

English 2813 English literature Survey I

Fall Semester 2019. Tue-Thur 12:30-1:50 PM in PY 205

Instructor: Dr. Peter Fields, associate professor of English

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Office is Bea Wood 230 on 2nd floor of PY at the end closest to dorms

Office Hours: MW 12:30 -2:00 PM; TR 2:00-3:00 PM; Also by Appointment.

Required books

Beowulf: A Verse Translation. Translated by Seamus Heaney. Edited by Daniel Donoghue. 2nd Norton Critical Edition. New York: Norton, 2019. ISBN 978-0-393-93837-1.

Thomas Malory. Le Morte Darthur: Selections. Edited by Maureen Okun. Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview, 2015. ISBN 978-1-55481-159-5

Gordon Teskey, editor. Paradise Lost. New York: Norton, 2005. ISBN 978-0-393-92428-2.

Denise N. Baker, editor. The Showings of Julian of Norwich. New York and London: Norton, 2005. ISBN 9-780-393-97915-6

Course goals

THREE RESPONSES (60 percent of overall grade; 20 percent each). Each response is approximately 600 words: that is, two 300-word paragraphs. Each response is typed, double-spaced, and features three quotes from the primary text in the first paragraph and in the second paragraph significant quoting from one of the essays in the required critical edition. Each response must follow the model at the end of this syllabus. We use MLA for in-body citing and the bibliographic citation.

MOVIE RESPONSE (10 percent): Students will write ONE movie response of approximately 600 words (two paragraphs, each 300 words). The quotes from the movie do not have to be perfect; students may paraphrase at length the content of dialogue. Paragraph one features specific visual details and paraphrased dialogue. Paragraph two features thematic discussion and answers this question about fate and freewill: Do the main characters' choices matter or does the outcome for each main character seem preordained?

JULIAN OF NORWICH (30 percent): Final Essay is similar to the first responses but features the use of TWO essays from the required critical edition. Students will receive a specific prompt with format and instructions.

Daily Calendar and Due Dates

Dr. Fields must attend the Rocky Mountain MLA convention and will be out of town Wednesday through Saturday, October 9-12.

August 27 29

The Old English (or Anglo-Saxon) word for fate is *wyrd*, pronounced “weird.” How does fate work? Where do you sense it? How would you define it?

Tuesday Review of syllabus. Beowulf lines 1-163

Thursday Beowulf lines 164-661 (pp. 3-19).

September 3, 5

Monday closed for Labor Day

Tuesday Beowulf lines 662-1250 (pp. 19-36).

Thursday Beowulf lines 1251- 2199 (pp. 36-59).

September 10, 12,

Tuesday Beowulf lines 2200-3182 (pp. 59-83).

Thursday Beowulf lines 2200-3182 (pp. 59-83)

September 17, 19

Tuesday Essays in our critical edition of Beowulf.

Thursday Sir Thomas Mallory, *Le Morte Darthur*:
The Marriage of King Uther unto King Arthur, pp. 31-43.

September 24, 26

Tuesday DUE DATE BEOWULF Response (600 words; see model at the end of this syllabus).

A Noble Tale of Sir Launcelot du Lake pp. 44-78.

Thursday Launcelot and Elaine pp. 79-109.

October 1, 3

Tuesday The Noble Tale of the Sankgreal pp. 110-160.

Thursday Sankgreal, cont.

Oct 8, 10

TUE-THUR [Dr. Fields is out of town on Thursday for a conference.]
Movie showing in class of *THE WITCH* (2016; Dir. Robert Eggers). This movie faithfully represents the values, language, spirituality, imagination—and fears and terrors—of early 17th century English puritans in colonial America. *The Witch* is a horror movie and disturbing. Students may choose to avoid it and

instead write a response for any movie based on a Shakespeare play, whether streaming it online or a DVD title from Moffett library. NOTE: You must arrange with Dr. Fields AHEAD OF TIME what alternative movie you have selected. After you check in on Tuesday and Thursday, you may work on your movie response essay or anything related to class in the lounge area by our classroom or in the student lounge next to the Jim Hoggard Room.

The response must be 600 words: two paragraphs of 300 words each. The first paragraph is descriptive of key scenes and may paraphrase the conversation of the characters. The second paragraph is thematic and answers these concerns regarding freewill and fate: Do the choices of the main characters seem to matter? Does the outcome of events seem predetermined?

Tuesday MOVIE RESPONSE DUE (600 words)
 Tuesday The Noble Tale of the Sankgreal, cont.
 Thursday Launcelot and Queen Quinevere, pp. 226-236.

October 15, 17

Tuesday Death of Arthur, pp. 246-253, 262-269, 294-322.

Thursday Paradise Lost. Introduction xv-xxvii. Bk 1. 1-168.
 Bk 1. 242-70: Satan seems to embody the modern concept of heightened, ever expanding self. Our reality (presumably) is self-determined: "A mind not to be changed by place or time! / The mind is its own place and in itself / Can make a heaven of Hell, a Hell of Heaven" (253-55). Bk 1. 271-978: The Princes of Hell & the construction of Pandemonium.

October 22, 24

Tuesday DUE DATE MALLORY'S ARTHUR (600 words; see model at the end of this syllabus).

Bk 2.1-228: Belial counsels his fellow demons NOT to challenge God anymore for supremacy.

Thursday Bk 2.229-479: Mammon and Beëlzebub. Bk 2.629-1055: Satan meets his old flame, Sin, and their mutual progeny, Death.

October 28 Monday: Last Day for penalty-free "W"

October 29, 31

Tuesday Bk 3.56-132: God the Father and God the Son contemplate the coming fall of man; Bk 3.193-203: Peculiar Grace; Bk 3.227-65: Man Shall Find Grace. Bk. 4. 20-113: Hell within him; Bk 4.288-

392: Satan plots against Adam and Eve. Bk 4.410-538: Eve recalls her own creation. Book 5: 28-135: Eve tells her troubling dream.

Thursday Bk 5.563-907: Satan contemplates rebellion; Bk 6.1-55, 245-353: War in Heaven. Bk 6.469-568: Invention of the cannon; Bk 6.679-912: The Son defeats Satan.

November 5, 7

Tuesday Bk 8. 1-65: Eve leaves the conversation; Bk 8.357-653: The Creation of Eve recalled by Adam.

Thursday Bk 9.205-375. Ironically, the creature who undoes Adam arises from his own visionary conception of the perfect companion. He dreamed of her and awoke to find her. Bk 9.445-1189. Eve may have been beguiled and deluded by the serpent's deceit, but Adam knowingly disobeys God because he cannot conceive of life without Eve—the companion he so desperately wanted.

November 12, 14

Tuesday Bk 10. 1-228: The judging of Adam and Eve. Bk 10.229-409: Satanic family reunion on the bridge between worlds.

Thursday Paradise Lost. Bk 10.773-1012: Remorse of Adam & Eve. Bk 11. 1-98: Repentance and hope; Bk 11.556-711: Michael shows Adam the future: the Sons of God intermarry with Cain's progeny and produce the Giants; Bk 11.712-901: The Flood.

November 19 21

Tuesday Julian of Norwich's Showings [Revelations of Divine Love]. Overview of the 16 revelations, or "showings," of the divine love:

1. Ch. 4 bleeding from crown of thorns p. 8
2. Ch. 10 bloody face p. 17
3. Ch. 11 God in the point p. 20
4. Ch. 12 scourging p. 22)
5. Ch. 13 the fiend is overcome p. 23
6. Ch. 14 the Lord's feast p. 24
7. Ch. 15 everlasting sureness p. 25
8. Ch. 16 the pale languishing p. 26)
9. Ch. 22 three heavens & Father in Christ p. 34
10. Ch. 24 Christ's side p. 37
11. Ch. 25 Virgin Mary p. 37
12. Ch. 26 I am all p. 39

- 13. Ch. 27 All shall be well p. 39
- 14. Ch. 41 prayers are heard p. 56
- 15. Ch. 64 vision of the child p. 99
- 16. Chs. 67 & 68: fiend's face & kingdom of the soul p. 103

Ch. 1: the 16 revelations in Julian's words; Ch. Chs. 2-4: Julian is near death. Ch. 5: Julian contemplates something as small as a hazelnut. Ch. 6: We are clad in the goodness of God;

Thursday Ch. 7: God's "homely" love; Ch. 10: Under the sea; Ch. 11: God in all things; nothing removed from my hands. Ch. 27: All shall be well. Ch. 29: Julian's doubt; Ch. 31: You will see; Ch. 32-33: Julian has more doubts; Chs. 36-39: The Great Deed & Dread of sin. Ch. 45-47: higher and lower selves—the two domes (judgments). Chs. 49-50: Her dilemma.

November 26 – Thanksgiving Holiday is Nov 27-29

Tuesday DUE DATE PARADISE LOST RESPONSE (600 words; see model at the end of this syllabus).
Ch. 51: The Fall of the Servant.

Dec 3, 5

Tuesday You receive the SPECIAL PROMPT for the Final Essay.
Chs. 55, 58-61: Our heavenly mother Jesus—here is Julian of Norwich's most provocative and dynamic insight. Ch. 86: The meaning was love.

Thursday See Introduction ix-xix for summary; for precedents for Julian's teachings, see Augustine 135, Hilton 136-37; Aelred, *De Institutione Inclusarum* "Jesus as Mother," 137-38; Ancrene Wisse, "Jesus as Mother," 139. Compare Margery Kempe's vision 130-34. See also Grace M. Jantzen's "The Life of an anchoress" 143-50.

December 12 Thursday, Final Essay Due 10:30 AM

The final essay on Julian of Norwich is due IN PERSON on Thursday, December 12 at 10:30 AM in our regular classroom.

Plagiarism

Any use of a non-documented source as if it were a student's original work is academic dishonesty. The grade will be a "0" (no points) for the assignment and the student can no longer attend the course. If early enough in the semester, the student can bring the instructor a withdrawal slip for a penalty-free W. Otherwise the semester grade must be an F.

Language too close to source

Students sometimes borrow the phrasing of the play or their scholarly sources as if it were their own. Students certainly can use key words from their sources, but they must use their own phrasing—not the source's.

Attendance

Four undocumented absences means 10 percent off the overall semester grade. The professor will accept documentation in the form of cellphone pictures (by email attachment) of clinic sign-in sheets, court dates, prescription labels, repair receipts, and work schedules; he will accept emails from family members, lawyers, and supervisors. Many times students are helping family members or friends in crisis. The key is keeping Dr. Fields in the loop, communicating and working with him by email, and, most importantly, coming to an agreement on how to document the absences.

Late work

Students must submit their work on due dates in person: not by surrogate, not under an office door, not left on a desk, and not by email attachment. If lateness is undocumented, the late penalty is 10 points out of 100. The Final Essay is penalized 10 points if not submitted in the official time window for that final exam.

Students with disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute for persons with disabilities and guarantees reasonable accommodation. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140.

Classroom Policies

If you miss (or will miss) class, email the instructor.

Make sure you have permission before you leave class early.

Repeated preoccupation with your cell phone may result in removal.

Persistent lack of your required book may result in removal.

Removal may mean a WF: failure of the course.

If you are at risk for removal, you will receive a warning by email.

The Two-Paragraph 600 word response – model

Stay within 600 words total for the response as much as possible.

Format the paragraph the way you see it in this model—it is MLA.

The parenthetical number after a quote is for line numbers if poetry.

If prose, the parenthetical number stands for a page number.

Do not forget the bibliographic citation after the second paragraph.

First Paragraph (the primary text)

Provide an overall idea, either your own or based on the critical essay.

Pick three passages in our story that you quote verbatim.

Give credit to the author for any ideas you use as your own.

Provide an insight prior to each quote from the story.

Describe scenarios in the poem that pertain to your overall idea and be as specific as possible—sketch a picture.

Second Paragraph (the critical essay in our required book)

You must use a critical essay from our required book.

Pick passages from one of our book's critical essays that you will quote verbatim. At least one quote should be a complete thought.

Integrate shorter quotes into your own sentences.

Prior to the longer quote, provide the relevant insight in your own words.

You may use MORE than one of our critical essays in our required book—but be sure to introduce each source (author and essay title).

NOTE: The 600 words is for content only—not headings, bibliography, or title.

See essay model starting on the next page of this syllabus:

Student's Name

Dr. Fields

ENGL 2813

September 24, 2018

"Heaven swallowed the smoke": Fate and The Apotheosis of Beowulf

[Description:] As he sat propped up by the dragon's lair, dying from the poisoned bite to his neck, Beowulf thanked the Lord (2794-2801) for the treasure of the dead dragon, long-buried items like gold dishes, pots, and cups, which Wiglaf was bringing out piece-by-piece and setting in front of the dying king. [Overall idea:] However, as fate would have it, Beowulf's people rejected the treasure because they would much rather have Beowulf still alive. They fear a dreadful fate at the hands of their enemies now that Beowulf is dead. The people hope a hero as great as Beowulf never really dies. Perhaps fate, as Fred Robinson suggests, also had in mind Beowulf becoming in death a god who still looks out for his people. [Insight:] The treasure was poor compensation for the loss of their leader in whom they had placed all their trust: "Nothing we advised," Wiglaf lamented, "could ever convince / the prince we loved, our land's guardian, / not to vex the custodian of the gold" (3079-81). [Insight:] Wiglaf's instructions for the funeral rites imply that Beowulf had God's favor, but the people will decide where his soul remains: "Let a bier be made," Wiglaf orders, "[...] and then let us bring the body of our lord, the man we loved, to where he will lodge for a long time in the care of

the Almighty" (3105-09). [Description:] On the edge of a cliff overlooking the sea, the people hoist the body of Beowulf to the top of the scaffold they built, inside which they pile the treasure from the Dragon's cave. As the tower burns, a woman wails, prophesying the coming of terrible slaughter. Everyone watches the smoke, which almost immediately disappears in the clouds. [Insight:] The disappearing smoke seems to suggest heaven was calling Beowulf home, a sign perhaps that God had given Beowulf special status in death: "Heaven swallowed the smoke" (3155). [Description:] Ten days later the people built walls around the funeral pyre, creating an enduring monument called Beowulf's Barrow, fulfilling the instructions of Beowulf to Wiglaf (2802-2808). The funeral rites renew, this time in praise of Beowulf not only for his battle prowess but also for his superlative kindness and grace.

According to Fred Robinson, in his essay "The Tomb of Beowulf," the funeral rites of Beowulf hint that the people wanted to think of Beowulf's spirit as still present and amenable to their prayers and petitions, perhaps in the form of a god. The gods of Germanic people frequently began as human beings especially those leaders who were victorious in battle (187). Now Beowulf may have joined that divine pantheon, a transformation from human to divine that Robinson calls "Germanic apotheosis" (190, 198). Robinson notes that Hector's funeral in Homer's *Iliad* reminds many people of Beowulf's and historically Hector was venerated as someone who became in death divine; in Virgil's *Aeneid*, Juno promises Aeneas that he will become a god (186-87).

Robinson argues that the second round of mourning in particular seems to suggest that people hoped Beowulf was still present to them in some form that could grant their petitions. Beowulf's Barrow could serve as a kind of temple where his spirit would preside and still offer protection for his people as long as they never forgot to honor his memory: "King Beowulf's bereaved subjects [...] are so overawed by their fallen leader's accomplishments and so unwilling to accept the finality of his death that they turn desperately to the pagan resources available to them to accord him ultimate veneration and, perhaps, recruit his protective force beyond the grave" (186).

Robinson, Fred. "The Tomb of Beowulf." *Beowulf: A Verse Translation*, edited by Daniel Donoghue. Translated by Seamus Heaney. 2nd Norton Critical Edition. Norton, 2019, pp. 182-98.