ENG225
ENGLISH LITERATURE: BEFORE 1800
3 Credit Hours

Prepared by:
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by
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Arts and Science Education
Dr. Mindy Selsor, Dean
ENG225 English Literature: Before 1800

I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

A. Prerequisite: None

B. 3 semester credit hours

C. English Literature: Before 1800 explores selected British works from *Beowulf* through the prose, poetry, and plays of Middle and early Modern English. Students will have the opportunity to study the relationships of philosophy, history, and literature. English Literature: Before 1800 will partially fulfill the humanities requirement for the associate degree. (F)

II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT MEASURES

<table>
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<th>Expected Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students will recognize literature as the concrete manifestation of a culture’s beliefs, values, history, and art.</td>
<td>Classroom discussion, Exams, Essays, Written responses to study guides/discussion prompts</td>
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<td>Students will explain the historical context in which each literary masterwork was written.</td>
<td>Classroom discussion, Exams, Essays, Written responses to study guides/discussion prompts</td>
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<td>Students will investigate and explain the social and political influences that affected the literature of each period and culture.</td>
<td>Classroom discussion, Exams, Essays, Written responses to study guides/discussion prompts, Oral presentations</td>
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<td>Students will analyze and interpret literary masterworks in terms of character, conflict, plot, and theme.</td>
<td>Classroom discussion, Exams, Essays, Written responses to study guides/discussion prompts</td>
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<td>Students will compare literature from different time periods in terms of universal themes and motifs.</td>
<td>Classroom discussion, Exams, Essays, Written responses to study guides/discussion prompts, Oral presentations</td>
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III. OUTLINE OF TOPICS

A. Old English
1. Define the Anglo-Saxon heroic ideal
2. Read Beowulf
3. Apply the definition of the heroic ideal to the poem

B. Middle English
1. Knighthood
   a. Define chivalry
   b. Read Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
   c. Read Morte Darthur
   d. Summarize the major Arthurian legends
      (1) The Grail Quest
      (2) Lovers
      (3) Merlin
      (4) The coming and the passing of Arthur
   e. Compare the legends with modern adaptations (movies, poems, books)
2. Chaucer
   a. Read the General Prologue
   b. Read the Wife of Bath’s prologue tale
   c. Read the Miller’s prologue and tale
   d. Define the major categories of the tales (e.g., fabliau, beast fable, etc.)
   e. Explain the importance of Chaucer in terms of the English language and in terms of introducing Renaissance issues (e.g., the role of women, religious strife, etc.).
3. Medieval Drama
   a. Define morality play, mystery play, and allegory
   b. Watch video performance of a portion of Everyman
   c. Explain development of mystery and morality plays

C. The Elizabethan Age
1. Know the major historical influences of the period.
2. Spenser
   a. Read the first book of The Faerie Queene.
   b. Explain the literal meaning of the first book of The Faerie Queene.
   c. Explain the allegorical meaning of the first book of The Faerie Queene
3. Marlowe
   a. Explain Dr. Faustus in terms of Humanism
   b. Explain how the religious turmoil of Renaissance England is expressed in the play.
4. Shakespeare
   a. Read *Twelfth Night*
   b. View a modern production of the play
   c. Explain the major themes of the play

D. The 17th Century
1. Read selections from the Metaphysical Poets (Donne, Herbert, Crashaw)
2. Define “metaphysical,” and list characteristics of metaphysical poetry.
3. Read selections from the Cavalier Poets (Jonson, Herrick, Marvell).
4. Define “cavalier.”
5. Read Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, selections.
6. Explain how Milton “justified” the ways of God to man through the poem.

E. The Restoration and 18th Century
1. Read Behn’s *Oroonoko*.
2. Discuss slavery in terms of the Old World versus New World
3. Analyze Behn’s use of conventions from the romance and from travel writing.
4. Read selections from Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels*.
5. Explain Swift’s allegory.

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A. Lecture

B. Textbook Readings

C. Small Group Analysis

D. Expository Papers

E. Videos

F. Study Guides

V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (with publication information)


VI. REQUIRED MATERIALS

Textbooks
VII. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

None

VIII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Student essays

B. Quizzes

C. Exams

D. Study Guides

Grading Scale
A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-79
F = below 60

IX. ADA COMPLIANCE

Students who have needs because of a learning disability or other kinds of disabilities should contact the Access/ABILITY Office at (636) 797-3000 extension 169 or 158 and discuss accommodations with the instructor.

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

If a student plagiarizes writing or cheats on an assignment or test, he or she will fail that assignment and may fail the entire course. Dishonesty is a gross violation of the academic honesty policy as stated in the Jefferson College Student Handbook and indicates a failure to meet the standards of this course.