

English 301: English Literature I
Spring 2016
Instructor: Esther Bernstein
Section 81W-LEC, Code 74263
Wed 6:00 – 8:40pm – Carman 322
Office: Carman 393 – Office Hours: Wednesdays – 4:30 – 5:30pm
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Course Description

{3 hours, 3 credits. English literature to 1660, emphasizing major writers in poetry, drama, and prose.}

This course surveys English literature from its earliest beginnings in Anglo-Saxon verse to John Milton's seventeenth-century epic *Paradise Lost*. We will read widely and deeply, looking for recurring themes – the fall of kings, the suffering of lovers, the role of the community – as well as what happens to alter the course of literary history, including the invention of print and the rise of literacy. In addition to our reading of well-known and canonical texts, however, we will also consider some works by lesser-known authors in order to get a better sense of a very lively and complicated world crowded with songs and poems, pamphlets and ballads, plays and prayers. We will aim to appreciate a range of literary works along with the ways these works belong to a larger tradition.

Course Objectives

- to read older literature with an eye and ear for its strangeness and view of its importance in shaping the modern literary world;
- to develop an awareness of a variety of literary genres, structures, values, and purposes;
- to write about literary texts with imagination, precision, detail, and grace;
- to place literary texts within their aesthetic, political, religious, and historical contexts

Course Goals

Required Text

Available to buy or rent at the Lehman College bookstore. You may purchase or rent your books from any provider.

The Norton Anthology of English Literature, 9th edition: Volume A: The Middle Ages
The Norton Anthology of English Literature, 9th edition: Volume B: The Renaissance
OR *The Norton Anthology of English Literature, 9th edition: Volume 1*

Course Requirements

1. **Regular attendance and participation.** Regular attendance is essential. Come to class, bring the scheduled texts with you, and be prepared to share your thoughts about them. Because this class meets only once a week, half a letter grade will be deducted for each class missed after two absences.
2. **Assigned readings.** Stay on track with the reading schedule, read carefully and attentively, and take notes as you read.
3. **Response Journals.** Ten 250-word responses to the assigned reading, due at the start of class.
4. **Oral presentation.** You will each sign up to present one text to the class.

5. **Three formal essays.** Papers are due in hard copy on the dates indicated in the schedule below.
6. **Facebook participation.** This class will have a Facebook group (set to secret) where you will interact with your classmates and instructor, and engage in occasional activities and assignments. Any texts or files not in the Norton will be distributed via the Facebook group.
7. **Instructor conferences.** My office hours are listed above and I am happy to arrange other times to meet with you if necessary. You must meet with me at least once during the semester, but I strongly encourage you to consult with me as often as necessary.

*****In all areas and all requirements: if you see that you will have difficulty completing an assignment as described or by the due date, approach me as soon as you become aware of the problem. It is far easier to work out alternative solutions in advance of the deadline than to try to patch up missed deadlines, etc.*****

Assessment

Essay 1	10%
Essay 2	15%
Essay 3	20%
Oral Presentation	10%
Response Journals	35%
Participation	10%

RESOURCES:

The Academic Center for Excellence and the Science Learning Center

Lehman College has two tutoring centers on campus. The ACE provides appointment-based and drop-in tutoring in the humanities, social sciences, and writing, as well as general writing skills and test preparation workshops for the CPE. The SLC provides drop-in tutoring for natural and computer science courses. To obtain more information about the ACE and the SLC, please visit their website at <http://www.lehman.edu/issp> or call the ACE at 718-960-8175 and the SLC at 718-960-7707. The ACE is located in the Old Gym Building, Room 205 and the SLC in Gillet Hall, Room 133. The ACE's hours are Monday-Thursday 10-7 and Saturday 10-2. Please make use of this valuable service early and often throughout the semester. Tutoring sessions will supplement and enhance everything you gain from this class.

Office of Disabilities Services

Lehman College is committed to providing access to all programs and curricula for all students. Students with disabilities who may need classroom accommodations are encouraged to register with the Office of Student Disability Services. For more information, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services at Shuster Hall, Room 238, email disability.services@lehman.cuny.edu, or call 718-960-8441.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism (intellectual theft) has serious academic consequences, including potential failure of the course, suspension, or expulsion. Please remember to cite or acknowledge the help you received in formulating your ideas. This help includes but is not limited to magazine or journal articles, other textbooks, reference books, introductions to texts, web pages, friends, and classmates. Remember to cite quoted material as well. If you have any questions about plagiarism, CUNY's policy on academic integrity is clear and available for you to read: <http://web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/policies/academic-integrity.pdf>. The statement in the Lehman College student handbook is available at <http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/student-affairs/documents/student-handbook-02.pdf>.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

<u>February 3</u>	Introduction “Caedmon’s Hymn” Anglo-Saxon Riddles
<u>February 10</u>	<i>Beowulf</i>
<u>February 17</u>	“The Wife’s Lament” <i>The Wanderer</i>
<u>February 24</u>	Geoffrey of Monmouth, Wace, Layamon Marie de France, “Lanval” & “Chevrefoil” Thomas of England, from <i>The Romance of Tristan</i> Due: Essay 1
<u>March 2</u>	from <i>Piers Plowman</i> and <i>Julian of Norwich</i>
<u>March 9</u>	Chaucer, <i>The General Prologue</i> to <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>
<u>March 16</u>	Chaucer, <i>The Wife of Bath’s Prologue</i> and <i>Tale</i>
<u>March 23</u>	CLASSES FOLLOW FRIDAY SCHEDULE
<u>March 30</u>	<i>Gawain and the Green Knight</i> Due: Essay 2
<u>April 6</u>	<i>Everyman</i>
<u>April 13</u>	Sir Thomas Malory, <i>Le Morte D’Arthur</i>
<u>April 20</u>	Wyatt and Shakespeare, Sonnets
<u>April 27</u>	SPRING RECESS
<u>May 4</u>	John Donne
<u>May 11</u>	Aemelia Lanyer, Mary Wroth, Elizabeth I, Marvell “To His Coy Mistress”
<u>May 18</u>	Christopher Marlowe, <i>Dr. Faustus</i>
<u>May 25</u>	Due: Essay 3