

SYLLABUS - Spring 2004

ENLT 240 Sect. 1 - Medieval
and Renaissance Literature
Instructor: Michael Friedman
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Office: CLP 210 Tel: x4229
Office Hours: TR 10:00-11:30
and by appointment

Required Texts

Abrams, M. H., ed. The Norton Anthology of English Literature. 7th ed. New York: Norton, 2000.
Shakespeare, William. Measure For Measure. Ed. S. Nagarajan. Signet Classic. New York: Penguin, 1998.

Course Requirements

1. Two short papers, typed, of approximately 3-5 pages, on a topic given by the instructor. These essays will be due on Mar. 11 and Apr. 27 (See CALENDAR OF EVENTS). Late papers will be grudgingly accepted, but one grade will be subtracted for each class period that the paper is late. Papers turned in more than one week late will receive a failing grade, and neglecting to turn in a paper before the last class meeting will earn you an F for the course. One extension per semester may be granted if you see me before the paper's due date with a good reason. More information on the form of these essays will be given during the Paper Clinic on Feb. 26.
2. Two exams, one midterm and one final, the midterm to be held on Mar. 30 and the final during exams week. On these exams, you will be asked to match concepts that we have studied in class with passages from literary works or plot descriptions that illustrate those concepts. You will then be required to explain how the concept fits the passage or description to which you have matched it. You will not be given long essay questions to answer, for such subjects are the stuff of papers.
3. Discussion. At various points during the semester, you will be divided into discussion groups of approximately five members to share your insights on issues not covered in lectures. During the term, each of you will be responsible for serving one turn as the leader (directing the course of the discussion) and several turns as a participant. Your discussion grade will be based upon the combined performance of all members of your group in their assigned roles, as well as on your own personal performance over the course of the semester. To prepare for these sessions, you will answer in writing two sets of discussion questions that will lay out the broad thematic issues that the discussion should try to cover. Your grade on these assignments will be determined by your ability to adhere to the grammatical rules of English and to answer the questions with sufficient elaboration and textual support. Questions turned in late will receive only half credit.

4. Attendance will be taken at every class. Since the course meets twice a week, four absences will be allowed; one grade will be subtracted from your final grade for each absence beyond four. Two late arrivals count as one absence. You must also prepare for class by completing all reading assignments on time, or the lectures and discussions will be of no use to you.

Computation of Grades

Short papers (2)	40%
Discussion	20%
Midterm	20%
Final exam	20%

After your grade has been computed according to the formula above, it may be adjusted to account for classroom participation and attendance.

Course Objectives

1. To give students a broader familiarity with literary works from the Medieval and Renaissance periods.
2. To give students more experience in the craft of writing about literature through close reading and composition.
3. To improve students' discussion skills in the capacity of both leader and participant.

This entire syllabus is subject to change and may be updated as the semester progresses. Further information related to the material in this course may be found on the World Wide Web at www.wwnorton.com/nael.

Formal writing for undergraduate literature courses in the English department should follow Modern Language Association guidelines, as found for example in the current edition of Joseph Gibaldi's MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, available in the campus bookstore.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1/29 Go over syllabus
2/3 Introductory Lecture (Read pp. 1-20, 469-496, and 1209-1230)
2/5 Beowulf
- 2/10 Chaucer's Canterbury Tales - "General Prologue"
2/12 " " " - "The Miller's Tale"
2/17 " " " - "The Wife of Bath's Tale"
- 2/19 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
2/24 " " " " " " *** - **get Paper #1 topics**
- 2/26 Paper Clinic
3/2 Morte Darthur
3/4 The Wakefield Second Shepherds' Play
- 3/9 Everyman
3/11 " - **Paper #1 due** SPRING BREAK (3/16 and 3/18)
- 3/23 More's Utopia
3/25 Follow-up paper clinic
- 3/30 Midterm
- 4/1 THE SONNET: Spenser #64,67,75,79 (pp. 866-68) and Drayton #61 (p. 967)
4/6 Wyatt (1st 5 sonnets - pp. 527-29) and Surrey (1st 3 sonnets - pp. 570-71) ***
- 4/13 Sidney (#1,5,7,15,37,55,69,73,81,87,91,108)
4/15 " *** - **get Paper #2 topics**
- 4/20 Shakespeare (#3,18,19,20,29,55,73,116,129,130,135,138,144)
4/22 " ***
- 4/27 Donne ("The Sun Rising," "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning," "The Flea," Holy Sonnets #10 and 14) Marvell ("To His Coy Mistress," "The Definition of Love") Herrick ("Corinna's Going A-Maying," "To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time") - **Paper #2 due**
- 4/29 Marlowe's Doctor Faustus
5/4 " " ***
- 5/6 Shakespeare's Measure for Measure
5/11 " " " ***
- 5/13 Milton's Lycidas *** Small Group Discussion