

## ENGLISH 260: SURVEY OF BRITISH LITERATURE I

**Instructor:** Dr. Daven M. Kari

**Office Hours:** MWF 12:00-12:50 p.m.; MW 2:20-2:50; MF 10:00-10:45, and by appointment

**Office:** English Department, Scott Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**Class Meeting Time & Place:** MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m., Heath 102

**Text Books:** Abrams, M. H., et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 8th ed. Vol. I. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2006.

Bunyan, John. *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Oxford edition or any quality edition.

Chaucer, Geoffrey. *The Canterbury Tales*. Ed. Nevill Coghill. New York: Penguin Books, 1977.

### Overview of Course:

English 260, English Literature to 1800, is designed to help readers interpret the works of the most prominent British drama, fiction, and poetry writers through the eighteenth century by examining the lives and works of these memorable persons. The course will emphasize learning to appreciate the writings of these authors by examining biography, literary criticism, and a wide variety of methods for reading and interpreting the techniques, forms and themes represented in their works.

### Assignments:

Because the best part of learning comes through a careful interaction with the texts being studied, this course will involve several formats for learning and demonstrating competence, including lectures, quizzes, short reports by groups, a short paper, and exams. Assignments will be weighted as follows:

Attendance & Participation	10%
Quizzes (various formats)	10%
Group Reports	15%
Exams	45%
Papers (10% each)	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Grades will be calculated on a 10% scale as follows: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%;

D = 60-69%; F = 59% or below.

Quizzes will be given periodically and will cover daily reading and lectures given since the last quiz or exam. About 12-14 quizzes will be given with each one counting about 8-10 points. The total of all these quizzes will be taken to calculate your earned points out of 100.

Group reports will be made one time by each group and will include the following handouts and lecture comments for the entire class:

1. A typed, annotated bibliography giving the titles, complete publication information in MLA format, and a brief (30-50 word) explanation of the content of 4 to 6 major works on the author being studied. Begin with the selected bibliography in the back of *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* and continue your work by consulting the library catalog at Vanguard University and possibly other libraries. Make copies of this one or two page document for the entire class, including the instructor.
2. A typed list of key biographical dates for the author being studied, including a list of major works for which the author is best known. Present copies of this one page document to the entire class.
3. A fifteen to twenty minute talk detailing, among other things, the following features of the specific work being studied:
  - a. The biographical, historical context of the author and work.
  - b. The genre of the work and its unique qualities of form.
  - c. The key units of the work and how they relate to each other.
  - d. The most important sections or features of this work.
  - e. Your favorite passages and why you enjoy them.

Your group can choose to divide up the work and presentation in any manner agreeable to the whole group. At the end of the semester, each member of your group will be asked to assign a grade to himself or herself and to each member of your group. This student evaluation will be used to augment the professor's interpretation of your individual participation in the group reports. All direct quotations and borrowed ideas must be acknowledged during the presentation, or the student will be subject to a failing grade for plagiarizing.

A short, four to five page (1200-1500 word), paper will be assigned for the second major unit for the course and for unit one or three, for whichever the student does not give a group presentation. Each paper is to focus tightly on a key character, motif, passage, or short poem by an author in the given unit. Use at least three to five literature sources (not counting your anthology) to help substantiate your paper's position, and present these sources in a bibliography in MLA format.

Both of these papers should demonstrate the following qualities:

1. A thoughtful understanding of at least one significant dimension of the passage or short poem.
2. A responsible use of several interpretive tools given in class, including, for example, characterization, plot, irony, meter, rhyme, stanzaic form, imagery, word choice and tone. See *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed., pages A56-A77, for terminology to be used in your paper.
3. An awareness of biographical influences on the work and how it relates to one or two other works by the same author, or even by another author who has written a work influencing this one.
4. Individualized insights representing your personal interaction with the work.
5. Proper use of the English language; good word choices, proper MLA documentation and style, and appropriate paragraphing.

N.B. All papers are to be typed in double spacing on regular bond typing paper. No erasable bond paper will be accepted. Use MLA documentation and format for short papers. Paper clip papers (do not staple) and present them along with your rough drafts and notes in a pocket folder with your name on the cover.

If you receive at least a C- on your paper, and if you would like to improve the grade on your paper, you may complete a rewrite; however, this rewrite must be submitted within two weeks after the graded paper has been returned and must be accompanied by the original paper. Simply changing a few mechanical items will not necessarily improve your grade on these papers, so be sure to pay close attention to your instructor's comments about content. You are welcome and encouraged to ask for extra feedback about your paper before you rewrite it. Schedule an individual conference when necessary and come with specific questions about how you can improve your work.

### Course Policies:

For English 260 the following policies are necessary to keep the course running smoothly. Please read them carefully.

All assignments are due by the date listed. When you know in advance of an unavoidable absence, such as a scheduled university event in music or athletics, then turn in your work early. No late work will be accepted and no exams can be made up except in the case of an excused absence, one related to your own serious illness or the death of a member of your immediate family. Written evidence substantiating your excuse may be requested. Conflicts with your regular work schedule are not excused absences.

Readings must be completed before the class period for which they are assigned, and group presentations must be ready by the beginning of the class period on the day assigned. Your class participation grade will be based largely on your ability to discuss the works in an intelligent and informed manner. You are responsible for introductory material as well as the specific works assigned. Attendance is vital; tardiness and absences will certainly lower your grade for the course. If a student misses more than six classes (2 weeks) for any reason, the student's grade will be lowered one letter grade. If a student misses more than eight classes (or 1/5th of the course) for any reason, the student will automatically fail himself or herself. Late arrivals and

**English 260, Dr. Kari, Fall 2008, page 4**

early departures will result in a partial or total loss for class attendance. To receive full credit for attendance, students must bring their books regularly to class. Furthermore, students are expected to be attentive and respectful in class. *Students found using cell phones or lap top computers in class will be marked absent and may be asked to leave if they continue to disrupt the class.* A limited number of make-up options may be offered for students facing unanticipated and unavoidable conflicts.

**Schedule of Assignments:**

August 27 (W)	Introduction to course <i>Norton Anthology</i> (hereafter cited as <i>NA</i> ), pp. xxxiii-xlv
August 29 (F)	<i>NA</i> , pp. 1-19
September 1 (M)	Labor Day Holiday—no classes
September 3 (W)	<i>NA</i> , 19-28, “Beowulf,” pp. 29-47
September 5 (F)	<i>NA</i> , “Beowulf,” pp. 47-61
September 8 (M)	<i>NA</i> , “Beowulf,” pp. 61-80
September 10 (W)	<i>NA</i> , “Beowulf,” pp. 80-100
September 12 (F)	<i>NA</i> , pp. 111-114, “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight,” pp. 160-185
September 15 (M)	<i>NA</i> , “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight,” pp. 185-202
September 17 (W)	<i>NA</i> , “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight,” pp. 202-213
September 19 (F)	<i>NA</i> , pp. 10-19, 213-218 <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> (Penguin Classics, hereafter cited as <i>CT</i> ), “The General Prologue,” pp. [xi]-xvii, 3-26
September 22 (M)	<i>CT</i> , “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale,” pp. 258-292 Presentation by Group I.
September 24 (W)	<i>CT</i> , “The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale,” pp. 239-258
September 26 (F)	<i>CT</i> , “The Miller’s Prologue and Tale,” pp. 86-106 Presentation by Group II
September 29 (M)	<i>CT</i> , “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale,” pp. 213-231 <i>CT</i> , “The Prioress’s Prologue and Tale,” pp. 169-176 Presentation by Group III

**English 260, Dr. Kari, Fall 2008, page 5**

October 1 (W)	NA, Julian of Norwich, pp. 371-382 NA, "Everyman," pp. 463-484 Presentation by Group IV
October 3 (F)	Review for Exam I
October 6 (M)	Exam for Unit I
October 8 (W)	NA, the Sixteenth Century, pp. 485-513 NA, Shakespeare, pp. 1058-1061, and sonnets 18, 20, 29, 73, 116, and 130.
October 10 (F)	Fall Holiday—no classes
October 13 (M)	NA, <i>King Lear</i> , pp. 1139-1164 Film
October 15 (W)	NA, <i>King Lear</i> , pp. 1164-1195 Film
October 17 (F)	NA, <i>King Lear</i> , pp. 1195-1227 Film
October 20 (M)	NA, The Early Seventeenth Century, pp. 1235-1259
October 22 (W)	NA, Donne, pp. 1260-1265, 1275-1276, Holy Sonnets 10, 14 on pages 1296-1298, and pp. 1301-1302
October 24 (F)	Donne (continued) NA, Aemilia Lanyer, pp. 1313-1314, 1315-1319
October 27 (M)	NA, Milton, pp. 1785-1789, 1825-1829
October 29 (W)	NA, <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book 1
October 31 (F)	NA, <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book 2 (summary of books 3-8)
November 3 (M)	NA, <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Books 9-10 (to be summarized in class, along with books 11-12)
November 5 (W)	Review for Exam
November 7 (F)	Exam for Unit II
November 10 (M)	Paper Due for Unit II--No late papers accepted

**English 260, Dr. Kari, Fall 2008, page 6**

November 12 (W)	NA, The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century, pp. 2057-2082 Bunyan, pp. 2142-2143 The nature of Allegory; overview for <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>
November 14 (F)	<i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> , Oxford ed. or other good edition, Part I Presentation by Group V
November 17 (M)	<i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> , continued
November 19 (W)	<i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> , continued
November 21 (F)	NA, Pepys, pp. 2134-2142; Dryden, pp. 2083-2084, 2111-2117, 2125-2129
November 24 (M)	NA, <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> , Parts I & II Film
November 26 (W)	Independent Reading, NA, <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> , Part III
November 27-28 (Th-F)	Thanksgiving Break.
December 1 (M)	NA, <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> , Part IV NA, <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> , Parts I-IV, pp. 2301-2303, 2323-2462 Presentation by Group VI
December 3 (W)	NA, Pope, pp. 2493-2496, 2496-2513, 2573-2579 NA, Anne Ingram, pp. 2604-2607 Presentation by Group VII
December 5 (F)	NA, Johnson, pp. 2664-2666; <i>Rasselas</i> , pp. 2680-2743 Presentation by Group VIII
December 8 (M)	Review for Final Exam.
December 9-12	Final Exam Week

N.B. This schedule is tentative and may be adjusted to suit better the needs of the class.