



School of Arts & Science
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
ENGL 280
British Literature to 1700
Quarter or Semester/Year

COURSE OUTLINE

CAMOSUN COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
ENGLISH 280:
BRITISH LITERATURE FROM BEOWULF TO PARADISE LOST
COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

Instructor: Nigel Brooks

Office: Paul 327A

Phone: 250 370 3302

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday: 1:30 - 2:20

Tuesday and Thursday: 11:30 - 12:20

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

In covering major literary works from Beowulf to Milton the course will emphasise how these works still have an active influence on our modern popular culture in contemporary fiction, film and even TV shows. At the same time, while reading these major works of early English literature, students will be encouraged to make connections, evaluate works based on established critical criteria and recognise both the general characteristics of a literary movement and the characteristics of an author's style within the context of the period.

Students will:

Read literature from 1000 to around 1700. Readings may be presented historically or by theme.

Read from a variety of genres which will include poetry, verse and prose narrative and drama.

Read authors such as the Beowulf poet, Chaucer, Marlowe, Shakespeare, Donne and Milton.

When discussing the literature of this period, students will be encouraged to develop their own interpretations of the works using a variety of critical methods and resources.

Students will also:

Acknowledge the socio-historical context of the works.

Learn to recognise and account for recurring themes in the literature from 1000 to 1700.

Understand the seminal shifts in early British literature while comparing and contrasting various works.

3. Required texts

The Norton Anthology of English Literature. Eighth Edition. Major Authors.

The Tempest by William Shakespeare. Signet Classic.

4. Course Schedule

Week One: *Beowulf* pages 31 to 66

Week Two: Geoffrey Chaucer's The General Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales*

Week Three: Sir Thomas Malory's *Morte Darthur* extract, poetry by Sir Thomas Wyatt, Sir Philip Sidney and Edmund Spenser

Week Four: Christopher Marlowe's *Dr. Faustus*

Week Five: William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

Week Six: Poetry by John Donne, Mary Wroth, George Herbert and Andrew Marvell.

Week Seven: John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Book 1 lines 1-126 and all of Book 9.

5. Assignments

In-class tests: 15%

In-class presentations: 15%

750 word in-class essay: 20%

1000 word in-class essay: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

5. Academic Conduct Policy

There is an Academic Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office and in the Registration Office as well as on the main Camosun College web page in a subsection under About Us.

6. Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

90 - 100% = A+ Grade point equivalent = 9

85 - 89% = A 8

80 - 84% = A- 7

77 - 79% = B+ 6

73 - 76% = B 5

70 - 72% = B- 4

65 - 69% = C+ 3

60 - 64% = C 2

50 - 59% = D 1

0 - 49% = F 0

7. Other Course Details

The first essay will be written in class and the date will be announced early in the semester but will be around Week Four. The second longer essay will involve writing a rough draft in class in the final class session of Week 7; I will initial the rough draft and you will take it home to polish it up and print it but the final printed version will have to have the initialled in-class rough draft attached to it. Tests will be open book and generally one word or one sentence answers. Presentations will be in small groups and will be on the different works that we are reading. The final exam will be during the exam period of June 21st to June 23rd. It is vital that you not miss the exam so do not make any extra-curricular commitments until after June 23rd. When answering test questions you must not share texts so be sure to bring your own copy of the Norton anthology to every class. There is a lot of reading in the course and therefore time management is vital in order to cover all the works we are studying