

## **SURVEY OF BRITISH LITERATURE,**

### **MEDIEVAL TO 1780**

ENGL 3430.001, SPRING 2024 / MWF 10-10:50 / LANG 113



### **YOUR PROFESSOR**

**Professor Deb Armintor (they/she), a.k.a. "Dr. A"**

**Email me 24/7 at** dna@unt.edu or deborah.armintor@unt.edu (response within 48 hours)

**Text my cell 24/7:** 940-300-9857 (response within 24 hours)

**In-Person Office Hours:** LANG 409B, By Appointment

**Phone Office Hours:** 940-300-9857, By Appointment

**Zoom Office Hours:** <https://unt.zoom.us/j/6837842372>

[Links to an external site.](#)

(or Zoom by phone (audio only): 1 346-248-7799. Meeting ID: 683 784 2372)

**How to contact me with a question or to schedule an Office Hours appointment:**

Email or Text me with your question or Office Hours appointment request at the email address or cell phone number listed above. Please do not attempt to reach me via Canvas chat, messenger, or any other Canvas

interface. Be sure to state the following in the subject heading of every email and the body of each text: your full name, the name or number of the course, and your course section number.

### **Course Description:**

This class will cover roughly five-hundred years of British literary history. Our goal is to become better readers of early modern literature, and to explore how attitudes about the meaning of poetry, narrative, and authorship varied over the centuries and from author to author.

### **Required Physical Texts:**

None. All readings will be linked online in the syllabus.

### **Course Requirements & Grading:**

**Test 1 (March 8) & Test 2 (April 26):** taken in class, closed book & closed notes, without looking at the syllabus or using the internet; worth 33% of course grade. Each test will consist of 20 multiple choice questions (A-D) on both broad and specific aspects of the reading assignments covered in class discussion, specific quotes and passages covered in class discussions, and topics in literary history, genre, and form covered in class. Test 1 will cover weeks 1-7, and Test 2 will cover weeks 8-15. There will be an in-class test review/Q&A session before the test. Notes from that review/Q&A session will be attached to the syllabus afterwards.

**Critical Essay** (Due on Canvas by **May 10 at 11:59pm**, worth 33% of course grade): Write an essay of 6 pages or more that either:

A) analyzes one or more undiscussed and non-obvious aspect(s) of any text covered in the course.

or

B) analyzes a text that is of the same genre and by the same author as a text covered in the course (excluding Everyman).

or

C) analyzes any of the texts assigned in the syllabus that we didn't cover in class discussions.

Please note:

-You are welcome to meet with me to brainstorm for essay topics, but that is not necessary.

-If you want to do additional research or analyze/use additional primary or secondary sources to make your point(s), you may do so, but that is not necessary.

-Your introductory paragraph should present an argument that the body of your essay should prove through close readings of specific quotes from the text. Avoid "filler," autobiographical self-referential statements, unnecessary background not relevant to your argument.

-In each paragraph, be sure to quote directly and selectively from the text you're critiquing, and to analyze those passages closely and creatively, with attention to detail and context (textual context and/or literary-historical context). Avoid dwelling on points we've already covered in class, unless it's a point that you made in class yourself. You may freely refer to any point already covered in class if you're using it as a springboard to saying something new. In every point you make, be sure to move beyond the obvious.

-Formatting: 6 pages or more, double-spaced, in a reasonable font (Times New Roman or Arial, for instance), and with 1 inch margins all around,

submitted electronically as a PDF or Word document via the course CANVAS page. Essays MUST include an MLA-style Works Cited page. See:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_sample\\_works\\_cited\\_page.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_sample_works_cited_page.html) for a sample MLA-style Works Cited page and page formatting requirements. Note that your Works Cited page does not count toward the page-length minimum requirement.

**Making it through the semester** (worth 1% of course grade): Congrats in advance. You got this!

### **Course Policies**

**Attendance:** taken daily and required for full course credit. **You are allowed 3 “free” absences in this course.** It is not necessary to email your instructor every time you miss class (see illness clause below). In addition to not attending class altogether, the following actions may result in a student being counted as officially absent:

- Coming to class unprepared (didn't do the assigned reading)
- Failure to contribute to class discussions when called upon
- Cell phone use or the use of headphones during class
- Unexcused distracting or disruptive behavior or outbursts

**Illness:** It is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our classroom community. If you are experiencing any symptoms of serious illness please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center or your health care provider PRIOR to attending class. If you choose to do so, you may email your professor to inform them of your absence due to illness or other medical issues. Your instructor can decide if absences due to illness will be excused and

exceptions to the attendance policy instituted. Please do NOT email any medical records directly to your instructor.

**Lateness to Class:** Most students, at some point or another, meet with unforeseen circumstances that make them late for class. Although you should ideally arrive to class on time so as not to miss any important material, you are always better off showing up to class, even if you are late. You will not be marked absent simply for arriving to class late.

**Plagiarism Policy:** Any student who plagiarizes will receive an automatic “F” for the course. For UNT's full Academic Integrity Policy, see: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

**Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act:** The right to equal access and accommodation for people with disabilities is guaranteed under federal civil rights law by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), regardless of student status or UNT Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) registration. Reasonable accommodation and equal access for students with disabilities are important to me regardless of ODA status, and I will seek to accommodate you however I can; just let me know. Students seeking specific accommodations at UNT through ODA, however, must first register with the ODA to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that the ODA requires that students obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access> .

## **Reading & Assignment Schedule:**

Readings & assignments are due on the days listed below. Readings are subject to change based on pace of class discussion. Any changes to the reading will be announced in class on the class day prior and adjusted in the CANVAS syllabus accordingly.

### **Section I: The Medieval Period**

#### **Week 1:**

**M, 1/15:** MLK Day (no class)

**W, 1/17:** Intro to the Course (no reading)

**F, 1/19:** Anon, Intro to Everyman (no reading assignment for today. We will read & discuss the first part of the play in class together):

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/19481>

#### **Week 2:**

**M, 1/22:** Anon, Everyman (first half):

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/19481>

**W, 1/24:** Anon, Everyman (second half):

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/19481>

**F, 1/26:** Intro to Chaucer, Canterbury Tales (no reading):

<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/text-and-translations>

#### **Week 3:**

**M, 1/29:** Chaucer, CT: General Prologue:

<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/text-and-translations>

**W, 1/31:** Chaucer, CT: General Prologue:

<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/text-and-translations>

**F, 2/2:** Chaucer, CT: General Prologue:

<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/text-and-translations>

#### **Week 4:**

**M, 2/5:** Chaucer: CT: The Miller's Tale:

<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/text-and-translations>

**W, 2/7:** Chaucer: CT: The Miller's Tale:

<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/text-and-translations>

**F, 2/9:** Chaucer: CT: The Miller's Tale:

<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/text-and-translations>

## **Section II: The Renaissance**

#### **Week 5:**

**M, 2/12:** Intro to The English Sonnet & Its Predecessors

Dante: Vita Nuova, pages 1-4:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/41085/41085-h/41085-h.htm>,

Wyatt, "Whoso List to Hunt, I Know Where There Is an Hind":

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45593/whoso-list-to-hunt-i-know-w-here-is-an-hind>

**W, 2/14:** Shakespeare, Sonnets

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

1-25: <http://www.shakespeares-sonnets.com/all.php>

**F, 2/16:** Shakespeare, Sonnets

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

26-50 + 94 & 144: <http://www.shakespeares-sonnets.com/all.php>

### **Week 6:**

**M, 2/19:** Shakespeare sonnets 94 & 144 plus Spenser, Sonnets from Amoretti (1st half):

<http://spenserians.cath.vt.edu/TextRecord.php?textsid=32834>

**W, 2/21:** Spenser, Sonnet 1 from Amoretti:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/50023/amoretti-i-happy-ye-leaves-when-as-those-lilly-hands>

plus 2nd half of Amoretti:

<http://spenserians.cath.vt.edu/TextRecord.php?textsid=32834>

## **Section III: The Seventeenth Century**

**F, 2/23:** Intro to Metaphysical Poetry. Donne: "The Flea," "Love's Alchemy," "The Apparition," "The Relic," "Negative Love"

<http://www.luminarium.org/sevenlit/donne/donnebib.htm>

### **Week 7:**

**M, 2/26:** Herbert: "Love III," "The Pilgrimage," "The Elixir," "The Windows"

<http://www.luminarium.org/sevenlit/herbert/love3.htm>



**W, 2/28:** Continue discussing Donne and Herbert poems

**F, 3/1:** Continue discussing Donne and Herbert poems

### **Week 8:**

**M, 3/4:** Test Review Session and Q&A (no reading). Test review notes posted here after class.

**W, 3/6:** Test Review Session and Q&A (no reading). Test review notes posted here after class.

**F, 3/8:** TEST 1 (IN CLASS)

### **Week 9: SPRING BREAK, MARCH 11-15**

### **Week 10**

**M, 3/18:** Paradise Lost, Book 1:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/26>

and Milton's Prose Preface to the 2nd Edition, linked here:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/69378/introduction-to-paradise-lost>

**W, 3/20:** Paradise Lost, Books 2 & 3:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/26>

## **Section IV: The Eighteenth Century**

**F, 3/22:** Paradise Lost, Book 4:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/26>

### **Week 11:**

**M, 3/25:** Pope, Essay on Man (first half only):

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/2428/2428-h/2428-h.htm>

**W, 3/27:** Pope, Epistle to Arbuthnot (first half):

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44895/epistle-to-dr-arbuthnot>

**F, 3/29:** Pope, Epistle to Arbuthnot (second half):

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44895/epistle-to-dr-arbuthnot>

### **Week 12:**

**M, 4/1:** Finish discussing Epistle to Arbuthnot and read Swift, Gulliver's Travels, Voyage to Lilliput section;

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/829/829-h/829-h.htm>

**W, 4/3:** Swift, Gulliver's Travels, Voyage to Lilliput section (continued):

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/829/829-h/829-h.htm>

**F, 4/5:** Swift, Gulliver's Travels, Voyage to Brobdingnag section:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/829/829-h/829-h.htm>Swift,

### **Week 13:**

**M, 4/8:** Swift, Gulliver's Travels, Laputa section of book 3 (Laputa section only!) & Houynhmns section (book 4):

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/829/829-h/829-h.htm>

**W, 4/10:** Haywood, Fantomina (first half):

<https://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/haywood/fantomina/fantomina.html>

**F, 4/12:** Haywood, Fantomina (second

half): <https://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/haywood/fantomina/fantomina.html>

#### **Week 14:**

**M, 4/15:** Swift, "The Lady's Dressing Room;" "On Burning a Dull Poem,"

both at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/14353/14353-h/14353-h.htm>

**W, 4/17:** Swift, "A Beautiful Young Nymph Going to Bed;" "Cassinus and

Peter," both at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/14353/14353-h/14353-h.htm>

**F, 4/19:** Swift, "Description of the Morning;" "Description of a City Shower,"

both at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/14353/14353-h/14353-h.htm>

#### **Week 15:**

**M, 4/22:** Test Review Session and Q&A (no reading). Test review notes posted here after class.

**W, 4/24:** Test Review Session and Q&A (no reading). Test review notes posted here after class.

**F, 4/26: TEST 2, IN CLASS**

#### **Week 16:**

**M, 4/29:** Critical Essay Group Workshop/Q&A; SPOT Evaluations at end of class (Class SPOT link to be posted here).

**W, 5/1:** Critical Essay Group Workshop/Q&A; SPOT Evaluations at end of class (Class SPOT link to be posted here).

**F, 5/3: NO CLASS (Reading Day)**

**\*FRIDAY, MAY 10: CRITICAL ESSAY DUE ON CANVAS BY 11:59 PM.  
SUBMISSION LINK: [Critical Essay](#)\***

Note: There is no final exam in this course.