

Course Syllabus

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Course Description

English 2310 is a survey of representative authors and works of British literature from the beginnings, in Anglo-Saxon times, through the 18th century (the Neoclassical Period). Readings cover major literary genres including poetry, drama, and fiction and are intended to introduce students to the wide range of literary themes and styles that continue to influence world literature and culture today.

Course Introduction Video

Watch the video below to learn more about the course's goals and purpose.



Learning Outcomes

The Department of English has adopted student-learning outcomes for general education courses in writing and literature and for degree programs in English. These outcomes are available for your review at <https://www.english.txstate.edu/about/learning.html> (<https://www.english.txstate.edu/about/learning.html>).

Course Progression

You have **six months** (approximately 24 weeks) to complete this course. You will complete each of the five main lessons one at a time, following the progression of assigned readings and required assignments outlined below.

Lesson 1 – Early Middle Ages

- *Reading:* The Dream of the Rood, The Wife's Lament, Beowulf, Cuchalainn's Boyhood Deeds
- *Assignments:* Lesson 1 Quiz

Lesson 2 – Cultural Changes

- *Reading:* Geoffrey Chaucer, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Julian of Norwich, Margery Kempe
- *Assignments:* Lesson 2 Quiz

Lesson 3 – Early Modern Period

- *Reading:* Thomas Wyatt, Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, Sir Philip Sidney, William Shakespeare, John Donne, Mary Wroth, Andrew Marvell
- *Assignments:* Lesson 3 Quiz

Midcourse Short Answer Test and Essay 1

Lesson 4 – English Drama

- *Reading:* William Shakespeare and John Milton
- *Assignments:* Lesson 4 Quiz

Lesson 5 – The Restoration

- *Reading:* Lawrence Stern, Jonathan Swift, Eliza Haywood, Samuel Johnson
- *Assignments:* Lesson 5 Quiz

Final Short Answer Test and Essay 2

Required Materials

Norton Anthology of English Literature, 9th edition, Volumes A, B, & C

ISBN-13: 978-0393913002

ISBN-10: 0393913007

To order this text on the [University Bookstore website](#) ↗

(<https://www.bkstr.com/texasstatestore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials>), click Enter Courses to be directed to course listings. Under Select Department, select ODEL. Then select this course from the course listings.

Course Assignments

The required assignments are given to assess students' retained knowledge of the text as well as initiate critical reflection upon the themes presented by the various authors. Students may use the course textbook to complete each of the course's assignments, including the short answer tests and essays.

Course assignments include:

- Five (5) quizzes based on assigned selections from *Norton Anthology of British Literature*
- Two (2) short answer tests
- Two (2) approximately 500 word essays

Grade Breakdown

- Quizzes (1-5): 10%
- Midcourse Short Answer Test: 15%
- Final Short Answer Test: 15%
- Essay 1: 30%
- Essay 2: 30%

Quizzes

The five quizzes are timed multiple choice assessments (30 minutes permitted per quiz) that cover the material from each of the five main lessons. Students who read the assigned texts should perform well on the quizzes.

Short-Answer Tests

There are two Short-Answer tests. You will take one midway through the course (covering Lessons 1-3), and you will complete the second exam (covering Lessons 4-5) at the end of the course. Both Short Answer Tests are open-book, timed tests that you may take in Canvas. The tests are not proctored. You will have two and one half hours to complete each test.

The two short answer tests invite you to critically engage with the course material. While the quizzes are objective in their scope, the short answer tests are subjective in that there are no absolutely right or

wrong responses. The short answers (which should range in length between 3 to 5 sentences) are intended to challenge you to make connections between the texts and the larger themes surrounding the respective historical periods. You must complete each of the short answer tests (in the 2.5 hour time limit) before proceeding to write the respective essays.

Essays

Each of the two essays (approximately 600+ words each) comprise two components:

1. An **Analytical Section** in which you will craft formal, extended interpretations of several of the assigned texts (approximately 200 words per response), and
2. A **Creative Section** in which you will emulate one of the genres featured in the course readings.

To receive full credit in the Analytical Section, you must write in the tone and with the same academic rigor of the standard college essay; think of these responses as more robust versions of the short answer test responses.

To receive full credit for the Creative Section, you will need to closely adhere to the instructions laid out in the essay prompt; if you're asked to write a certain type of poem, for instance, the rhyme and meter will need to follow the appropriate form for that style of verse.

Note:

- You must wait until the Midcourse Short Answer Test and Essay 1 are graded and returned to you before submitting a subsequent assignment.
- You must complete all assignments and make a 70% or better on the final test in order to pass this course.
- You may not resubmit an assignment after it has been graded.

This [Course Pacing Guide \(https://canvas.txstate.edu/courses/1400356/files/134229889/download?wrap=1\)](https://canvas.txstate.edu/courses/1400356/files/134229889/download?wrap=1) ↓ (https://canvas.txstate.edu/courses/1400356/files/134229889/download?download_frd=1) will help you plan your time and ensure you are completing the course work in a timely manner. Complete the schedule in the Guide and [submit it to Course Pacing Guide in Modules \(https://canvas.txstate.edu/courses/1400356/modules/6037232\)](https://canvas.txstate.edu/courses/1400356/modules/6037232) as soon as possible or within your first 7 days of enrollment in the course.

Additional Course Materials

Introductory Essays

You should also read the three introductory essays in the Norton Anthology that provide commentary on the literature of this period. They are "Introduction to the Middle Ages," "Introduction to the Sixteenth Century," and "Introduction to The Restoration & the Eighteenth Century." I strongly suggest you read

them before you undertake Lesson 1 and that you refer to them again as you go along through the course.

Recorded Presentations

I've included an introductory video (in which I casually introduce each lesson's content) and a narrated PowerPoint presentation (that lays out the lesson's central themes and points to consider) at the beginning of each lesson. Students who watch the introductory videos and view the presentations will have a clear understanding of what to expect in the short answer tests and essay prompts.

The narrated PowerPoint presentations should play automatically. In the bottom right corner of each slide is an audio button. If, for some reason, the audio doesn't play, click this button.

Faculty-Student Contact

According to "Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education," faculty-student contact is very important. Even though this is a correspondence course, I encourage you to contact me if you have any concerns, questions, or problems at cm85@txstate.edu. (<mailto:cm85@txstate.edu>)

My policy is that during non-holiday breaks or announced away times, any email I receive between Monday morning and Friday at noon will receive a reply within 48 hours. Emails received between Friday at noon and Sunday night will receive a reply on the next business day.

FREE TUTORING RESOURCES

A variety of free tutoring resources are available for students enrolled in correspondence courses. You may access tutoring through Tutor.com by clicking on Tutor.com: 24/7 Online Tutoring in the left menu of this course. Then just respond to the questions to start tutoring. If you need help with writing specifically, then choose Writing as your topic.

Free online tutoring for writing-related assignments is also available from the University Writing Center. For information on accessing these resources, please visit the Office of Distance and Extended Learning's [Free Tutoring \(http://www.correspondence.txstate.edu/students/tutoring.html\)](http://www.correspondence.txstate.edu/students/tutoring.html) page. Currently-enrolled, degree-seeking students able to visit the Texas State campus are eligible for free in-person tutoring from the [Student Learning Assistance Center \(SLAC\) \(http://www.txstate.edu/slac/\)](http://www.txstate.edu/slac/) on the fourth floor of Alkek Library

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(https://canvas.txstate.edu/courses/1400356/files/134000019/download?download_frd=1)