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ENG 2950-600: Transatlantic Literary History I

Bobby Martinez

Eastern Illinois University

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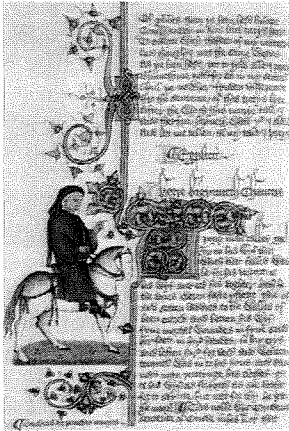
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ENG 2950, section 600:
Transatlantic Literary History: Cultures, Literacies, Technologies I (Pre-1800)
Fall 2020 | Online



Professor: Dr. Bobby Martínez

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E-mail: rlmartinez@eiu.edu

Office Hours: Email me via panthermail or set up an appointment for video conference

Class Website: D2L course page

Meet the Professor

Hello! I am Dr. Bobby Martínez of Eastern Illinois University (EIU). My area of specialization is twentieth-century and contemporary British and American literature, literary history of American and British literatures, film studies, and world literatures (Latin America, Europe). I always look forward to teaching this literary history course and I am eager to explore our course material together and to make the best of our current Covid/online life.

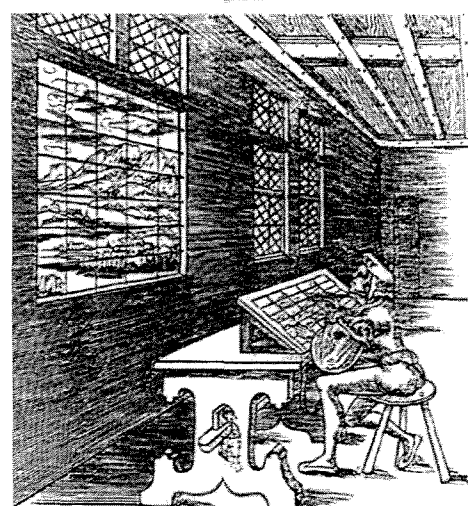
I am still fairly new to Illinois. I am not a native Midwesterner and have only lived in Illinois for 11 years now. I come from the Washington, D.C., “metro area” (i.e., D.C., Northern Virginia, Southern Maryland) and did all of my schooling in Virginia (BA) and North Carolina (MA, PhD). Before attending graduate school, I worked in “the real world” as a program analyst and writer/editor professional in the federal government/private business world for five years. I have been teaching courses in writing, early/medieval literature, modern and contemporary British literature and culture, contemporary Latin American literature, women’s studies, and film studies for over 19 years. Aside from teaching and literature, I enjoy studying a lot of genres of music and playing music (drums, guitars), and I have a special love for dogs (dachshunds are awesome, and I have a newfound love for pit bulls or “pitties”). And courtesy of my daughter, I now have a kitty cat, too.

How to Reach Me:

For official office hours, you can most easily contact me via Panthermail; my address is rlmartinez@eiu.edu (please note that I prefer using Panthermail over D2L’s internal e-mail). I aim to respond to e-mails as they are received, but I will typically respond to e-mails within 24 hours. If you wish to schedule an appointment to discuss an assignment or question about the course, I can arrange for us to use video conferencing instead of e-mail. I will also have a forum in D2L called “Need Help?” where any student can post questions about the class and my response will be available to all class members.

Course Description:

In this course we will examine some of the main events in the development of literature and language, its conception, production, and reception. More than simply an introduction to the key cultural movements and genres in British and American literary history, this course will ask you not just to accept but also to think critically about literary history and tradition. In addition to familiarizing you with the history of orality, literacy, and print technology in textual production from the Anglo-Saxon period to the beginning of the 18th century, this core course of the English major will prepare you to



enter your concentration with a foundation in critical issues surrounding the lives and afterlives of texts, genres, and traditions. Specifically, in this course we will think about how the use of language changes our sense of self, our sense of others, and our consciousness altogether.

Required Texts:

- Abrams, ed. *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, vol. 1, 7th edition (NAEL)
- Baym, ed. *Norton Anthology of American Literature*, vol. A, 8th edition (NAAL)
- Shakespeare, *As You Like It*
- Other e-readings available via D2L

Course Learning Goals:

In this course, we will work on achieving the following goals:

1. Read and analyze a variety of Transatlantic texts that represent important moments of intersection between literature and relevant cultural, social, and/or historical events from the oral tradition to the rise of the novel
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the primary characteristics of Transatlantic literary periods and relationships between them
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of key moments in the history of print, literacy, and information technology
4. Devise an intellectual framework applicable to their course of study and/or intended career path
5. Analyze texts, genre, and literary technique in their intertextual context (i.e. in relation to prior and/or subsequent texts)
6. Advance their research skills and their understanding of literary history and the discipline of English studies through the use of appropriate digital archives and databases

Course Access

To access our course on D2L, you must log in to the course via D2L from the EIU Homepage. You will access the course in D2L using your EIU Net ID and password. English 2950 will be completed over the course of the fall semester, 2020. Due dates for assignments are noted in specific modules. The course includes reading assignments, writing assignments, and forum discussion requirements.

Technical requirements:

Students must have regular access to the Internet while using a laptop or desktop computer. Students must know how to download and upload e-mail attachments, install software, and (if requesting an individual conference) use a webcam and microphone. Papers must be submitted in Microsoft Word; D2L cannot open papers submitted, for example, with Apple's word processing program, Pages. You also must have access to Adobe Reader (free download) or Preview (for Macs).

Attendance and Class Participation:

Since we will be online, attendance and participation will count as your involvement in assigned D2L Forum discussions. Each forum will have required time frames during which you must complete written posts and participate in discussion with your peers, but each time frame will give you enough flexibility as to when you can complete your participation. Any synchronous video discussions we may have (i.e., meeting together at the same time via D2L Collaborate) will not be mandated or graded, but I will encourage you to participate in those to assist in your learning and to help break up the monotony of Covid-19 living. You will only incur grade penalties for lack of participation if you begin to ignore participation in assigned forums.

Reading and Listening Study for Class:

This course is reading intensive, so you are required to do all assigned reading for this course. More importantly, you are expected to read all assignments **carefully** and **conscientiously**, meaning you are to make note of your reactions to the readings and be prepared to share your critical thoughts of the readings in forum discussions and any possible synchronous video discussions. If you do not understand something in the reading, you should read it again and work at its meaning. This process is what is known as “**critical reading**”: you must study a writer’s language and think critically about its meanings and ramifications. This critical, thoughtful attention to detail applies equally to any audio/visual texts (music, film) we study: pay careful attention to sounds, melody, lyrics, camera movement, editing, use of color, etc., and think carefully about their meaning.

If you know you are going to be pressed for time during any point in the semester, make sure you plan ahead to ensure that you have plenty of time to complete your reading assignments thoughtfully.

Smartphone/Social Media Policy:

To protect the safety of the classroom and the privacy of the students’ thoughts and ideas, usage of cell phones or smartphones to screen capture and post any material to social media sites or apps (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, SnapChat, Instagram, YouTube, etc.) **is strictly forbidden**. Smartphone or cell phone use for social media regarding class will only be permitted with the prior approval of the instructor.

Assignments:

- Paper #1: Analyzing features of oral poetry (3-4 pages): 15%
- Oral Performance of Paper #1: 10%
- Paper #2: Analysis of Shakespeare passage (4-5 pages): 15%
- Shakespeare Solo Project Performance: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 10%
- Final Exam: 15%
- Anthology Research Project or Final Analysis Paper: 25%

Grading Scale:

- A = 94-100
- A- = 90-93
- B+ = 87-89
- B = 84-86
- B- = 80-83
- C+ = 77-79
- C = 74-76
- C- = 70-73
- D = 60-69
- F = below 60

Turning in Assignments & Feedback:

Assignments turned in via D2L Dropbox must be in **Microsoft Word format**. Instructor feedback will be embedded in graded writing. Be sure to review and save your graded essays. One of your most important tools for improvement will be the comments and corrections I make in or suggest to your writing. *If you wish to see your writing improve and your grade rise as the semester progresses, you must carefully refer back to these written comments as you write subsequent essays.* When turning in any revised work, you must make sure that the instructor’s feedback does **not** remain in your revised document

Regarding Assignment Due Dates:

With the exception of deadlines missed due to documented emergencies, **no late assignments will be accepted**. Assignments may only be turned in late if the student provides documentation of an emergency. Proper documentation must be an official, original scanned document containing the student's name; it must also cover the date(s) in question and be signed by a professional (e.g., a doctor). An e-mail that merely describes why you want to turn in your assignment late is not proper documentation.

Guidelines for Specific Assignments:

All written work should be formatted thus:

- Use Microsoft Word
- Use Double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman or Cambria font
- Use 1" (top/bottom) and 1.25" (left/right) margins
- Include your name, course name, professor's name, and date on the front page
- Include a title for your essays
- Place your name and page numbers in the headers of your essays
- Turn in all written work electronically via D2L Dropbox

A Note about Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of someone else's ideas, words, or work as your own. If you use or refer to ideas or work other than your own, you must acknowledge the source and author of those ideas/that work and document it properly using MLA format (Purdue MLA guide: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>). Plagiarism is an Honor Code violation at EIU, and offenders will be referred to the EIU Office for Student Standards. **Failure to cite any outside sources or critics will constitute plagiarism.**

The Writing Center:

You are always welcome to meet with me during office hours to discuss any writing issues. However, I also encourage you to use EIU's Writing Center located at 3110 Coleman Hall. This free service provides one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support, documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. The writing center is open to help any student from any major at any stage of his or her writing process, and its system of one-to-one conferences demonstrates value and respect for individual writers, all of whom can benefit from feedback about their works in progress. To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can call 581-5929.

EIU Writing Portfolio:

If you wish to do so, you may submit any essay longer than 750 words to your Electronic Writing Portfolio by the end of the semester. Please see me for advice on revising your essay before submitting it.

Student Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Disability Services:

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call [217-581-6583](tel:217-581-6583).

Student Success Center:

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call [217-581-6696](tel:217-581-6696), or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Tech Support:

If you need assistance with D2L, call D2L Support toll free at 1-877-325-7778. Support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. E-mail and Chat options are also available on the "My Home" page after logging in to D2L. Other D2L resources including a D2L Orientation course for students are available on the same page. For technical questions regarding other software, hardware, network issues, EIU NetID/password, or Panthermail, please contact the ITS Helpdesk at 217-581-4357 during regular business hours (8 am-5 pm) or submit a help ticket at <https://techsupport.eiu.edu/>. If you have a question regarding course content, contact your instructor.

English 2950, Fall 2020 – Schedule of Assignments*

*Some assignments and class activities may be subject to change.

We will cover the following units during the semester (outlined below in the weekly schedule):

- Module 1: Introductions
- Module 2: Oral Cultures and the Beginnings of Literary Expression
- Module 3: From Oral Culture to Literacy and Literary Inheritance
- Module 4: “The world burst asunder”: Encountering the Book, Encountering Different Cultures
- Module 5: Books, the Press, and the Birth of Public Debate

Module 1 Topic: Introductions	Personal Introductions & Getting to Know Each Other
Module 1 Activities, Aug. 24-27:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please go to D2L Forum and introduce yourself by Tuesday, Aug. 25th, by 9 p.m. • Respond to at least two (2) classmates' introductions by Thursday, Aug. 27th, 7 p.m.
Module 2 Topic:	Oral Cultures and the Beginnings of Literary Expression
Module 2 Activities, Aug. 24-31:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Module 2 Lecture on “Oral Cultures and the Beginnings of Literary Expression” • Read Walter Ong’s essay, “Some Psychodynamics of Orality” (D2L) • Complete Worksheet on Ong’s “Psychodynamics of Orality” and “Literary Tools for Oral Expression” • Post your responses to the Worksheet on D2L Forum by Saturday, Aug. 29, 3 p.m.
Module 2 Activities, Aug. 29-Sep. 5:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read “Caedmon’s Hymn,” <i>NAEL</i>, p. 23-26 • Conduct oral analysis of “Caedmon’s Hymn” and post to D2L Forum by Tuesday, Sep. 1, 5 p.m. • Read Introduction to <i>NAAL</i> (pp. 3-8) and “Iroquois and Navajo Creation Stories” (<i>NAAL</i> p. 23-34) • Read handout, “Andrew Wiget on Native American Oral Narrative” (D2L) • Answer analysis questions regarding Native American Creation Stories and post to D2L Forum by Thursday, Sep. 3, 5 p.m.
Module 2 Activities, Sep. 7-14:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping in mind your knowledge from Worksheet on Tools for Oral Expression, start reading <i>Beowulf</i> (<i>NAEL</i>, pp. 29-42) and answer analysis questions on <i>Beowulf</i> and post to D2L Forum by Tuesday, Sep. 8, 5 pm. • Read <i>Beowulf</i> (<i>NAEL</i>, pp. 43-58) and answer analysis questions on this section of the poem via D2L Forum by Thursday, Sep. 10, 5 pm.
Module 2 Activities, Sep. 14-21:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Beowulf</i> (<i>NAEL</i>, pp. 58-68) and answer analysis questions on this section of the poem via D2L Forum by Tuesday, Sep. 15, 5 pm. • Read <i>Beowulf</i> (<i>NAEL</i>, pp. 68-79) and answer analysis questions on this section of the poem via D2L Forum by Thursday, Sep. 17, 5 pm.

Module 2 Activities, Sep. 21-28:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Beowulf</i> (NAEL, pp. 79-86) and answer analysis questions on this section of the poem via D2L Forum by Tuesday, Sep. 22, 5 pm. • Finishing reading <i>Beowulf</i> (NAEL, pp. 86-99) and answer analysis questions on this section of the poem via D2L Forum by Thursday, Sep. 24, 5 pm.
Module 2 Activities, Sep. 28-Oct. 5:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Marie de France, "Fables," (NAEL, p. 140-141) and "Lanval" (NAEL, p. 127-139) and answer analysis questions on these works via D2L Forum by Tuesday, Sep. 29, 5 pm. • Begin reading Chaucer, "The General Prologue" to <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> (NAEL, pp. 210-220) and answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Thursday, Oct. 1, 5 pm.
Module 2 Activities, Oct. 5-12:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish reading Chaucer, "The General Prologue" to <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> (NAEL, pp. 220-235) and answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Tuesday, Oct. 6, 5 pm. • Start reading Chaucer's "The Miller's Tale" (NAEL, pp. 235-243) and answer analysis questions on this section of the poem via D2L Forum by Thursday, Oct. 8, 5 pm.
Module 2 Activities, Oct. 12-13:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orality Paper & Oral Performance Due in D2L Dropbox on Monday, Oct. 12. • Finish reading Chaucer's "The Miller's Tale" (NAEL, pp. 244-252) and answer analysis questions on this section of the poem via D2L Forum by Tuesday, Oct. 13, 5 pm.
Module 3 Topic:	"The world burst asunder": Encountering the Book, Encountering Different Cultures
Module 3 Activities, Oct. 14-23:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read background information "Voyages of Discovery" and "First Encounters" (NAAL, p. 8-13, 52-54) • Read Columbus and De Las Casas (NAAL, p. 34-42) and answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Thursday, Oct. 15, 5 pm. • Read Cortes (NAAL, p. 54-64) and answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Tuesday, Oct. 20, 5 pm. • Watch Werner Herzog's <i>Aguierre, Wrath of God</i> via D2L and answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Thursday, Oct. 22, 7 pm.
Module 2 Activities, Oct. 24-31:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review module notes on events of the Reformation and read competing passages from the English Bible (NAEL, p. 538-542) • Start reading selections from Sir Thomas More's <i>Utopia</i> (NAEL, p. 506-514) and answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Thursday, Oct. 29, 5 pm. • Midterm Exam Due by Saturday, Oct. 31, 2 p.m.
Module 2 Activities, Oct. 30-Nov. 4:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish reading selections from Sir Thomas More's <i>Utopia</i> (NAEL, p. 514-522) and answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Nov. 4, 5 pm. • Start reading Shakespeare's <i>As You Like It</i> (Acts 1-3)
Module 2 Activities,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish reading Shakespeare's <i>As You Like It</i> (Acts 1-3) and answer

Nov. 4-13:	<p>analysis questions on D2L Forum by Tuesday, Nov. 10, 5 pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish reading Shakespeare's <i>As You Like It</i> (Acts 4-5) and answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Friday, Nov. 13, 5 pm.
Module 2 Activities, Nov. (sat) 14:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read John Milton, selections from <i>Areopagitica</i> (NAEL, p. 1801-1810) and answer analysis questions on D2L Forum by Wednesday, Nov. 18, 5 pm. • Shakespeare Paper & Solo Performance Due in D2L Dropbox by Monday, Nov. 23.
Nov. 21-29:	Thanksgiving Break
Module 5:	Unearthing Literary History on Your Own: Anthology Projects
Module 5 Activities, Nov. 30-Dec. 11:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn in Anthology Projects to D2L Dropbox by Friday, Dec. 11, 10 pm. • Set up conference time with Dr. M, if you wish, for any help you may need on anthology projects.

Cumulative Final Exam: To be determined