

Survey of English Literature
English 2813 – Fall 2022

Midwestern State University
Dual Credit with Founders Classical Academy Lewisville

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Course Description: A survey of English literature from its seventh century beginnings through the neoclassical era. Emphasis is on the works of principal authors as they reflect literary and historical backgrounds.

The purpose of this course is to engage students with the plays, poems, and novels of English literature from the Anglo-Saxon through Neoclassical periods. Students will develop skills of close reading and criticism, analyzing these works for form (literary genre and convention) and content (themes and ideas).

Prerequisites: None

Goals:

- read key literary texts representing the major movements of English literature from the 7th to 18th centuries
- practice and refine close reading skills through vigorous, mature, and careful discussion with other students
- practice and refine close reading skills through regular literary analysis writing assignments
- demonstrate solid use of Standard Written English, ethical use of sources, and proficiency with MLA style guide

Required Texts (all texts are supplied by the teacher):

- *Gawain and the Green Knight*, translated by J.R.R. Tolkien (ISBN 0345277600)
- *Beowulf*, translated by Seamus Heaney (ISBN 0393320979)
- Selections from *Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer (provided by professor)
- *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare (ISBN 074347712X)
- Selections from *The Life and Times of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman* by Laurence Sterne (PDF of 1st edition supplied by professor)

Assignments and Grade Distribution:

- 20% Weekly Short Writing, Study Questions, & Participation
 - Students will answer frequent study questions aimed at helping them develop critical reading skills.
 - Students will write weekly one-page essays in class reflecting on the week's reading and discussion. These will build towards the longer essays.
- 25% Seminar
 - Seminars will be held one or two times a week. Questions will be posed in advance, and students will be expected to prepare thoroughly to lead a discussion for the duration of the class.
- 40% Tests & essays
 - Two unit tests: Tests generally consist of a section of quotation identification and short-answer questions (one sentence), a section of medium-answer questions (approx. three sentences), and a longer essay. Some exams ("essay exams") may consist of a series of short essays.

- Essays will require students to posit and develop a significant thesis about the text. Prior to starting an essay, students will need to have their theses approved by the instructor, and will turn in outlines and rough drafts to aid them in crafting a full, thoughtful argument. Essays will conform to the MLA style guide. Assignment sheets for the following assignments will be handed out during the semester and are considered an extension of this syllabus. Students will write one essay offering a coherent thesis about each of the following books:
 - *Gawain and the Green Knight* (2-3 pages)
 - *Beowulf* (4-7 pages)
 - *Canterbury Tales* (4-7 pages)
 - Group character analysis & performance on *Hamlet*
- 10% Quizzes
 - Students will be given brief, frequent quizzes over the daily reading homework and the literary conventions and forms discussed. Quizzes will often include quotation identification questions.
- 5% Memorization
 - Students will memorize several poems and recite them from memory for a grade.

Quality of Work

All assignments (homework, classwork, tests, and papers) must be neat and legible. Ripped, torn, or scribbled-on paper will not be accepted. Paper torn out of a spiral notebook is not acceptable. Lined notebook paper/loose-leaf paper is required for all upper school assignments unless specifically directed by the teacher.

All written work needs to reflect the fundamentals of correct English grammar and syntax. In this class, any writing assignment with more than three discrete occurrences of the following errors may be returned ungraded:

1. Basic spelling errors (for example, if you misspell “where” or confuse “which” and “witch” or misspell the author’s name)
2. Capitalization errors (for example, not capitalizing the beginnings of sentences, proper names, or the titles of books, or your own name)
3. Sentence fragments
4. Comma splices and run-on sentences. Make sure independent clauses are joined by BOTH a comma and an appropriate FANBOYS. (Accomplished writers get to break these rules; you don’t.)

Students may revise the assignment by the next school day for a 20% reduction in the earned grade. If the assignment is not revised, it will receive a zero. Please note that if you are new to the school and have not had solid writing instruction, please come and see me, and I will be very happy to work with you. I want you to learn and succeed. The goal is to motivate you towards excellence, not to punish you for what you have not learned and practiced.

Late Work and Absences

Students are expected to complete and turn in assignments in good order and on time. Late work will be penalized 10% per day late. Work more than 2 days late will receive a grade of zero. Major assignments with test weighting (final drafts of essays would be the primary qualifying assignment) will be penalized 20% for each day late and will only be accepted on the next two school days. Regarding valid absences, students will be allowed one extra day for each day missed to turn in work that was assigned while absent (for example, if a student is absent two days, the relevant work will be due two days after he or she returns). Absences may not extend deadlines of work assigned when the student was present—such work is due on the day the student returns to school. For the list of valid absences, see the campus handbook.

If a student is absent, it is always his or her responsibility to determine what was assigned by checking Skyward and/or getting the assignment from a responsible classmate. The absent student is also responsible for obtaining notes from fellow classmates. The student should also check with the teacher in case an in-class assignment needs to be made up.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Cheating takes place when a student copies the work of another, allows someone to copy his or her own work, or when he or she uses unauthorized aids during assignments or assessments. Plagiarism occurs when a person uses someone else's words or ideas and presents them as one's own (typically on an essay or paper). Student cheating or plagiarism will result in short term consequences, a grade penalty, a meeting with parents, and a discipline consequence. Academic dishonesty will also have long term consequences related to virtue, vice, habit, and destiny. Earning a lower score on an assignment or test is preferable to degrading one's character. Refer to page five of the campus handbook for details about academic dishonesty. Turnitin.com may be used to check papers for plagiarism.

Nota bene, unless specifically given permission, students may not work together on a written assignment.

Extra Credit and Extensions

There will be no extra credit given to compensate for negligence. If a student needs an extension or help completing an assignment, he or she needs to request it **in advance via email so that there is a record of the request**. A signed note from a parent or doctor may also gain an extension.

Email Policy: I will respond to student emails in 1 to 2 business days. I may not respond to emails after 5pm or on weekends.

Disability Support Policy Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 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, (940) 397-4140.

Major Course Assignments & Examinations:

Week 4: 2-3 page essay on *Gawain and the Green Knight*

Week 7: Midterm test

Week 8: 4-5 page essay on *Beowulf*

Week 11: 4-5 page essay on *Canterbury Tales*

Week 15: Group character analysis project & performances; final exam

Week 15: Short Assignment on *Tristram Shandy*

Course Overview:

Week 1-3: *Gawain and the Green Knight*

• Week 1

• GGK Fitts 1-52

• Friday: short writing assignment (1-2 pages) on class discussion

• Week 2

• GGK Fitts 53-64

• Friday: short writing assignment (1-2 pages) on class discussion

• Week 3

• GGK Fitts 65-101 (finish poem)

• Outline for essay (3-4 pages) due; Essay due following week, typed.

Week 4: *Introduction to Anglo-Saxon Literature*

• Select Anglo-Saxon poems & Genesis

Week 5-8: *Beowulf*

- Week 5:
 - *Beowulf*, 1-1214
 - Friday: short writing assignment (1-2 pages) on class discussion
- Week 6:
 - *Beowulf*, 1215-2390
 - Friday: short writing assignment (1-2 pages) on class discussion
- Week 7:
 - *Beowulf*, 2391-end
 - Outline for essay due; essay (4-5 pages) due following week

Week 8-11: selections from the *Canterbury Tales*

- Week 8:
 - Essay on *Beowulf* due
 - “General Prologue”, “Knight’s Tale”
 - Friday: short writing assignment (1-2 pages) on class discussion
- Week 9:
 - “Wife of Bath’s Prologue & Tale”
 - Writing project due following week
 - Midterm test
- Week 10:
 - “Pardoner’s Tale,” “Clerk’s Tale,” “Nun’s Priest’s Tale”
 - 1-2 page writing assignment due following week
- Week 11:
 - “Parson’s Tale & Retraction” (end)
 - Essay outline due; Essay (4-5 pages) due the following week

Week 12-14: *Hamlet*

- Week 12:
 - Act I-II.391
 - 1-2 page writing assignment due following Monday
- Week 13:
 - Finish Act II, read Act III
 - Group Project
- Week 14:
 - Act IV - V
 - Assign group character analysis presentations

Week 15: *Tristram Shandy*

- Short assignment