method of assessment and measurement of progress as the term goes on, along with the midterm exam.

The **Exams** will consist of short-answer questions, a series of short essay questions, and one or two long essay questions. The Final Exam will not be cumulative; the Midterm will cover the material from the first eight weeks of the term, and the Final will cover the material from the final seven weeks of the term. Each of these exams will be submitted via Canvas.

Response papers must be Word documents (.doc or .docx files) typed in 12-point Times New Roman font and double-spaced. Include your name, course and section numbers (ENGL 2322-XW1), date due, a title (but no title page) and my name (Professor Melton). All papers (unless otherwise noted) must follow MLA format. You will submit all of your response papers and the exams electronically via Canvas by the due date and time listed on the syllabus.

Late work is typically not accepted unless arrangements have been made with me prior to the due date.

Grading Scale:

All assignments and response papers will receive a letter grade using the following scale:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 65-69

Delivery Method Of Feedback and/or Graded Material: All graded essays and response papers will include both in-text suggestions/notes and a summary end note to give you feedback on your ideas and questions for further thought.

Standards for Instructor Response and Availability: I encourage you to email me at any time with questions, concerns, and suggestions. Typically I will respond within 24 hours (usually sooner). Likewise, I will do my best to return graded work to you as quickly as possible, typically no more than ten days after the assigned due date (again, usually sooner). Remember too that I am always available via email and would be happy to set up a meeting with you to discuss grades and comments.

Schedule of Classes and Topics

SECTION I. The Anglo-Saxons

Week 1
3/25 – 4/1
The Anglo-Saxon Mode
Caedmon's Hymn, The Wanderer, & The Wife's Lament
Reading question due Monday 4/1 @ 10:00pm

Week 2
4/2 – 4/8
Anglo-Saxon Heroic Poetry
Beowulf
Response Paper #1 due Monday 4/8 @ 10:00pm

SECTION II. Middle English

Week 3
4/9 – 4/15
Arthur's Courtly Virtues
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Reading question due Monday 4/15 @ 10:00pm

Week 4
4/16 – 4/22
Chaucer and Lay Piety
Canterbury Tales (General Prologue, Miller's Tale, Wife of Bath's Tale)
Midterm Exam due Monday 4/22 @ 10:00pm

4/19 – LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW

SECTION III. The Long 16th Century

Week 5
4/23 – 4/29
The Evolution of the Sonnet
Selections from Howard, Spenser, Sidney, and Shakespeare
Reading question due Monday 4/29 @ 10:00pm

Week 6
4/30 – 5/6
Elizabethan Theatre
King Lear
Response Paper #2 due Monday 5/6 @ 10:00pm

SECTION IV. The 17th Century

Week 7

5/7 – 5/13

Metaphysical & Cavalier Poets

Selections from John Donne, Andrew Marvell, and Robert Herrick

Reading question due Monday 5/13 @ 10:00pm

Week 8

5/14 – 5/17

Encountering the New World (Note that this is a short week ending on a Friday)

Oroonoko, or the Royal Slave

Final Exam due Friday 5/17 @ 10:00pm

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary. Any changes will be explained ahead of time on Canvas via announcements.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism Policy

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabricating or falsifying information or sources, improper collaboration, submitting the same paper for different classes without permission, and plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when writers deliberately *or* unintentionally use another person's language, ideas, or materials and present them as their own without properly acknowledging and citing the source. The penalty for academic dishonesty will be assigned on a case-by-case basis determined by the severity of the offense, ranging from reworking the assignment for partial credit, receiving a zero on the assignment, and in extreme cases or for repeated offenses, failing the course.

Put simply, avoid any form of academic dishonesty.

Course Repeat Policy:

Beginning Fall 2016, Texas residents attempting a course more than twice at Collin College are subject to regular tuition plus an additional \$50 per semester credit hour. Please see the “Repeating Courses” section of the Registration Guide for more information.