

English 3850: Seminar in Literary Study

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Fall 2024 / MW 1:25-2:45 / GC 4680

Office hours MW 3-4 / LNCO 3621

Description:

In this seminar, we will study lyric and narrative poetry, including sonnets, odes, satires, and romances written by British and American poets from William Shakespeare to Elizabeth Bishop. The course is organized chronologically, and we will pay attention to how forms develop over time, but our primary focus will be on the analysis and interpretation of individual poems. Written assignments will break critical writing about literature down into discrete tasks: how to construct close readings of texts, how to formulate questions and claims about literary works, and how to manage evidence and make arguments about literature. The course is designed to introduce you to a selection of great poems in English and to help you to develop skills you will need as an English major.

Requirements:

Assignments will include regular quizzes on the reading, three brief research exercises, two short papers, and a final presentation and paper. It is important that you keep up with the assigned reading and come to class ready to discuss what you've read. Attendance and active participation in class discussion are expected. Final grades will be based on the research exercises (10%), short papers (10% each), presentation (10%), final paper (20%), and quizzes and class participation (20%).

Course Policies:

Participation is an important component of the class; you must be present to participate. You are allowed two personal days for the semester; there are no excused absences. Three or more absences will result in a lower grade for participation (see below). If you miss more than eight class meetings, you will receive a failing participation grade. If you miss more than 50% of the class meetings, you will fail the course.

In calculating grades, I will drop your lowest quiz grade, but missing more than one quiz will lower your quiz average. No make-up quizzes will be given.

I am happy to give extensions as long as you contact me at least 24 hours before the assignment is due. Late assignments will receive a lower grade. To receive credit for the course, you must complete all course assignments.

Absences	Maximum Participation Grade
1	A
2	A
3	A-
4	B+
5	B
6	B-

7	C
8	D
9+	F
15+	F for the course

Texts:

Norton Anthology of Poetry, Shorter 5th Ed. (Norton) ISBN: 9780393979213

Additional readings will be available on Canvas.

Schedule (subject to revision):

Wk. 1	Aug. 19	Introduction
	Aug. 21	William Shakespeare, <i>Sonnets</i> , esp. 3, 18, 29, 55 (169-78)
Wk. 2	Aug. 26	Shakespeare, <i>Sonnets</i> , esp. 71, 116, 130, 138
	Aug. 28	Library Meeting with Rachel Ernst, Librarian for English and Reference Librarian for Special Collections
Wk. 3	Sept. 2	Labor Day – NO CLASS
	Sept. 4	John Donne, “The Good-Morrow,” “The Canonization,” “A Valediction Forbidding Mourning,” “The Flea” (191, 194-95, 198-99, 202) – Library Catalog Assignment Due
Wk. 4	Sept. 9	Robert Herrick, “Delight in Disorder,” “Corinna’s Going A-Maying,” “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time” (226-28)
	Sept. 11	Andrew Marvell, “To His Coy Mistress,” “The Garden” (293-4, 296-8) – OED Assignment Due
Wk. 5	Sept. 16	Alexander Pope, “The Rape of the Lock” (357-74)
	Sept. 18	Pope, “The Rape of the Lock” – First Paper Due
Wk. 6	Sept. 23	Thomas Gray, “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” (410-13)
	Sept. 25	William Wordsworth, “Tintern Abbey,” “Resolution and Independence” (458-62, 473-76)
Wk. 7	Sept. 30	Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “This Lime Tree Bower My Prison” (Canvas), “Kubla Khan,” “Frost at Midnight” (486-89)
	Oct. 2	Coleridge, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (489-505) – MLA Bibliography Assignment Due

