

English 214-01 – English Literature to 1798
Fall Semester, 2009
MWF 2-2:50pm
Goddard Hall 224

Professor Benjamin Pauley
Webb Hall 244
Office phone: (860) 465-4574
Email: PauleyB@easternct.edu
Office Hours: Mondays 3-5pm;
Wednesdays 11am-1pm;
Fridays 11am-12pm; and
by appointment

English Literature to 1798

This class offers an introduction to approximately one thousand years of English literary history, from the Middle Ages through the eighteenth century. We will read a selection of texts by major authors (such as Chaucer, Shakespeare, Spenser, Milton, Pope and Johnson) as well as by slightly less well-known figures (especially women authors like Marie de France, Aemilia Lanyer, Katherine Philips, Aphra Behn, and Eliza Haywood).

On the one hand, this class will help students develop a broad understanding of the commonly accepted periods of English literary history through 1798 and will survey the literary forms and conventions of those periods. At the same time, by examining the ways that these authors talk about their relationships with other authors (their contemporaries and those who came before them), we will investigate how writers and readers over the years have worked to imagine the field of “English Literature” as a coherent literary tradition. English 214 is the first half of a two-semester sequence, which continues with English 215, next offered in the Spring.

This class has three principal objectives:

- 1) **To help students develop a broad familiarity with English literary history.** For prospective English majors, this class provides valuable background for further study of British literature. For students of all majors, the class offers an introduction to many authors and works that have shaped the cultural inheritance not only of Great Britain, but of the many nations whose histories have been influenced by British contact.
- 2) **To help students become more fluent readers of complex literary texts.** While careful reading is a prerequisite for the thoughtful interpretation of texts (see objective 3), becoming more sensitive readers also helps us to derive greater pleasure from reading—it makes us alert, for example, to the humor, the ingenuity, or the pathos of texts that might at first seem difficult, obscure, or (dare I say it?) boring.
- 3) **To introduce students to some of the fundamental techniques of analysis and interpretation** commonly used in the field of literary studies.

Required Texts (books are available at the campus bookstore)

The Norton Anthology of English Literature, eds. M. H. Abrams, Stephen Greenblatt, et. al.
Eighth Edition (2006), Volumes A, B, and C¹

¹ The *Norton Anthology* is also available in two larger volumes. The books we are using come as a package; the text is the same as Volume 1 of the larger *Norton*, but, by splitting the text into smaller sub-volumes, the publishers have made a version that's easier to carry. If you are buying used textbooks online, you can buy *either* Volumes A, B, and C *or* Volume I—it's the same text.

Course Policies

Please Note: If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of AccessAbility Services at 465-5573. Please understand that I cannot provide accommodations based upon AccessAbility until I have received an accommodation letter from the Office of AccessAbility Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Students are encouraged to use the support offered by the **Academic Services Center** located on the ground floor of the Library. Tutoring, Math, Writing, and supplemental Advising Services are available for students in the Center at the following times: Sun. 2-9; M.-Th. 9-9, Fri. 9-5. (Closed Sat.) For further information call 465-4272 or check the ASC website at <<http://academicaffairs.easternct.edu/ASC-FAQs.html>>.

About the class

Because this is an introductory class, a fair amount of material will be presented through lectures. The class will also involve a fair amount of discussion, however, both in small groups and among the members of the class at large. In order to follow the material presented in lectures and to participate in discussions, you'll need to stay on top of the reading. While the reading load for this class is not as heavy as it would be in a more advanced class, you may find much of the material a bit difficult, especially at first. Be sure to give yourself enough time to do the readings carefully—this generally isn't material you can whip through in an hour or so.

Attendance and Participation

Participation in discussion is an integral part of this class. Since it's not possible to participate in a discussion at which you're not present, that means attendance is pretty important, too. Though I don't maintain a formal policy about numbers of absences, if you miss classes, the participation portion of your grade will generally suffer. Of course, that is also true if you are mentally absent from classes at which you are physically present.

Assignments

The class will involve a one-hour midterm exam (in class on Wednesday, October 14) and a two-hour cumulative final exam (on Monday, December 14, from 3:00 to 5:00pm). While the exams will contain some questions to assess your recall of course material, the focus will be on essay questions in which you will be asked to reflect on and analyze the materials you've worked with. In addition to these exams, you will write four short (2-3 page) essays over the course of the semester, to be submitted through Blackboard. These essays will involve discussion of one or more texts, with an emphasis on exploring themes raised by the readings

A note on academic integrity: In the world of the university, plagiarism is a very serious offense. If I discover that you have attempted to pass off someone else's work as your own, you will receive a grade of "F" for the course. In keeping with Eastern's academic misconduct policy, I will also refer cases of academic dishonesty to the university's judicial officer.

Grading

Your grade for the course will be *no lower than* the grade arrived at by the following formula:

Mid-term examination	20%
Course participation	25%
Short assignments	30% (4 @7.5%)
Final examination	25%

When calculating grades, I use the grade point system published on p. 60 of Eastern's 2008-10 catalog (i.e. A=4.0, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, etc.)

Schedule

(Some shifting may occur)

	M	8/31	Introductions
Week 1	W	9/2	NAEL 1-6 <i>Beowulf</i> , Introduction and lines 1-835 (NAEL 29-51)
	F	9/4	<i>Beowulf</i> , lines 836-2199 (NAEL 51-80)
	M	9/7	<i>Beowulf</i> , lines 2200-3182 (NAEL 80-100) <i>The Dream of the Rood</i> (NAEL 27-29)
Week 2	W	9/9	NAEL 7-10 <i>Ancrene Riwe</i> (NAEL 157-159) Marie de France, <i>Lanval</i> (NAEL 141-55)
	F	9/11	Marie de France, <i>Lanval</i> (continued)
	M	9/14	NAEL 10-13, 15-19 "Geoffrey Chaucer," "The Canterbury Tales" (NAEL 213-18) <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , General Prologue, lines 1-42 (NAEL 218-19)
Week 3	W	9/16	Short Assignment 1 due Geoffrey Chaucer, <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , "The Wife of Bath's Prologue" (NAEL 256-75)
	F	9/18	No class (Professor Pauley out of town) Start reading "The Wife of Bath's Tale" for Monday
	M	9/21	Geoffrey Chaucer, <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , "The Wife of Bath's Tale" (NAEL 275-84)

Week 4	W	9/23	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , Parts 1 and 2 (NAEL 160-85)
	F	9/25	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , Parts 3 and 4 (NAEL 185-213) Guest lecturer: Professor Meredith Clermont-Ferrand
	M	9/28	(NAEL 485-511) Sir Thomas Hoby, from Castiglione's <i>The Courtier</i> , Book 1 (NAEL 645-47) Queen Elizabeth I, "Speech to the Troops at Tilbury" (NAEL 687-88, 699-700)
Week 5	W	9/30	Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder, "The long love that in my thought doth harbor" (NAEL 592-94) Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, "Love, that doth reign and live within my thought" (NAEL 607, 608-609) Queen Elizabeth I, "On Monsieur's Departure" (NAEL 695-96)
	F	10/2	Short Assignment 2 due Sir Philip Sidney, from <i>Astrophil and Stella</i> , sonnets 1, 2, 5, 7, and 10 (NAEL 947-48, 975-76, 977, 978)
	M	10/5	William Shakespeare, <i>Twelfth Night</i> , Act I (NAEL 1058-60, 1077-94)
Week 6	W	10/7	William Shakespeare, <i>Twelfth Night</i> , Acts II and III (NAEL 1094-1124)
	F	10/9	William Shakespeare, <i>Twelfth Night</i> , Act I (NAEL 1124-39) Guest lecture: Professor Maureen McDonnell
	M	10/12	Midterm examination review session
Week 7	W	10/14	Midterm examination
	F	10/16	NAEL 1235-1257 Christopher Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to his Love" (NAEL 1022) Sir Walter Raleigh, "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" (NAEL 917) John Donne, "The Bait" (NAEL 1274)

	M	10/19	John Donne, “The Flea,” <i>Holy Sonnets</i> numbers 5, 10, and 14 (NAEL 1260-1262, 1263, 1295, 1296-97, 1297-98) Guest lecture: Professor Meg Lota Brown
Week 8	W	10/21	Ben Jonson, “To John Donne,” “A Sonnet to the Noble Lady, the Lady Mary Wroth,” “To the Memory of ... Mr. William Shakespeare,” “Ode to Himself” (NAEL 1324-1326, 1429, 1438, 1444-46, 1446-47) Lady Mary Wroth, from <i>Pamphilius and Amphilantha</i> , numbers 1, 16, and 77 (NAEL 1451-52, 1457-58, 1460)
	F	10/23	Ben Jonson, “To Penshurst” (NAEL 1434-36) Aemilia Lanyer, “The Description of Cookham” (NAEL 1313-14, 1319-24)
	M	10/26	Short Assignment 3 due Robert Herrick, “To the Virgins, To Make Much of Time” (NAEL 1653-54, 1659-60) Andrew Marvell, “To His Coy Mistress” (NAEL 1695-97, 1703-1704)
Week 9	W	10/28	John Milton, from <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book 1, lines 1-375 (NAEL 1785-89, 1831-40); Book 2, lines 1-505 (NAEL 1850-60)
	F	10/30	John Milton, from <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book 3, lines 1-371 (NAEL 1872-79); Book 4
	M	11/2	John Milton, from <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book 4, lines 1-535 (NAEL 1887-98), Book 5, lines 1-245, 561-907 (NAEL 1920-27)
Week 10	W	11/4	John Milton, from <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Books 6 and 7 (NAEL 1928-60)
	F	11/6	John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book 8 (NAEL 1960-73)
	M	11/9	John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book 9 (NAEL 1973-98)
Week 11	W	11/11	John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book 10 (NAEL 1998-2021)
	F	11/13	John Milton, Books 11 and 12 (NAEL 2021-55)
	M	11/16	NAEL 2057-80 John Dryden, “Mac Flecknoe,” “Epigram on Milton,” and from the Preface to <i>Fables Ancient and Modern</i> (NAEL 2083-84, 2111-17, 2120, and 2132-33)

Week 12	W	11/18	John Wilmot, Second Earl of Rochester, “The Imperfect Enjoyment” (NAEL 2167-68, 2169-71) Aphra Behn, “The Disappointment” (NAEL 2178-83)
	F	11/20	Joseph Addison and Sir Richard Steele, from <i>The Spectator</i> , numbers 2, 10, 62, 267, 411, and 519 (NAEL 2468-75 and 2481-92)
	M	11/23	Alexander Pope, “An Essay on Criticism,” Parts 1 and 2; and from “An Essay on Man” (NAEL 2493-2509, 2540-48)
Week 13	W	11/25	No class – Thanksgiving
	F	11/27	No class – Thanksgiving
	M	11/30	“Debating Women: Arguments in Verse” (NAEL 2589-90) Jonathan Swift, “The Lady’s Dressing Room” (NAEL 2590-93) Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, “The Reasons that Induced Dr. Swift to Write a Poem Called the Lady’s Dressing Room” (NAEL 2593-95) Alexander Pope, “Epistle 2: To a Lady” (NAEL 2597-2604) Anne Ingram, Viscountess Irwin, “An Epistle to Mr. Pope” (NAEL 2604-7) Mary Leapor, “An Essay on Woman” and “An Epistle to a Lady” (NAEL 2607-11)
Week 14	W	12/2	Eliza Haywood, <i>Fantomina</i> (NAEL 2565-84)
	F	12/4	Thomas Gray, “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” (NAEL 2862-63, 2867-70) William Collins, “Ode on the Poetical Character” (NAEL 2870-73)
	M	12/7	Short Assignment 4 due Samuel Johnson, from the Preface to <i>A Dictionary to the English Language</i> , from “The Preface to Shakespeare,” “Cowley,” “ <i>Paradise Lost</i> , and “Pope” (NAEL 2664-66, 2749-53, 2755-64, 2766-77)
Week 15	W	12/9	Conclusions