

“Literature in the Social Sphere”
English 251 British Literature I
Section 20745 Autumn 2004 (3 credits)

M. G. Aune
320D Minard Hall
231-7176
m.aune@ndsu.nodak.edu

Tuesday & Thursday 12.30 - 1.45
Van Es 101
Office Hours: 2-3.00 PM TTh
and by appointment

www.ndsu.edu/ndsu/maune and <http://blackboard2.ndsu.nodak.edu>

Objectives

This course is designed to introduce you to a great historical range of literature and writers in English, beginning roughly in the Anglo-Saxon eleventh century with *Beowulf* and concluding in the late seventeenth century with John Milton’s *Paradise Lost*. This course is designed around the idea that the texts we will be reading are distant to us linguistically, historically, and culturally and to read them without taking these elements into account inevitably results in over simplification and a reductive conception of English (and our own) culture. Thus, rather than attempting to read a wide variety of texts, we will concentrate deeply on a relatively small selection of works. Lectures, discussions, and course work will begin with basic literary reading and interpretation skills and quickly move to working toward an understanding of the texts in terms of the cultures that produced them and in turn were produced by them.

By the end of the course, you should have a knowledge of the various currents of English culture over about six hundred years. You will also have practiced critical reading, discussion, and writing skills that will help prepare you for high-level English courses.

Requirements and Methods

Because of the great range of writing covered by this course and the comparatively large number of students, the dominant mode of this course will be lecture/discussion. My lectures will be open in that I expect you to interrupt me with questions and comments. I also will pause regularly to address questions to you based on the day’s reading. We will engage in small group discussions as well. Thus, your preparation for class must include a readiness to talk about the texts and ideas we are studying. I will occasionally introduce texts not assigned for homework. The specific work you are expected to complete includes a mid-term and a final exam, a miscellany project, a group project, and ten quizzes. Details of these assignments can be found below.

Grading		Scale (Grade book available at Blackboard site)	
Midterm exam	100 points	A	100-90 %
10 Quizzes	100 points	B	89-80 %
Final exam	100 points	C	79-70 %
Timeline Project	100 points	D	69-60 %
Miscellany Project	100 points		
Total	500 points		

Texts

The Norton Anthology of English Literature, 7th Edition, Volume 1

A dictionary (bring to every class)

Students with Special Needs

Any students with disabilities or other special needs that need special accommodations in this course are asked to share these concerns with me as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty

I assume that all work you turn in for this course is yours, and any material that you have acquired from an outside source is documented properly. Failure to do so is considered plagiarism and will result in possible failure of the course. See NDSU University Senate Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct

<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm>.

Late Papers

Late papers will lose ten points per day until they are turned in. You are responsible for turning in all work assigned in this class. Failure to do so will result in failing this class.

Attendance and Participation

Prompt and consistent attendance is an important part of this course. Not only are you responsible for material covered in class, you are responsible for actively participating in each class meeting. Coming late is disruptive to discussion and especially to group work. If something does happen you must contact me, via phone, answering machine or email within 24 hours. You are still responsible for what happened in a missed class.

Participation includes not only contributing to class discussion, it also covers prompt attendance, listening and responding constructively to your classmates, attending class prepared to discuss the readings, and bringing your books to every class meeting.

Paper Format

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be type-written, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, in twelve-point Times font. Your name, the date, the class, my name and the assignment are to be at the top of the first page. Don't forget to title your work. Any papers longer than one page must have page numbers and be stapled.

Quizzes

These will be unannounced, handed out at the beginning of the class period and collected after fifteen minutes. If you miss a quiz, you may not make it up. The questions will be short answer and based on the homework and lecture material.

Mid-term and Final Exams

These exams are designed to allow you to demonstrate your knowledge of the course subject matter and your ability to use the subject matter in a critical and analytical way. That is, I expect more than a simple repetition of course material. The take home essays in particular are opportunities for you to demonstrate your analytical abilities. The mid-term exam will cover the material up to and including week eight. It will have three parts, a take-home essay due on the day of the exam, short answer, identification of quotes and excerpts. Expect material that has appeared on quizzes, ideas introduced in class lectures and discussions, and pay particular attention to any terms written on the board. The final exam will cover material from week nine until the end of the course. It will also include a take home portion, a short answer, and identification and cover material in the same way as above.

Poetical Miscellany Project

This project will allow you to interact with the course material in a productive and potentially creative manner. You will, in a real sense, emulate the practice of educated readers and writers in the early modern period by generating your own collection of literature that reflects your own personal ideas about what literature should be and should do.

We will spend some time talking about and examining poetical miscellanies in class. Briefly, a miscellany is a collection of poetry (and sometimes bits of prose) from a variety of different sources and poets. Miscellanies were very popular in Renaissance and Restoration England. For this project, you will collect thirty poems from the time period we will be covering (ca. 800 to 1688). The poems may come from our textbook or somewhere else. You must preface your miscellany with a letter to the reader, which will explain your rationale (a theme or focus) for the poems you chose. You must also have a title page and title, and a table of contents. You are required to hand in a hard copy and a copy on disk for posting on-line. (You may add answer poems or your own poetry, but these will be counted in addition to the primary thirty.)

How you present the poems is up to you. You may use attributions, and titles, or you may choose not to. You may give different titles to poems to suit your own purposes (as Tottel did.) For your paper copy, think about format. Don't feel restricted to a vertical, 8½ by 11 inch piece of paper. Explore the possibilities of your word processor and printer.

Calendar

While I have not noted it, I expect you to read the relevant introductions and section heads for each assignment.

Week 1 24 - 26 August

Introductions

Beowulf 1-835

Week 2 31 August - 2 September

Beowulf 2631-3180

“The Wanderer”

Week 3 7-9 September

Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, General Prologue and the Miller’s Prologue and Tale

Week 4 14-16 September

Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale

Week 5 21-23 September

Everyman

Week 6 28-30 September

Sir Thomas Wyatt, “Whoso List to Hunt,” “My lute, awake!,” “Mine own John Poins;”
Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, “The Soote Season,” “Love that Doth Reign,” “Wyatt
Resteth Here”

Thursday: class visit from cast and director of *Everyman*

Week 7 5 - 7 October

Read through *Songes and Sonettes* (downloadable from website) and complete
questionnaire

Sir Philip Sidney, *Defense of Poesy*, *Astrophil and Stella* 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 108

Week 8 12-14 October

More Sidney

Edmund Spenser, *The Shepheardes Calender*

Week 9 19-21 October

Midterm Exam (Tuesday)

Christopher Marlow, *Doctor Faustus*

Week 10 26-28 October

Christopher Marlow, *Doctor Faustus*

Week 11 2 – 4 November

Ben Jonson, “To William Camden,” “On Lucy...,” “To Penshurst,”
“Song: To Celia,” “To the Memory of My Beloved...”
Read through *Passionate Pilgrime* and complete questionnaire.

Week 12 9 November (11 November, no class, Veterans’ Day)

John Donne, “The Flea,” “Song,” “The Bait”

Week 13 16-18 November

John Donne, “The Canonization,” “Air and Angels,”
“A Valediction: Of Weeping,” “Love’s Alchemy,” “A Nocturnal upon St. Lucy’s...,” “A
Valediction: Forbidding Mourning,” “Elegy 19,” “Holy Sonnet 14,” “Good Friday, 1613”
Timeline project due (Tuesday 16 November)

Week 14 23 November (25 November, no class, Thanksgiving)

Donne and George Herbert, “The Altar,” “Easter Wings,” “The Windows,”
“Affliction (1);” Andrew Marvell, “To His Coy Mistress”

Week 15 30 November – 2 December

Finish Herbert & Marvell; Thomas Coryate, travel writing. Text available on the
Assignments page of the course website.

Week 16 7-9 December

John Milton, *Paradise Lost* Book 1 & Book 9
Miscellany due (9 December)

15 December Final Exam (8.00 am – 10.00 am)

Subject to Revision

Timeline Project

This is a group project that will allow you to practice your collaborative and research abilities. The final product will be a timeline in webpage (html) form. You and your group are to choose one decade from 1066 CE to 1700 CE and collect as much material as you can about that time period. The focus will be on England, but you will also want to include continental and global events that affected English culture.

Items to include: who ruled England at the time, wars, economic system, science, technology, exploration & discovery, colonization, music, literature, architecture, visual art, famous people, philosophical trends.

The webpage must include at least thirty items and references for those items. The reference might be a book, an article or a webpage. If it is a book or article, give the bibliographic information in MLA format. If it is a webpage, provide the title of the page and a link.

The webpage may be as simple as an MS WORD document saved as an HTML file, or you may construct it using a web-authoring application. Such software is installed on most cluster computers.

The webpage may be turned in on floppy disk, zip disk, or CDROM.

You will work in groups of three or four.

Group rules

In order for evaluation and grading to be consistent and reflect work done by individuals, a number of procedures must be followed. Ethical group participation means that each member is responsible for the group's performance. Each member must contribute as well as encourage others to contribute.

During the first group meeting, the group must generate an agreement that describes the group's goal. The goal will be to earn a high score on the project, but in a way that values the opinions of all members. Group members must be committed to the group's goals, complete their individual tasks, avoid interpersonal conflict, encourage group participation, and keep the discussion focused. The group must compose a Code of Ethics that describes the goals and responsibilities of the group. This is to be no more than one page, it must list the group number, each member's name and contact information (whatever means is most reliable), the group's goal, and the responsibilities of members. Also include your decade of choice. Each group member and the instructor must receive a typed copy of this.

Each group must meet at least three times outside of class for each project.

On the day the group project is due, each group member must fill out and turn in a *Group Member Evaluation Form* for each member. Each member must also fill out and turn in a *Peer Rating of Group Members*. These forms are available for download from the course website. <http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndsu/maune/English251Autumn2004Assignments.html> These forms must be turned in along with the project on the due date.

The project will be scored on conformity to directions above, completeness of references, use of proper title and citation format (see me if you are not certain), variety of sources, use of visual and textual material, evidence of thoughtful research and preparation and aesthetic appeal.

The group will earn a single score for the project. This score will be modified by the peer response forms in order to determine each student's score.

Group Code of Ethics due: Tuesday 2 November

Timeline project due: Tuesday 16 November