

English Literature I: Wit and Laughter in English Renaissance and Neoclassicism

T 2:10-4:00 PM (B 501); *W* 4:10-5:00 PM (E 308)
W 1:10-2:00 PM (E 308); *Thu* 10:10-12:00 (I 201)

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Office Hours: W 9:00-noon and by appointment

English Literature I attempts to survey an array of British literary texts from the Anglo-Saxon period through the 18th century with the goal to examine the selected literary works as both the cultural agents and historical products of their times. In this course,

1. Students will gain and demonstrate the ability to critically engage and appraise the selection of texts, grasping their universal and historicized themes as well as their conventional and/or innovative use of forms and literary devices as a means to highlight the main thematic concerns;
2. Students will gain and demonstrate the ability to critically link and interpret the selected literary works in reference to the continuous and changing cultural history of pre- and early modern England;
3. Students will gain and demonstrate the ability to critically reflect and research on the connections between the literature and cultural history of pre- and early modern England.

TEXTS AND REFERENCES:

Abrams, M. H., and Stephen Greenblatt, eds. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Vol. 1. 7th Ed. New York: Norton, 2000.

Abrams, M. H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. 8th Ed. New York: Harcourt, 2004.

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6th Ed. MLA, May 2003.

For MLA-formatted papers and annotated bibliography see also,

- http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html
- http://www.lesley.edu/library/guides/citation/mla_annotated.html
- <http://writing.colostate.edu/references/teaching/co300man/pop16c.cfm>

Schedule

| Wk | Date | Readings and Assignments | Topics |
|----|---------|---|--|
| 1 | 2/15-16 | Introduction <u>Philip Sidney</u> : <i>Astrophil and Stella</i> , 71, Norton, 926 <u>William Shakespeare</u> , 1, 18, 29, 71, 87, 130 (Also Naxos Spoken Word Library via TKU) <u>John Donne</u> : | Sonnets and metaphysical poetry Renaissance, sonnet, meter, conceit, metaphysical poets (in Glossary) |

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| | | <p>From <i>Songs and Sonnets</i>, “The Flea,” Norton 1236; “The Canonization,” Norton 1240-41; “The Valediction: Forbidding Mourning,” Norton 1248-49</p> <p>From <i>Holy Sonnets</i>, 9, 10, Norton 1269-70</p> <p>2A (Extra Class): 2/15 Wed. 5 – 7 pm</p> | <p>Luminarium</p> <p>Nicholas Hilliard at the British Museum</p> <p>Nicholas Hilliard at WebMuseum</p> <p>Wenceslaus Hollar at the British Museum</p> |
| 2 | 2/20 | <p><i>King Lear</i>, Acts 1-2, Norton 1106-47</p> | <p>Political ideal in 1.1</p> <p>Thomist vs. Machiavellian</p> <p>In Search of Shakespeare [PBS]</p> <p>Shakespeare On the Net</p> <p>The Elizabethan Theater</p> <p>Absolute Shakespeare</p> |
| 3 | 2/27 | <p><i>King Lear</i>, Acts 3-5, Norton 1180-91</p> <p>2/28 Tue: no class</p> <p>2A (Extra Class): 3/1 Wed. 5 – 7 pm</p> | <p>The storm scene</p> <p>Fools in <i>Lear</i></p> <p>Tyburn Tree: Public Execution in Early Modern England</p> |
| 4 | 3/6 | <p>John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i>, Book 1, Norton 1815-36</p> <p>Paradise Lost in Hypertext</p> <p>(Also Naxos Spoken Word Library via TKU)</p> | <p>Epic conventions and innovations (in Glossary)</p> <p>Satan as an epic “hero”</p> |
| 5 | 3/13 | <p>Alexander Pope: <i>The Rape of the Lock</i>, Norton 2525-44.</p> <p>The Rape of the Lock with Annotation</p> <p>The Rape of the Lock Engravings and Editions</p> <p>William Hogarth: <i>Marriage A-la-Mode</i>, Norton 2652-59</p> <p>William Hogarth at the British Museum</p> <p>Hogarth and the 18th Century England in Tate Collection</p> <p>2A (Extra Class): 3/15 Wed. 5 – 6 pm</p> <p>2B (Extra Class): 3/15 Wed. noon – 1pm</p> | <p>Mock-heroic epic</p> <p>Visual satire</p> <p>Also</p> <p>Neoclassic (in Glossary)</p> <p>The 18th C English Literature [NAEL]</p> <p>The 18th C England [U of Michigan]</p> <p>Coffeehouse Culture in 18th C London</p> |
| 6 | 3/20 | <p>Jonathan Swift: <i>Gulliver’s Travels</i>, Norton 2329-30; 2428-73</p> <p>Gulliver’s Travels in Hypertext</p> <p>(Also Naxos Spoken Word Library via TKU)</p> <p>Irish Literature at Luminarium</p> | <p>Satire (also in Glossary): “But when I behold a lump of deformity, and diseases both in body and mind,</p> |

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| | | 2B (Extra Class): 3/22 Wed. noon – 1pm | smitten with <i>pride</i> , it immediately breaks all measures of my patience.” |
| 7 | 3/27 | Samuel Johnson: <i>A Dictionary of English Language</i> , Norton, 2719-25 <i>The Preface to Shakespeare [King Lear]</i> , Norton, 2734-36 James Boswell: <i>The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.</i> [death], Norton, 2769-70; 2779-83 (Also Naxos Spoken Word Library via TKU) 2B (Extra Class): 3/29 Wed. noon – 1pm | Wit (also in Glossary): “The Powers of the mind” |
| 8 | 4/3 | 4/3-7: Spring Break: no class | |
| 9 | 4/10 | Laurence Sterne: <u><i>Tristram Shandy</i></u> (Also Naxos Spoken Word Library via TKU) <u>Laurence Sterne in Cyberspace</u> Ignatius Sancho Olaudah Equiano: <i>The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African, Written by Himself</i> [The Middle Passage], Norton, 2806-21 W 4/12; Thu 4/13 Research proposal with annotated bibliography due | <i>ab Ovo</i> : “let me go on, and tell my story my own way.” Economical expansion and slavery |
| 10 | 4/17 | Week of Midterm Exam | |
| 11 | 4/24 | Henry Fielding: <u><i>The History of Tom Jones, A Foundling</i></u> (Also Naxos Spoken Word Library via TKU) <i>Tom Jones</i> (United Artists 1963, with Albert Finney) Term Project: Wit and Laughter in English Renaissance and Neoclassicism Research Conferences | |
| 12 | 5/1 | Research Conferences MLA in-text documentation | |
| 13 | 5/8 | No class: I’ll be away. Be back. | |
| 14 | 5/15 | First draft of final research write-up due PPT Preview | |
| 15 | 5/22 | Team Multi-Media Presentations (NO ABSENCE) | |
| 16 | 5/29 | Team Multi-Media Presentations (NO ABSENCE) 5/31 Wed. (Dragon Festival): no class | |
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| 17 | 6/5 | Team Multi-Media Presentations (NO ABSENCE) Final Portfolio due | |
| 18 | 6/12 | 2A: 6/13 Tue, no class (I owe you some break. Here it is.) 6/14-20 Final Exams: All High-Pass! | |

GRADING AND REQUIREMENTS:

- Grading will follow this approximate scheme:
 10 points for class participation, group work, revision workshop, etc.
 30 points for midterm
 20 points for Team Multi-Media Presentation
 20 points each for the annotated bibliography and final research write-up
- Annotated bibliography and the write-up must be original critical pieces, word-processed, double-spaced, properly margined at top, bottom, and sides, and are indeed due on the dates assigned--at the beginning of class. Intentional academic dishonesty will result in a grade of "0" on the assignments. Late papers will be marked down: 2 points off for every class session's delay. You must complete *all* assignments to receive course credit.
- Consult syllabus for write-up topics. Use MLA handbook and online links for documentation specifics.
- Yes, attendance is essential.