

English 3384: Early English Masterworks

Dr. Darci Hill, Professor

Office: Evans 206

Hours: TT: 8:30-9:30, 10:50-11:30 a. m.; 3:20-4:00 p. m. (others by appointment)

Phone: 936-294-1473

Email: eng_dnh@shsu.edu

Texts:

(Note: We will most often read only part of a text, a typical practice in a survey course of this nature.

Beowulf: The Oldest English Epic, trans. Charles Kennedy, Oxford UP.

The Canterbury Tales, by Geoffrey Chaucer, modern adaptation by Nevill Coghill, Penguin Classics.

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, trans. Brian Stone, Penguin Classics.

Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol 1, 9th ed. Stephen Greenblatt, et al. W. W. Norton & Co.

Complete English Poetry of George Herbert, by George Herbert. Editor: John Muray, Penguin Classics

Edmund Spenser's Poetry, by Edmund Spenser. Editor: Anne Prescott, Norton Critical Edition, W. W. Norton Publishing.

Paradise Lost: A Biblically Annotated Edition. Author: John Milton. Editor: Matthew Stallard.

Contemporary Vocabulary, by Elliot Smith, 4th ed.

Optional but highly recommended:

Reflections on Medieval and Renaissance Thought, ed. Darci Hill, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne: U. K., 2017.

Handbook to Literature, ed. William Harmon, et al. 12th ed., Pearson Prentice Hall.

The Literary History of England, ed. Albert Baugh, et al. 2nd ed. Meredith Publishing.

Oxford Companion to English Literature, ed. Dinah Burch, et al. 5th ed. Oxford UP.

Course Focus:

This course focuses on the best representative examples of masterworks of the Early English period in literature. Students should emerge from the course with an in-depth examination of a selection of great texts in Britain between the 8th and the 18th centuries.

Course Requirements:

Mid-term Exam	15 %
Final Exam	20 %
Semester project	20%
Oral Presentation	15%
Reading/Lecture/Vocabulary quizzes	15 %
Short papers (2)	10%
Class Participation	5%

Attendance:

Two points will be added to your final grade for **perfect attendance**. If you are absent only two times, one point will be added to your final grade. If you are excessively absent or tardy or if you consistently do not turn in assignments, your professor will submit your name to **First Alert**. Their office will contact you via email. If you do not respond to their communiqué, they will contact your family members.

Grade Average:

Check Blackboard weekly to view your exact grade average.

Communication:

Check Blackboard regularly for any messages posted by your professor. Check your Sam Houston email daily for any messages concerning the class. You will be held responsible for any communiqués you receive from your professor via Blackboard as well as your Sam Houston email account. If your professor posts a new document on Blackboard, she will send you an email alerting you to that fact. You will also be responsible for any announcements your professor makes in class even if you are not in attendance.

Reading/lecture quizzes:

Most quizzes will be announced. These quizzes will come from material in the reading assignments or lecture notes. Students will need a pencil and two packets of 10 scan-tron quiz strips (1-15) to take these quizzes. Bring these materials with you each class day. You will not be allowed to make up quizzes.

Vocabulary Quizzes:

All vocabulary quizzes will be administered on Thursdays. Each Thursday you will be quizzed over four vocabulary lessons from your text *Contemporary Vocabulary*. You will not be allowed to make up quizzes.

Quiz Drops: I will drop two of your lowest reading and/or vocabulary quiz grades at the end of the semester.

Readings:

You will be assigned readings to complete for each day of class. It is expected of junior-level students that each assignment be read three times. Literature should be read leisurely and thoroughly, and aloud. Be prepared when you come to class to ask questions and offer comments on your readings.

Exams:

All exams will be administered in essay format. A bluebook is required for each exam. You will have 2 essay exams. Your professor will announce in class any exam you are to have. She will not announce it on Blackboard. Your professor will give you specific guidelines as the exam dates approach.

Spelling and Grammar:

Points will be taken off of all in-class and out-of-class essays for spelling and grammatical errors. Your professor has helpful guides in her office should you have trouble in these areas.

Discussion of Class Policies:

Appropriate Dress:

You should come to class prepared for an intellectual discussion among prepared colleagues. Therefore, any clothing that distracts your classmates will be deemed inappropriate for class. Business casual is the most appropriate attire for this class.

Appropriate Language:

Students should exercise control over their language in this class. You will not be allowed to use profanity of any kind in this classroom. Racial slurs also will not be tolerated. You will be given one warning should you insist on using inappropriate language. The next time you will be asked to leave the course.

Appropriate Use of Electronic Devices:

Cell phones, iPods, I-Phones, CD players, earphones or any other electronic device will not be used in this class. You must have all electronic devices placed out of sight. In other words, I-Phones, for example, cannot be on your desk, in your hands, or in your lap. Laptops may be used for the sole purpose of note-taking. Cell phones must be turned off during class. **DO NOT** place your phone on vibrate. This, too, is disturbing. Any and all electronic devices used inappropriately will be submitted to your professor for the duration of the class.

Appropriate Behavior:

If students are rude to the professor or to other students, they will be given one warning only. Upon the next instance of rudeness or disruptive behavior, students will be asked to leave the course.

Guest Policy:

You must ask your professor 24 hours ahead of class for permission to bring a guest to class. Your professor will exercise the right to refuse the guest if she deems it best for the class. At NO TIME are infants or children allowed in the classroom.

University Policies

CELL PHONES

As members of the classroom community, all students have a responsibility to others who are a part of that community. The goal is to produce an environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and other students with respect. Cell phones, laptop computers, pagers, and similar devices have become increasingly a part of life in our society; however, when used in the classroom environment they can become disruptive. Laptop computers, if allowed, may be used for note taking purposes if they are not disruptive to other class members. Students are to turn off cell phones, pagers, and other similar electronic equipment while in the classroom. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the use by students of cell phones, pagers, or similar communication devices during scheduled class-time is prohibited unless specifically permitted by the instructor. All such devices should be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Failure to comply with this policy could result in expulsion from the classroom or with three or more offenses, failure of the course.

If there is an emergency situation for a student, that student should inform the instructor and place himself/herself in a seat near the door where an exit for a phone call would be only minimally disruptive. With instructor approval, students may record lectures, take notes via laptop computer, etc., provided that they do not disturb other students in the process. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Religious Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose.

A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that

absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which

the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property

taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Americans with Disabilities:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination.

Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex (tel. 936.294.1720). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. educational process.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

For further explanation of university policies, click here:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Readings and Assignments: English 3384

Early English Masterworks

Professor Darci N. Hill

Fall Semester, 2017

Week 1

Tues: Course Introduction

Intro to Anglo-Saxon and Medieval literature

Thur: Begin discussing *Beowulf*, intro through “B’s Welcome at Hrothgar’s Court”

Week 2

Tues: Discuss B: through “B Slays Grendel”

Thur: Discuss B: through “The Troll-Wife Avenges Grendel”

Week 3

Tues: Discuss B: through “Parting of B and Hrothgar”

Thur: Discuss B: through “B’s Funeral”

Week 4:

Tues: Introduction to Chaucer and the *Canterbury Tales*; discuss General Prologue; study guide for G. Prologue due; begin working on recitation in Middle English—1st 18 lines of G. Prologue

Thur: Continue discussion of G. Prologue, structure, genres of tales; words of exchange between the pilgrims

Week 5

Tues: “The Franklin’s Tale”

Thur: “The Clerk’s Tale”

Due: Practice essay on Annotated Bibliography (5 %)

Week 6

Tues: “The Pardoner’s Tale”

Thur: “The Nun’s Priest Tale”

Recitation due

Week 7

Tues: Oral presentation on selected tales

Thur: “

Week 8

Tues: Exam I on B and CT

Thur: Intro to *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, structure, audience, complete Parts 1 and 2 from study guide over SGGK; discuss part 1

Week 9

Tues: Complete Parts 3 and 4 of study guide on SGGK; discuss part 2

Thur: Discuss Part 3-4

Week 10

Tues: Quiz on Parts 3 and 4 of SGGK; complete discussion of Parts 3 and 4

Thurs: Begin discussion of *Paradise Lost*, Book 1; Quiz on lines 1-253

Week 11

Tues: Quiz on remainder of Book I; discuss remainder of Book I

Thurs: Quiz on Book 2; discuss half of Book II

Week 12

Tues: Quiz on 2nd half of Book II; discuss Part 1 of Book III

Thurs: Quiz on Book III; discuss Part 1 of Book IX

Week 13

Tues: Quiz on Part 1 of Book IX; discuss Part 1

Thurs: Quiz on Part 2 of Book IX; discuss Part 2

Week 14:

Tues: Exam II on SGGK and Milton

Thur: Semester project due (20%); Begin oral presentations

Week 15:

Tues: Oral presentations

Thur: Oral presentations

Week 16:

Final Exam (check Sam website for date and time)