

MEDAILLE COLLEGE
AGASSIZ CIRCLE
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

COURSE OUTLINE

Program: Humanities
Course Number: ENG 305
Course Title: British Literature: Middle Ages to the Eighteenth Century
Number of Credits: 3
Prerequisites: Any 200-level Literature course

A. Catalog Description of Course:

A survey of selected major authors from the Middle Ages through the Restoration and early 18th century. Emphasis of the course is on both major authors and the historical development of literary traditions as well as of the English language.

B. Goals:

- * To acquaint students with the relationships between literature and significant historical, linguistic, theological, philosophical, economic, and political events.
- * To foster an understanding and appreciation of British literature.
- * To develop student skills required for close reading and critical evaluation / responses to British literature.

C. Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- *Identify major movements and authors in early periods of British literature
- * Analyze the major works of representative British authors within an historical context.
- * Explain the development of the English language as it is reflected in early periods of British literature
- * Utilize literary terminology in relation to works read.
- * Apply critical approaches to the representative works as evidenced through writing and discussion.

D. Outline of Course Content:

- I. The Middle Ages
 - a. Anglo-Saxon England
 - b. Anglo-Norman England
 - c. Middle English Literature
- II. The Early Modern Period
 - a. The Sixteenth Century
 - b. The Early Seventeenth Century
 - c. The Development of Modern English
- III. The Restoration and Eighteenth Century
 - a. The Age of Reason
 - b. The Development of English Prose
 - c. Restoration Drama and Augustan Poetry

E. Suggested Texts:

Norton Anthology of English Literature: Major Authors Edition. New York: W.W. Norton. 1990.

The Longman Anthology of British Literature. Vol. 1. New York: Longman, 1999.

F. Suggested Modes, Media, and Techniques of Instruction:

Lecture/recitation, discussions, collaborative learning projects, videos, and recordings.

G. Instructor References:

Chambers, E.K. English Literature at the Close of the Middle Ages. Clarendon Press, 1945.

Chubb, Edwin. Masters of English Literature. Books for Libraries, 1967.

Craig, David. Real Foundation: Literature and Social Change. Oxford University Press, 1974.

Craig, Hardin. The Enchanted Glass; the Elizabethan Mind in Literature. New York: Oxford University Press, 1936.

Daiches, David. English Literature. Houghton, 1965.

Dobree, Bonamy and Davis, Norman, eds. The Oxford History of English Literature. Clarendon Press, 12 volumes.

Grierson, Sir Herbert. The Background of English Literature. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1961.

Houghton, Walter E. Victorian Poetry and Poetics. Boston: Houghton, 1959.

Long, William J. English Literature its History and its Significance for the Life of the English Speaking World. Ginn, 1945.

Moulton, Charles. Moulton's Library of Literary Criticism of English and American Authors Throughout the Beginning of the 20th Century. Unger, 1966.

Newcomer, Alphonso Gerald. Twelve Centuries of English Poetry and Prose. New York: Scott, Foresman, 1928.

Palmer, D.J. Rise of English Studies. Oxford University Press, 1965.

Porter, Peter and Anthony Thwaite. English Poets: Five Centuries of English Poetry. Longman, 1979.

Quennell, Peter. Four Portraits. (18th century). London: Reprint Society, 1947.

Rogers, Pat. The Augustan Vision. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1974.

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Shrodes, Caroline. Reading for Understanding: Fiction, Drama, Poetry. New York: Macmillan, 1968.

Van Ghent, Dorothy. The English Novel, Form and Function. New York: Rinehart, 1953.