Spring 15-1999

ENG 4950-001: Literary History and Bibliography

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English 4950/SPRING 1999
LITERARY HISTORY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Office Hours: MWF 9-11 & 1-2
(and by appointment)

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 PURCHASE: Spiral notebook (for this course only; to be used as journal -- see JOURNAL 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 1000-2000 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 and journals are due at the beginning of the class period on the dates indicated by an asterisk (*) on your syllabus. Late papers and journals will be penalized one-half letter grade for each class day they are late. 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.

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.
SYLLABUS

NOTE: Asterisks in the left-hand margins of the following pages indicate important due dates—for papers, journals, and exams.

JAN 11 Introduction to the course.

JAN 13 MEDIEVAL LITERATURE: Old English Period (500-1100)
IMPORTANT REMINDER: Remember to bring to class a spiral notebook in which you have written a journal entry of no fewer than 250 words in response to the readings listed below.
Study the following handouts: (a) "ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND" & (b) JOURNAL: ENG 4950.
Abrams, 21-26 & 33-37 (Beowulf, introduction and excerpt).
Please remind me today to give you a handout entitled "MEDIEVAL ENGLAND FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST TO 1500."

JAN 18 Martin Luther King's Birthday. No class.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: 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 250 words. The best journals will routinely exceed the minimum requirement.)
Study the following handout: "MEDIEVAL ENGLAND FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST TO 1500"

JAN 25 Middle English Period (continued), Romance & Ballad Abrams, excerpts from Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, 205-212 (to Part 2): Green Knight interrupts Christmas feast; Sir Gawain humbly accepts challenge;
214-215: Sir Gawain gets dressed;
227-228: Sir Gawain declines sexual overture.
Abrams, 384-386 (Popular Ballads)
Abrams, 389 ("Lord Randall") & 392 ("Three Ravens").
Study the following handout: "THEME REQUIREMENTS." Bring your questions concerning "THEME 1" to class.
Today we will do some preliminary brainstorming for theme topics.
Remind me today to distribute two new handouts entitled "SHORT HISTORY OF PAPER AND PRINTING" & "REFORMATION AND HUMANISM."
JAN 27  RENAISSANCE (1500-1660), Advent of Printing Press, Humanism (study of Greek texts and ideas), and Reformation (Martin Luther's reformation of—and eventual break with—the Catholic Church).

NOTE: This is a long and demanding set of reading tasks. Start early:

Read handouts entitled "SHORT HISTORY OF PAPER AND PRINTING" and "REFORMATION AND HUMANISM."

Abrams, 395-400 ("Introduction")
Abrams, 968-969 ("Kinds of Prose and Poetry")
Abrams, 971-973 ("Translating the Bible")

Renaissance Drama—Dr. Faustus

Abrams, 748-749 (to mid page; Christopher Marlowe).

* Abrams, 768-787 (Marlowe's Dr. Faustus, to Chorus 2).

FEB 1  Abrams, 787-801 (Dr. Faustus, to end).

FEB 3  Prepare for today's class by spending at least two hours brainstorming to discover potential topics for THEME 1. Carefully review pages 2-4 of your THEME REQUIREMENTS handout before you begin your brainstorming. Do at least 250 words of written brainstorming in your journal before today's class. Remind me today 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.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE CONFERENCE: Before coming to your conference, spend at least three additional hours brainstorming for a topic. Bring to the conference (and show me) ALL of the written brainstorming you have done to date. In addition, bring—and give me—a 250-word description of your tentative plans for developing what seems to you to be the single most promising of the topics that have occurred to you so far. (Keep a copy of the 250-word description for yourself.)

I will attach a copy of our official conference schedule to my office door.

Remind me today to distribute a handout called "QUICK INTRODUCTION TO SOME RESEARCH TOOLS."

FEB 8  NOTE: CLASS WILL MEET TODAY IN BOOTH LIBRARY's REFERENCE ROOM (2nd floor).

Before class, spend at least TWO HOURS in the library's Reference Room familiarizing yourself with the reference books and computer databases listed in your handout entitled "QUICK INTRODUCTION TO SOME RESEARCH TOOLS." For your journal entry, record your experiences inspecting several of these reference
books/databases 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) 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.

Remind me today to distribute handouts entitled "FIGURES OF REPETITION" and "ELIZABETHAN CRITICAL THEORY."

FEB 10
RENAISSANCE
Sixteenth-Century Poetry
Abrams, 404-409 ("Art and Nature," "Poetic Conventions").
Abrams, 820 (Shakespeare, Sonnet #129).
Study the following two handouts:
 a) "FIGURES OF REPETITION," AND b) "ELIZABETHAN CRITICAL THEORY. Include in your journal entry a list of as many connections as you can discover between Shakespeare's Sonnet #129 and the material in the two handouts.
Continue working on Theme 1--due at our next meeting.

FEB**15
Theme 1 due at beginning of today's class. MAKE A XEROX COPY FOR YOUR FILES BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR THEME. WHEN I RETURN THE GRADED THEME YOU WILL SUBMIT THE XEROX COPY TO ME FOR MY FILES. Informal discussion of themes.
Remind me to give you a handout entitled "SKETCH OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE RESTORATION OF 1660."
Today (if all goes well with her scheduling) the Assistant Director of Eastern's Placement Center will visit with us to offer suggestions and answer questions concerning job-hunting, résumé preparation, and the procedure for setting up your file in the Placement Center.

FEB 17
NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD--1st Phase: RESTORATION (1660-1700)
Study your handout entitled "SKETCH OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE RESTORATION OF 1660."
Abrams, 1786-1788 (John Dryden).
Abrams, 1821-1822 (Dryden's "[Elegy] to the Memory of Mr. Oldham").
Abrams, 1829 (Dryden's "Epigram on Milton").
FEB 22 **NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD--2nd Phase: 18TH CENTURY** (Pope)
Abrams, 2212-2213 (Alexander Pope's life and poetry)
Abrams, 2219--the final two paragraphs, beginning on 1.
118: "You then whose judgment . . . ." (from Pope's 
_Essay on Criticism_).
Abrams, 2252 (Pope's "Ode on Solitude")
Abrams, 2266-2270, section 4 to end of poem, ending 
"Whatever is, is RIGHT" (from Pope's _Essay on Man_)
Photocopied excerpt from Pope's _Dunciad_.
Bring your Xerox copy of Theme 1 to class. I'll do 
my best to return the graded theme 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, you may do so. Optional 
revision due no later than the last day of class.)

FEB 24 **NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD--2nd Phase: 18TH CENTURY** (Johnson)
Abrams, 2295-2297 (Samuel Johnson) & 2365-2370 (from Johnson's _Rasselas_, Chapters 40-44).
Today we will review for the Mid-Term Exam. Bring your 
questions about it to class.

MAR** 1 Mid-Term Exam, Part I.
**
SUBMIT YOUR JOURNAL TO ME FOR EVALUATION AT THE  
BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY.

MAR** 3 Mid-Term Exam, Part II.

MAR  8 **BRAVO: YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE FIRST HALF OF ENG- 
4950.** Today I will return and discuss your mid-term 
exams and journals and give offer an introductory 
lecture on English Romanticism. (See below.)  
ROMANTICISM (1798-1832)---**Remind me today to 
distribute photocopied "NOTES ON ROMANTICISM."
Period).
SIGN UP TODAY (if you'd like) FOR A 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 One to the conference.

MAR 10 **ROMANTICISM (1798-1832)**
Abrams, Vol. 2, 126-129 (Wordsworth)
MAR 15 & 17. Spring Recess. No classes.

MAR 22 ROMANTICISM, Percy Shelley and Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley.
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.
Abrams, 844-847 (Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's life).
Abrams, 847-851 (Introduction to Frankenstein).
Abrams, 851-862 ("Transformation").
IMPORTANT: In class today, let's agree on a date for our LITERARY HISTORY PARTY. If you have signed up for a mid-term conference, see me at the appointed time.

MAR 24 No class. Instead (at a time previously arranged) we will have a LITERARY HISTORY PARTY at the McCormick house, where we will see a movie called "Gothic" (about Percy and Mary Shelley and their friends).

Date of LITERARY HISTORY PARTY:

MAR 29 VICTORIAN PERIOD (1832-1901): "Victorian Issues"
Abrams; choose one of the following "Victorian Issues" and read the material carefully:
1. "Evolution," 1571-1580; OR
2. "Industrialism: Progress or Decline," 1580-1595; OR
For your JOURNAL ENTRY, 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 our class session.

MAR 31 VICTORIAN PERIOD: Historical Background/Poetry
Abrams, 891-898 ("Introduction" to Victorian Period).
Abrams, 1133-1134 (Tennyson, "Charge of the Light Brigade").
Abrams, 1073-1079 (Tennyson, "Locksley Hall")
For a portion of your journal entry, write a 50-100 word explication of several difficult lines from "Locksley Hall."
(In class today, remind me to distribute an excerpt from Dickens' David Copperfield.)
VICTORIAN PERIOD, Novel
Read photocopied excerpt from Dickens' David Copperfield.
Also before coming to today's session:
spend two hours writing 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 that 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 your THEME REQUIREMENTS handout.)

Bring your questions about Theme 2 to today's class.
Today we will look at some successful syntheses students have prepared for this assignment in past semesters and you will sign up for a conference with me to discuss your progress on Theme 2. (See instructions below.)

Rather than having a formal class meeting today, we will have conferences to discuss your progress on Theme 2--due at our next class meeting. A conference sign-up sheet is posted on my door. Bring your questions about the project to the conference. Spend at least three hours preparing for it. Please bring to the conference your detailed chronological outline and abbreviated summary of English history and literature from 500 A.D. through 1901, together with a 100-word description of your plans for organizing your theme. (I will ask you to give me a photocopy of your 100-word description; you will keep the original.)

Theme 2 due at beginning of today's class. MAKE A PHOTOCOPY FOR YOUR FILES BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR THEME. WHEN I RETURN THE GRADED THEME, YOU WILL SUBMIT THE PHOTOCOPY TO ME FOR MY FILES.

Discussion of format of final exam--remind me to give you a handout describing the exam.
In class today, sign up for a conference with me.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONFERENCE: At the conference you will offer a twenty-minute oral synthesis of the chronology and the literary/cultural movements we have studied this semester. Bring a photocopy of Theme 2 to the conference.

No class. Individual conferences instead. (See INSTRUCTIONS above.) Remember to bring your photocopy of Theme 2.

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.
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 (for example, Ben Franklin and Thomas Paine). We'll begin just after those early periods—with a quick look at AMERICAN ROMANTICISM (earlier nineteenth century). See below.

APR 19 AMERICAN ROMANTICISM (earlier 19th century)  
Perkins, Vol. 1, 1205-1215 (Poe, "Ligeia"). Include in your journal entry a list of any similarities you notice between "Ligeia" and the works of English Romanticism listed on this syllabus. (Be specific.)

APR 21 AMERICAN REALISM (late 19th century)  
Perkins, Vol. 2, 404-413 in 7th ed., or 410-419 in 6th ed. (Howells, "Editha"). Include in your journal entry a 100-word analysis of a passage in "Editha" that you think is particularly crucial to a proper understanding of the story.

APR 26 MODERNISM (earlier 20th century)  

APR**28 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 FINAL EXAMS.

DATE OF OUR 4950 FINAL: ____________________________