

## **English 201: Survey of British Literature**

Spring 2009

Cedar Crest College

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### **Texts**

Damrosch, David, ed. *The Longman Anthology of British Literature*, Second Compact Edition, Vols. A and B. (Pearson, 2004)

### **Course Description**

ENG 201: Survey of British Literature is a three-credit course; it is taught in a combination of lecture and discussion formats. Satisfaction of the WRI-1 requirement is NOT a prerequisite for this class.

In ENG 201, we will read and discuss examples of British literature spanning a 1500-year period, from about 600 to the present. While we will focus our attention on significant texts and will consider the structural and stylistic devices of each text, we will do so in the larger context of a discussion of the thematic concerns of the writers and their relevance to us today, as well as the specific historical events and cultural influences to which these writers responded.

### **Course Objectives**

As with all English courses offered by the department, ENG 201 seeks to help students acquire the ability to read and analyze critically works of literature, to acquire a general knowledge of the history of literature in English, and to expand their knowledge and appreciation of their own and other cultures and historical moments. As with other English courses, ENG 201 also seeks to develop students' oral and written communication skills.

ENG 201 achieves these programmatic goals by providing students with instruction and experience in reading and explicating historical literary texts; by modeling for students the many ways that scholars talk about literature and encouraging students to use these tools of literary analysis; by broadening students' perspectives through the provision of a cultural context for the literature; by allowing students a discussion forum through which they can discover the relevance of "old" texts to the crucial issues and questions of life today; and by giving students practice in creating oral and written discourse about literature.

### **Course Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of ENG 201, students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of a range of representative works of British literature, including the content of these works, their historical and social contexts, and some possibilities for interpretation of these works. In addition, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of basic literary terms and competence in reading, discussing, and writing about works of literature.

## Assessment of Course Outcomes

The successfulness of ENG 201 in achieving its outcomes will be assessed, in part, by the ability of students to complete course assignments successfully. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of literary terminology and the content and cultural contexts of the assigned literature itself through quizzes and exams. They will demonstrate their ability to apply this knowledge in order to explore interpretive possibilities through their participation in class discussions and in their required analytic paper.

## Course Requirements

The requirements for this course are as follows:

--Unannounced reading quizzes throughout the semester, worth 15% of your final grade. I will drop the lowest quiz grade.

--Attendance and participation, worth 10% of your final grade. I will grade attendance as follows:

- If you attend all classes, you will receive a "B" for participation.
- If you attend all classes AND you contribute to class discussion on a regular basis, you will receive an "A" for participation.
- If you are absent for more than two classes (the number of permitted absences for this class), you will receive a "C" for participation, regardless of your class contributions.
- If you absent for more than five classes OR you repeatedly arrive more than 5 minutes late or leave early OR you are disruptive during class, you will receive an "F" for participation.

--Two in-class exams, consisting of objective and short answer questions, each worth 25% of your final grade. You will note that there are three exams scheduled during the semester. You are required to take TWO of these scheduled exams.

--A comparison paper (about 5 pages), worth 25% of your final grade. You will have a choice of topics with corresponding submission date for your paper; each possible date corresponds to one of the three exam dates. You will therefore be submitting a paper in lieu of an exam on your choice of dates. I will give you a list of all possible topics for papers, so that you can make an informed choice of when you wish to write a paper rather than take an exam in order to demonstrate your understanding of the literature.

## Course Policies

Please see attached document for specific information regarding attendance and my policies regarding absences, classroom protocol and the Cedar Crest Honor Code, late work, make-up work, plagiarism, disability accommodations, and class cancellations.

## Course Schedule

All of the readings are in the *Longman Anthology*. You should have read and be prepared to discuss all reading selections by the date for which they're assigned. Please bring the appropriate text along to class with you. In addition to the works listed, read the introduction for each writer/text assigned.

Unannounced reading quizzes may include significant information from these introductions as well as

"plot" questions about the works themselves. Due to time constraints, we will naturally not be able to discuss all of the works assigned in equal depth; examinations will, however, cover all of the assigned reading, including the introductions to the literary periods themselves. Before each exam, I will give you a list of dates, terms, and other significant information from the introductions that you should know.

\*\*\*Please reserve the final exam time scheduled for this class; we will use it, if necessary, as a make-up day, should a class be cancelled as a result of inclement weather.

- Jan 20 Introduction to the course; introduction to the Middle Ages  
In-class discussion of "The Wanderer" (Vol. A, 130-133), "Wulf and Eadwacer" (134), and "The Wife's Lament" (134-5)
- Please read "The Middle Ages" (3-25) by the time of Exam #1.
- Jan 27 *Beowulf* (27-91)
- Feb 3 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (169-225)
- Feb 10 Chaucer, from *The Canterbury Tales*, excerpts from *The General Prologue* (246-253, intro and lines 1-42; description of the Wife of Bath, lines 446-478), *The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale* (287-314)
- Feb 17 **Exam #1 first half of class, or paper option #1 due.** If you are turning in a paper, rather than taking the exam, you may arrive by 8:15 for the second half of class.
- Second half of class: Wyatt, "Whoso List to Hunt" and "They Flee from Me" (419-422); Spenser, Sonnet 75 (424-425 and 580); Sidney, from *Astrophil and Stella*, Sonnets 1, 31, and 71 (590-593); Elizabeth I, "On Monsieur's Departure" (616-618 and 619)
- Please read "The Early Modern Period" (391-411) by the time of Exam #2.
- Feb 24 Marlowe, *The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus* (682-683, 684-733)
- Mar 3 Jonson, "To Penshurst" (796-798, 799-802); Donne, "The Sun Rising," "The Canonization," "The Flea," Holy Sonnet 10 (804-806, 808-810, 815); Herrick, "Delight in Disorder," "Corinna's Going A-Maying" (844-845, 846-847); Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress," "The Garden" (854-856-857-859); Herbert, "Love (3)" (850, 853-54)
- Spring break
- Mar 17 Milton, Introduction (894-897); from *Paradise Lost*, Book 1, lines 1-375, 587-798 (920-930, 936-940); Book 2, lines 1-429 (940-950); Book 3, lines 1-134 (955-958); Book 4, lines 1-130, 288-392 (968-971, 974, 977); Book 9, lines 192-392, 455-1189 (992-996, 997-1013)
- Mar 24 **Exam #2 first half of class, or paper option #2 due.** If you are turning in a paper, rather than taking the exam, you may arrive by 8:15 for the second half of class.

Second half of class: Pope, *The Rape of the Lock* (1239-1240, 1247-1267); Swift, "The Lady's Dressing Room" (1176-1178, 1181-1185); Wortley Montagu, "The Reasons that Induced Dr. S. to write a Poem called 'The Lady's Dressing Room'" (1185-1187)

Please read "The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century" (1041-1064) by the time of Exam #3.

Mar 31 Johnson, *Rambler* No. 4, "On Fiction" (1377-1384); Wordsworth, from *Preface to Lyrical Ballads* (NOTE: Vol. B, 194-197, 206-208, 210-212); Coleridge, "Kubla Khan" (323-24, 341-43); Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale," letter to George and Thomas Keats, letter to Richard Woodhouse (421-23, 438-40, 444-46); Ruskin, from *Modern Painters* (737-739); Wilde, *Preface to The Picture of Dorian Gray* (828-830, 846-847); Hyde, from *The Trials of Oscar Wilde* (899-904); Pater, from *The Renaissance* (handout)

Please read "The Romantics and Their Contemporaries" (3-28) by the time of Exam #3.

Apr 7 Barbauld, "Washing Day" (29, 32-34); Robinson, "London's Summer Morning" (136, 144-145); W. Wordsworth, *Lines Written a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey* (202-206); D. Wordsworth, from *The Grasmere Journals*, A Vision of the Moon and A Field of Daffodils (290-291, 296-297); Gilpin, from *Essay 2, on Picturesque Travel* (311-313); Tennyson, "The Lady of Shalott" (583-586, 588-593); C. Rossetti, "Goblin Market" (756-758, 759-771)

Please read "The Victorian Age" (451-473) by the time of Exam #3.

Apr 14 Browning, "Fra Lippo Lippi" (659-662, 675-683); Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (847-886)

Apr 21 Hardy, "The Darkling Thrush" (1071-3, 1074-5); Brooke, "The Soldier" (1096-1097, 1098-1099); Owen, "Dulce et Decorum Est" (1100, 1102); Yeats, "The Wild Swans at Coole," "The Second Coming" (1113-1117, 1118-1119, 1122-1123); Thomas, "The Force that Through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower" (1371-1373); Joyce, "The Dead" (1130-33, 1138-64); Woolf, from *A Room of One's Own*, Chapters 1 and 3 (1222-1224, 1228-1244)

Please read "The Twentieth Century" (921-942) by the time of Exam #3.

Apr 28 **Exam #3, or paper option #3 due.** If you are turning in a paper, rather than taking the exam, you may arrive by 8:15 for the second half of class.

Second half of class: "Perspectives: Whose Language?" (1383); Heaney, "Punishment," "Postscript" (1386-1387, 1391-1393); Ni Dhomhnaill, "Ceist `na Teangan"/"The Language Issue" (1394, 1404); Boland, "The Pomegranate," "Mise Eire" (1416-1418, 1419-1420); Walcott, "A Far Cry from Africa" (1420-1422)

May 5 Last day of classes—Friday classes meet this day