ENG 4950-002: Literary History and Bibliography

McCormick
Eastern Illinois University

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English 4950/SPRING 2001
LITERARY HISTORY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Instructor: Dr. McCormick
Office: CH 339D
Phone: 581-6121/345-9773
E-Mail: cffgm@eiu.edu
Office Hours: MWF 9-11 & 12-1
(and by appointment; I am also
often in my office on T and R)

Required Texts:
1. Abrams, Norton Anthology
   of English Lit., 1 & 2
2. Perkins, American Trad.
   in Literature, 1 & 2
3. Holman, Handbook
4. MLA Handbook

SUPPLEMENTARY PURCHASES: (1) Spiral notebook (for this course only; to be used
as journal -- see JOURNAL handout); (2) Theme folder (for submission of your two themes
-- see THEME REQUIREMENTS handout).

THREE PRELIMINARY REMARKS

A. I welcome your questions about any of our assignments for this course. Ask and I'll
   be happy to clarify.
B. Abrams and Perkins (texts #1 and #2 above right) will be our primary texts. Regard
   Holman's Handbook (#3) as a tool for reviewing and consolidating materials presented
   in lectures and assigned readings.
C. If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations,
   please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon
   as possible.

NATURE OF THE COURSE

English 4950 has a dual purpose: to help advanced (and graduate) English majors
develop a coherent picture of the history of English and American literature, and to introduce
them to some of the basic tools and methods of literary research.

HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED

You will be expected to attend class regularly, to perform reading and writing
assignments diligently and promptly, and to contribute to class discussion. Your grade for
the course will be determined by your performance on the following tasks:

1. 20% A 750-1500 word library paper, due before mid term. (See THEME
   REQUIREMENTS handout for specifications.)
2. 20% A 1500-2000 word synthesis of course materials, due three weeks before the
   end of the semester. (See THEME REQUIREMENTS handout.)
3. 20% Mid-Term Exam
4. 20% Final Exam
5. 20% Journal. (See JOURNAL handout for details.)
HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED (continued)

I will assign the following values to the grades you receive on the five projects described above:

A+ = 4.2  B+ = 3.2  C+ = 2.2  D+ = 1.2  F = 0.0
A = 4.0  B = 3.0  C = 2.0  D = 1.0  Missing = -1.0
A- = 3.8  B- = 2.8  C- = 1.8  D- = 0.8

I will use the following cutoff points in determining final grades:

A = 4.2 to 3.8  B = 3.7 to 2.8  C = 2.7 to 1.8
D = 1.7 to 0.8

But note the following incentive to attend class faithfully:

If at the end of the semester your average falls 1 to 2 decimal points below the cutoff for the next higher grade category, I will assign you the higher grade if you have had no more than 3 unexcused absences. For example, if your average were 2.6 or 2.7 (i.e., 1 or 2 points below the cutoff for a B), you would receive a final grade of B if you had had no more than 3 unexcused absences. If you had 4 or more unexcused absences, your average of 2.6 or 2.7 would earn a final grade of C.

ATTENDANCE

I will expect you to attend this class regularly. If an emergency arises which prevents your attending one of our sessions, please call me promptly to explain.

LATE AND MISSED WORK

Papers are due at the beginning of the class period on the dates indicated by an asterisk (*) on your syllabus. Late papers will be penalized one-half letter grade for each class day they are late. TWO EXAMPLES:

(1) If your paper were due on MONDAY and you submitted it on TUESDAY, your grade would be penalized by a half letter: e.g., the grade of a "C" paper would be lowered to a C-.
(2) If your paper were due on MONDAY and you submitted it on WEDNESDAY, the grade would be lowered by two half letters; e.g., the grade of a "C" paper would be lowered to a D+.

Papers that have still not been submitted two weeks after the due date will be regarded as "missing" and will receive a -1. They may not be made up.
OPTIONAL REVISION

Any of you who wish to do so may elect to revise your 750-1500 word library paper in hopes of raising the grade for the paper by a maximum of one letter. One exception: a paper whose grade I have penalized for plagiarism (see below) may not be revised and resubmitted. Revisions must be substantial. Simply correcting minor errors to which I have called your attention will not result in a higher grade. Optional revisions are due no later than the final class meeting of the semester.

PLAGIARISM

Note the English Department's statement concerning plagiarism:

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism -- "the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) -- has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including assignment of a grade of F for the course.
NOTE: Asterisks in the left-hand margins of the following pages indicate important due dates -- for papers, journals, and exams.

JAN 8 Introduction to the course. CRAVN ReNeoRomVic (see explanation below.)

CRAVN
C[elts] — native inhabitants of England
R[omans] — occupy England, 50 B.C.-450 A.D.
V[ikings] — More Danes invade England c. 856-870 A.D.

RenNeoRomVic:
Re[aissance] — c. 1500-1660: Humanism & Reformation
Neo[classical] — 1660-1798 [Restoration & 18th century]: Neoclassical
Rom[antic] — 1798-1832
Vic[torian] — 1832-1901: roughly the lifetime of Queen Victoria

The first period of English literature we will study in this course is MEDIEVAL LITERATURE.

The MEDIEVAL PERIOD in European history is the period which begins after the fall of the Roman Empire (c. 500 A.D.) and ends with the advent of the Renaissance. England's medieval literature is divided into two historical periods:

1. Old English (Anglo-Saxon period; e.g., Beowulf);
2. Middle English (Norman [French] period; e.g., Chaucer)

The second period of English literature we will study is the RENAISSANCE:

HARBINGERS OF RENAISSANCE:
1450: invention of printing press;
1453: fall of Greek city of Constantinople — Turks force Greek scholars to flee with ancient "humanist" Greek manuscripts to ITALY, birthplace of the Renaissance;

PIVOTAL EVENTS OF RENAISSANCE:
1492: Columbus "discovers" New World;
1517: 1517 (German monk Martin Luther attempts to reform the Roman Catholic Church; after he is excommunicated he establishes (in Germany) the first "Protestant" church — the Lutheran Church.

JAN 10 MEDIEVAL LITERATURE: Old English Period (500-1100)
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Study the following handouts: (a) "ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND" & (b) JOURNAL: ENG 4950.
3. Abrams, 21-26 & 33-37 (Beowulf, introduction and excerpt).

IMPORTANT: Remember to bring to class a spiral notebook in which you have written a journal entry of no fewer than 150 words in response to the readings listed above. And please remind me today to give you a handout entitled "MEDIEVAL ENGLAND FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST TO 1500."
JAN 12  **MEDIEVAL LITERATURE: Middle English Period (1100-1500).**

**READING ASSIGNMENT:**
1. Abrams, 5-11 ("Introduction" to Middle English Period.)
2. Handout: "MEDIEVAL ENGLAND FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST TO 1500."

**JOURNAL ENTRY:** Don't forget to prepare -- and bring to class -- a journal entry responding to today's assigned reading. See your JOURNAL handout for suggestions. Remember that the minimum requirement for your entry is 150 words. The best journals will routinely exceed the minimum requirement. **REMIND ME** to distribute a handout called "QUICK INTRODUCTION TO SOME RESEARCH TOOLS."

JAN 15  Martin Luther King's Birthday. No class.

JAN 17  Today's class will meet at McAfee Gymnasium. See me at McAfee's northeast entrance -- at 1:00 p.m., sharp. A librarian will conduct us to our library meeting room.

1. **HOW TO PREPARE FOR TODAY'S CLASS:** Before our meeting at McAfee Gymnasium today, spend at least **TWO HOURS** at McAfee's "Big Gymn" -- temporary site of our library's "Reference Room." Familiarize yourself with the reference books and computer databases listed in your handout entitled "QUICK INTRODUCTION TO SOME RESEARCH TOOLS."

2. For your journal entry, record your experiences inspecting several of the reference books/databases described in your "QUICK INTRODUCTION," and make a list of questions you have concerning how to use any of the books or databases which confuse you. I'll be tremendously impressed with those of you who include (in your journal entry) some specific discussion of how you might use one or more of these resources to gather information pertinent to a paper you plan to write in this or another of your English courses.

JAN 19  **Middle English Period (1100-1500): ROMANCE & BALLAD**

**JOURNAL ENTRY:** Before this and **EVERY** class session for which we have a reading assignment, remember to prepare a journal entry **before** you come to class. Bring your journal to every class.

**READING ASSIGNMENT:**
1. **Handbook to Literature** -- read entry for "Romance."
2. Abrams, excerpts from **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight:**
   a. 205-212 (to Part 2): Green Knight interrupts Christmas feast; Sir Gawain humbly accepts challenge;
   b. 214-215: Sir Gawain gets dressed;
   c. 227-228: Sir Gawain declines sexual overture.
3. Abrams, 384-386 (Popular Ballads)

(JAN 19 assignment continued on next page)
4. Abrams, 389 ("Lord Randall") & 392 ("Three Ravens").
5. Review your "THEME REQUIREMENTS" handout, and bring your questions concerning THEME 1 to class. I'll be happy to discuss potential paper topics with you in conference.

JAN 22 Middle English Period (1100-1500): MORALITY PLAY

READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Handbook to Literature -- read entry for "Morality Play."

JAN 24 HOW TO PREPARE FOR TODAY'S CLASS:
1. Carefully review my description of THEME 1 in your THEME REQUIREMENTS handout.
2. Spend at least two hours brainstorming on a variety of THEME 1 topics. Identify potential library materials pertinent to several topics which particularly appeal to you. Record your preliminary ideas for THEME 1 in a journal entry of at least 250 words.

REMIND ME to have each of you sign up for a conference at which you will discuss your tentative plans for THEME 1 with me. The more thinking and preliminary writing you do before then, the more productive your conference will be.

JAN 26 No formal class meeting. Instead I will meet with each of you in my office to discuss your plans for THEME 1 (see your "THEME REQUIREMENTS" handout for description). A conference sign-up sheet is attached to my door. Sign your name beside one of the times if you have not yet done so.

PREPARATION FOR CONFERENCE: Before coming to the conference spend an additional three hours reading, thinking, and collecting citations of library materials pertinent to one or more of the topics described in your "THEME REQUIREMENTS" handout. Bring your journal and two copies of a ca. 150-word description of your preliminary plans for developing one of the THEME 1 topics described in your handout. Please proofread your description carefully. You will submit one copy to me and keep the other for yourself. You are welcome to change your mind later, but get something on paper now and bring it to the conference.

IMPORTANT: Save all of your preliminary scribbles and drafts -- and make photocopies or printouts of the library materials you use in preparing your paper. I will ask you to include these materials in a theme folder when you submit the completed version of THEME 1. (See FEB 5 assignment below.)

JAN 29 Prepare for today's class meeting by devoting no fewer than three hours to collecting library materials (or simply bibliographical citations) pertinent to your project for THEME 1. (See your "QUICK INTRODUCTION TO SOME RESEARCH TOOLS" handout for suggestions.) Try to bring a photocopy of
at least one pertinent library JOURNAL ARTICLE to class today (a pertinent book will do in a pinch).

AGENDA FOR TODAY'S SESSION: We will practice paraphrasing, quoting, and citing language and ideas culled from one of the library sources you bring to class.

JAN 31
Prepare for today's session by devoting no fewer than three hours to your preparation of THEME 1. Bring your work-in-progress (and your questions about your project) to class.

AGENDA FOR TODAY'S CLASS: We will work in small groups. Each of you will offer a ten-minute oral account of your progress on THEME 1. Sign up for a conference if would like to have some suggestions or feedback. I'll be glad to be helpful.

FEB 2
No class. Devote no fewer than four hours to working on THEME 1; it's due at our next meeting.

FEB** 5
THEME 1 (2 copies -- in theme folder, together with all preliminary scribbles and drafts) due at beginning of today's class. Submit in a theme folder, arranging your materials as follows: (a) in left pocket submit two copies of the finished paper; underneath the finished paper include all preliminary scribbles and drafts; (b) in right pocket include photocopied or printed pages of library materials or other sources from which you borrowed language or ideas. (Highlight the borrowed language/ideas.)

FEB 7
Presentations of THEME 1 (bring a copy of your paper to class).

REMEMBER ME to distribute handouts entitled "SHORT HISTORY OF PAPER AND PRINTING," "BACKGROUND TO RENAISSANCE... (KABOOM)," & "REFORMATION AND HUMANISM."

FEB 9
RENAISSANCE (1500-1660)
RENAISSANCE TOPICS to be covered in today's readings:
1. Advent of Printing Press
2. Humanism (study of Greek texts and ideas)
3. Reformation (Martin Luther's attempted reformation of -- and eventual break with -- the Catholic Church).

READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Read the following handouts: "SHORT HISTORY OF PAPER AND PRINTING," "BACKGROUND TO RENAISSANCE... (KABOOM)," and "REFORMATION AND HUMANISM"
2. Abrams, 395-400 ("Introduction")
3. Abrams, 968-969 ("Kinds of Prose and Poetry")
4. Abrams, 971-973 ("Translating the Bible")

OPTIONAL CONFERENCES: I will return THEME 1 (graded) to you
today. I would be pleased to have you sign up for a conference at which we can discuss your paper and you can ask me to clarify my comments. If you wish to revise the paper to try to raise the grade by a maximum of one letter, you may do so. The (entirely optional) revision will be due no later than our final class day of the semester.

FEB 12 RENAISSANCE DRAMA: DR. FAUSTUS
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 748-749 (to mid page; Christopher Marlowe)
2. Abrams, 768-787 (Marlowe’s Dr. Faustus, to Chorus 2).

FEB 14 READING ASSIGNMENT: Abrams, 787-801 (Dr. Faustus, to end).
REMIND ME to distribute handouts entitled "FIGURES OF REPETITION" and "ELIZABETHAN CRITICAL THEORY."

FEB 16 Lincoln’s Birthday. No classes.

FEB 19 RENAISSANCE: Sixteenth-Century Poetry
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 404-409 ("Art and Nature," "Poetic Conventions").
2. Handouts: "FIGURES OF REPETITION" and "ELIZABETHAN CRITICAL THEORY."
3. Abrams, 820 (Shakespeare, Sonnet #129).
4. Abrams, VOLUME 2, 1947-1956 (Chapter Three of Virginia Woolf’s A Room of One’s Own -- a fascinating exploration of the "conditions in which women lived . . . in England . . . in the time of Elizabeth."

JOURNAL: For a portion of your journal entry, make a list of as many connections as you can discover between Shakespeare’s Sonnet #129 and the material in your two handouts (item #2 above). And make certain you comment on Woolf’s discussion (item #4 above).
REMIND ME to give you the following handouts: "SKETCH OF EVENTS LEADING TO THE RESTORATION OF 1660"; excerpts from Pope’s Dunciad; & "MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE."

FEB 21 NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD -- 1st Phase: RESTORATION (1660-1700)
READING ASSIGNMENTS:
1. Handout: "SKETCH OF EVENTS LEADING TO THE RESTORATION OF 1660."
4. Abrams, 1821-1822 (Dryden’s "[Elegy] to the Memory of Mr. Oldham").
5. Abrams, 1829 (Dryden’s "Epigram on Milton").
FEB 23 NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD -- 2nd Phase: 18th century: 1700-1798: THE NOVEL
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 1783-1785 ("The Beginning of the Novel").
2. Handbook to Literature -- read the entry for "Novel" (but stop when you come to the section on the "nineteenth century."
In class today we will watch a filmed version (one that won multiple Academy Awards thirty years ago) of Henry Fielding's comic novel Tom Jones.

FEB 26 NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD -- 2nd Phase: 18th century: 1700-1798 (Pope)
READING ASSIGNMENT:
2. Abrams, 2219 -- the final two paragraphs, beginning on l. 118: "You then whose judgment . . . ." (from Pope's Essay on Criticism).
3. Abrams, 2252-2253 (Pope's "Ode on Solitude").
4. Abrams, 2266-2270, section 4 to end of poem, ending "Whatever is, is RIGHT" (from Pope's Essay on Man).
5. Remind me to distribute a photocopied poem: Anne Ingram's "Epistle to Mr. Pope."

FEB 28 NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD -- 2nd Phase: 18TH CENTURY (Ingram & Johnson)
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 2295-2297 (Samuel Johnson).
3. Anne Ingram, "Epistle to Mr. Pope" (photocopied poem).

MAR 2 In class today we will review for the Mid-Term Exam. Bring your "MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE" and your questions to class.

MAR** 5 Mid-Term Exam, Part I. (Please try to arrive five minutes early.)
** Submit your journal to me for evaluation at the beginning of class today.

MAR** 7 Mid-Term Exam, Part II.

MAR 9 In class today (God willing) I will return and discuss your mid-term exams and journals. Sign up today (if you'd like) for a post-mid-term conference. If you are not doing as well at mid term as you had hoped, I'll offer encouragement and suggestions for doing better in the second half. Bring your journal and Theme 1 to the conference.
MAR 12, 14, & 16  Spring Recess.  No classes.

MAR 19  ENGLISH ROMANTICISM (1798-1832)
READING ASSIGNMENT:
REMIND ME to distribute photocopied "NOTES ON ROMANTICISM."

MAR 21  No class.  Optional conferences.  (If you have signed up for a mid-term conference, see me at the appointed time -- and remember to bring your journal and THEME 1.)

MAR 23  ROMANTICISM (1798-1832)
READING ASSIGNMENT:

MAR 26  ROMANTICISM, Percy Shelley and Mary Shelley.
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Study "NOTES ON ROMANTICISM" handout. For a portion of your journal entry, make a list of points of connection between the Percy and Mary Shelley selections assigned below and the Romantic tendencies noted in your "Romanticism" handout.
3. Abrams, 844-847 (Mary Shelley's life).
5. Abrams, 851-862 (Mary Shelley's "Transformation").
IMPORTANT: In class today, let's agree on a date for our LITERARY HISTORY PARTY.

MAR 28  No class.  Instead (at a time previously arranged) we will have a LITERARY HISTORY PARTY at the McCormick house, where we will eat pizza and watch a movie called "Gothic" (about Mary Shelley and her circle).
Date of LITERARY HISTORY PARTY: _________________________

MAR 30  VICTORIAN PERIOD (1832-1901): "Victorian Issues"
READING ASSIGNMENT:
Abrams; choose one (that's right choose ONE) of the following three "Victorian Issues" and read carefully the material pertaining to that one issue:
1. "Evolution," 1571-1580; or
2. "Industrialism: Progress or Decline," 1580-1595; or
JOURNAL ENTRY: For your JOURNAL ENTRY today, compare and contrast the positions taken by 3 of the writers on the single "Victorian Issue"
you have chosen (issue 1, 2, or 3). You will make a five-minute presentation of your findings at today's class session.
REMIND ME to distribute a "Locksley Hall" handout.

APR 2 VICTORIAN PERIOD: Historical Background/Poetry
READING ASSIGNMENT (a lengthy one; start early):
2. Abrams, 1133-1134 (Tennyson, "Charge of the Light Brigade").
3. Abrams, 1073-1079 (Tennyson, "Locksley Hall")

JOURNAL ENTRY: For a portion of your journal entry, write a 50-100 word explication of several difficult lines from "Locksley Hall." As you read the "Introduction" to the Victorian Period (see #1 above) take careful notes. Your notes will be useful when you begin writing THEME 2 -- a written synthesis of the literary periods we have been studying this semester.

APR 4 VICTORIAN PERIOD (1832-1901), Novel
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 1311-1313 (George Eliot, pen name of Marian Evans).
REMIND ME to distribute handout entitled "MAJOR PERIODS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE/HISTORY."

APR 6 JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT: Perform the exercises outlined on the front and back of your "MAJOR PERIODS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE/HISTORY" handout; that is, write a detailed chronological outline and brief summary of English history and literature from 500 A.D. through 1901 (the end of the Victorian period). Do this and you will have made a good start on THEME 2 -- a synthesis of your 4950 course materials from the Old English Period through the Victorian. (See description of THEME 2 in your "THEME REQUIREMENTS" handout.)

AGENDA FOR TODAY'S SESSION:
1. You will ask me questions about how to prepare Theme 2 (see your "THEME REQUIREMENTS" assignment).
2. You will look at some successful syntheses students have prepared for this assignment in past semesters.
3. You will sign up for a conference to discuss your progress on THEME 2. (See APR 9 assignment below.)

APR 9 Rather than having a formal class meeting today, we will have conferences to discuss your progress on THEME 2. A conference sign-up sheet is posted on my door. Spend at least three hours preparing for the conference. Please bring to the conference your detailed chronological outline and abbreviated summary of English history and literature from 500 A.D. through 1901 -- and two copies of a 100-word description of your plans for organizing your
theme. (I will ask you to give me one copy of your 100-word description; you will keep the other.)

APR 11 No class -- individual conferences (continued). Work hard to complete THEME 2. It’s due at the beginning of our next class session.

APR** 13 Theme 2 (2 copies) due at beginning of today’s class.

AGENDA FOR TODAY’S SESSION:
1. I will explain the format of your FINAL EXAM. (Please remind me to give you a handout describing the exam.)
2. You will sign up for an ORAL SYNTHESIS conference with me. At the conference you will offer a twenty-minute oral synthesis of the chronology and the literary/cultural movements we have studied this semester -- from the Old English period through the Victorian period.

APR 16 No class. Individual oral synthesis sessions instead. (See ORAL SYNTHESIS instructions above.)

IMPORTANT REMINDER: If you intend to revise Theme 1, note that the revision (along with the original graded theme) is due no later than our final regular class meeting of the semester.

Write your oral synthesis conference time here: ________________

APR 18 No class. Individual oral synthesis sessions (continued). (See ORAL SYNTHESIS instructions and IMPORTANT REMINDER above.)

Write your oral synthesis conference time here: ________________

THE AMERICANS ARE COMING! THE AMERICANS ARE COMING!

YES, IT’S TRUE. THE AMERICANS REALLY ARE COMING. Time will not permit us to examine America’s 17th-century COLONIAL literature (for example, Bradford’s Of Plymouth Plantation and Sewall’s Diary). Nor have we time to study America’s 18th-century ENLIGHTENMENT period (whose writers included Ben Franklin and Thomas Paine). We’ll begin just after those early periods -- with a quick look at AMERICAN ROMANTICISM (earlier nineteenth century).

APR 20 AMERICAN ROMANTICISM (earlier 19th century)

READING ASSIGNMENT: Perkins, Vol. 1, 1205-1215 (Poe, "Ligeia").

JOURNAL: For a portion of today’s journal entry, make a list of similarities you notice between "Ligeia" and the works of English Romanticism listed on this syllabus. (Be specific.)
APR 23  **AMERICAN REALISM** (late 19th century)
**JOURNAL**: For a portion of your journal entry, prepare a 100-word analysis of a passage in "Editha" that you think is particularly crucial to a proper understanding of the story.
**REMINDE ME** today to distribute a "DESCRIPTION OF FINAL ENG 4950 EXAM."

APR 25  **MODERNISM** (earlier 20th century)

APR**27**  **SUBMIT JOURNAL FOR EVALUATION AT BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY**. (Before class, photocopy for yourself any portions of your journal you anticipate will be helpful in studying for your final exam.)
** Today is the final day for submitting a (thoroughly optional) revision of THEME 1. Bring your questions about the final exam to class.

**GOOD LUCK ON YOUR EXAMS!**

**DATE OF OUR 4950 FINAL**: Tuesday, May 1, 2:45-4:45 p.m.