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Required Texts:

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Volume I, 8th edition, Middle Ages - the Early 17th Century*

Course Description:

This course looks at the major themes of early English Literature. We will begin with Literature of the Middle Ages (i.e., Chaucer/Mallory), move to the poetry and drama of the Renaissance (i.e., Elizabeth I, Mary, Wyatt, Spenser and Shakespeare), and end with the epic (Milton).

Final grades will be determined in the following manner:

- Formal Papers (2) : 40%
- Participation: 30%
- Weekly Response Journals (9) / Oral Presentation Prospectus (1): 20%
- Oral Presentation: 10%

Formal Papers:

This category consists of two (2) essays, five to seven (5-7) pages long. Essay assignments will be handed out early and must conform to MLA standards (i.e., usage of in-paper citation when quoting). Papers must be handed in on time. One grade will be deducted for every day that a paper is late. I will not accept papers that are more than a week late.

One of your formal essays must be research driven and tie into your oral presentation. Students are expected to use at least 3 outside sources in the formation of this research paper. Though the topic of your research paper will be chosen for you, you may come up with your own argument.

Your second formal paper will be straight analysis, focusing on the primary text and the primary text alone. You may choose any topic and argument for your analysis paper.

All essays must be typed, double spaced, and have 12 point font. Essays should include a proper heading comprising your name, my name, the name of the course, and the date that the paper is due.

You may revise your first major assignment for a higher grade. *I will not take emailed papers.*

Participation:

Participation is big and can mean the difference between an “A” and a “C” if you are not careful. Participation is based on how often you choose to comment on the materials being covered. If you cannot verbalize an argument, it will be even tougher to write about one! As this is the case, share your
ideas! Coming to class and simply listening is not enough. You need to get involved; discussion is one way to do this.

Participation is also based on attendance. Students are allowed two (2) excused absences. Missing three (3) classes could severely alter your grade. **Missing four (4) classes results in automatic failure.** Should you need to miss a class, let me know ahead of time. This is a good rule to follow for any class. Also – be sure to come to class on time! Coming to class late also impacts your participation grade.

Finally, participation is also based on whether or not you choose to hand assignments in and whether or not you are prepared for class (bring your books!). It is also based on assignment timeliness.

**Weekly Response Journals / Oral Presentation Prospectus:**

Students are expected to hand in nine (9) weekly response journals, which respond/re-act to the material being covered in class for that week (summary won’t do). All of these journals are to be one (1) full page, typed, and handed in at the end of every week. If you are looking for a topic to write about for your **response journals**, consider any of the following:

1. An opening draft of your formal paper, perhaps?
2. What themes do you notice in the readings being covered?
3. What is the argument of a particular piece of literature? Do the characters play a part in the story’s argument?
4. What confused you about the readings?
5. What did you like/dislike about class discussion?

Students are also expected to hand in one (1) **Prospectus for their oral presentation.** The Prospectus must be 1 or 2 pages, typed. Other Prospectus guidelines:

1. The Prospectus must be handed in one week prior to your oral presentation.
2. The Prospectus must give a brief, verbal outline of your presentation. What ideas will you focus on? How will you focus on them? Write me a brief essay and tell me in detail....
3. The Prospectus must discuss how you plan to use 1 or 2 outside sources in your presentation by providing an **annotated bibliography**. See me if you are having trouble finding outside research....

**I will not take emailed journals or prospectuses.** I will not accept journals if they are more than 3 days late. Points will be taken off for late work.

**Oral Presentation:**

Every student will be expected to give one (1) oral presentation before the semester is done. The Oral Presentation will correspond to the information being covered in class for that day, and pertain to a particular question/topic chosen by me. Your oral presentation must also:

1. Be at least 5 minutes in length.
2. Be based on academic research (i.e., one or two academic books or journal articles).
3. Include a handout for the class.
4. Be considered a dry run for your research paper.
This syllabus is a binding contract between student and instructor. If you disagree with any aspect of this outline, you should drop the course immediately.

**Weekly Schedule – Students are responsible for the reading on the dates assigned**

**Week 1:**
Aug. 30\textsuperscript{th}: First Day / Class Introduction
   “The Dream of the Rood,” “Caedmon’s Hymn,” and “The Wanderer”

Sept. 1\textsuperscript{st}: Anglo Norman Literature, **pgs. 115-128**, The History of the British Kings (King Arthur Myth):
   Geoffrey of Monmouth
   Wace
   Layamon– The Myth of King Arthur / Multiple Translations....

**Week 2:**
Sept. 6\textsuperscript{th}: Labor Day, No class

Sept. 8\textsuperscript{th}: **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight**, pgs. 160-185, Introduction and Parts I and II

**Week 3:**
Sept. 13\textsuperscript{th}: **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight**, pgs. 185-213, Part III

Sept. 15\textsuperscript{th}: Geoffrey Chaucer, **The Canterbury Tales**, “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue,” pgs. 257-275

**Week 4:**
Sept. 20\textsuperscript{th}: Geoffrey Chaucer, **The Canterbury Tales**, “The Wife of Bath’s Tale,” pgs. 275-284
   Sir Thomas Mallory, **Morte Darthur**, pgs. 438-456

Sept. 22\textsuperscript{nd}: Sir Thomas Mallory, **Morte Darthur**, pgs. 438-456

**Week 5 (Oral Presentations Begin this Week....):**
Sept. 27\textsuperscript{th}: Anonymous, **Everyman**, pgs. 463-484

Sept. 29\textsuperscript{th}: Poetry of John Skelton (pgs. 514-518), Sir T. Wyatt The Elder (pgs. 592-607),
   & Henry Howard (pgs. 607-616)

**Week 6:**
Oct. 4\textsuperscript{th}: Powerful Women / Mary I (pgs. 663-668), Lady Jane Gray (pgs. 668-675), and
   Elizabeth I (pgs. 687-700)

Oct. 6\textsuperscript{th}: Sir Philip Sidney, “The Defense of Poesy” (pgs. 953-975)

**Week 7:**
Oct 11\textsuperscript{th}: Sir Philip Sidney, **Astrophil and Stella** (pgs. 975-992)

Oct. 13\textsuperscript{th}: William Shakespeare, **Sonnets** 3, 15, 18, 20, 35, 60, 62, 71, 73, 116, 130, 144, 147
   (pgs. 1062-1076)
**Week 8:**
Oct. 18th: Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, “A Letter of the Authors” and Canto I and II

Oct 20th: **FQ / Cantos III through VII**

**Week 9:**
Oct. 25th: **FQ / Cantos VIII through X**

Oct. 27th: **FQ / Cantos XI and XII**

**Week 10:**
Nov. 1st: Witchcraft and Satanism Primer / Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, Prologue through Scene 1 (pgs. 1023-1028)

Nov. 3rd: Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, Scene 2 through Scene 5 (pgs. 1028-1041)

**Week 11:**
Nov. 8th: Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, Scene 6 through end (pgs. 1041-1057)


**Week 12:**


**Week 13:**
Nov. 22nd: **Paper #1 Due / Catch Up Day**

Nov. 24th: Thanksgiving Recess

**Week 14:**
Nov. 29th: John Donne, Poetry (pgs. 1260-1281)

Dec. 1st: John Donne, Poetry (pgs. 1281-1303)

**Week 15:**


**Week 16:**


**Week 17:**
Dec. 20th: Last Class / **Last Paper Due**