ENG 4950-001: Literary History and Bibliography

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English 4950/Fall 2004, MWF
LITERARY HISTORY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Instructor: Dr. McCormick
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Office Hours: MWF 11-12 & 1-3
(and by appointment; I am also often in my office on T and R)

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 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 (at least 200 words before every class) + 2 500-word journal-based essays.
(I will evaluate your journal and a 500-word journal-based essay at MID-SEMESTER and again at the end of the semester. For details, see your JOURNAL handout.)
HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED (continued)

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

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
A+ &=& 4.2 \\
A &=& 4.0 \\
A- &=& 3.8 \\
B+ &=& 3.2 \\
B &=& 3.0 \\
B- &=& 2.8 \\
C+ &=& 2.2 \\
C &=& 2.0 \\
C- &=& 1.8 \\
D+ &=& 1.2 \\
D &=& 1.0 \\
D- &=& 0.8 \\
F &=& 0.0 \\
\text{Missing} &=& -1.0
\end{array}
\]

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

\[
\begin{array}{c}
A &=& 4.2 \text{ to } 3.8 \\
B &=& 3.7 \text{ to } 2.8 \\
C &=& 2.7 \text{ to } 1.8 \\
D &=& 1.7 \text{ to } 0.8
\end{array}
\]

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. 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.
SYLLABUS

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

AUG 23 Introduction to the course. CRAVN ReNeoRomVic (see explanation below.)

CRAVN:
C[elts] -- native inhabitants of England
R[omans] -- occupy England, 55 B.C-450 A.D.
V[ikings] -- More Danes invade England c. 856-870 A.D.
N[ormans] -- French defeat Anglo-Saxon king in 1066: MIDDLE ENGLISH LITERATURE

RenNeoRomVic:
Re[naissance] -- 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.
AUG 25  MEDIEVAL LITERATURE: Old English Period (500-1100)
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Study the following handouts: (a) "ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND" & (b) JOURNAL: ENG 4950

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:
Remember to bring to class a spiral notebook in which you have written a journal entry of no fewer than 200 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."

AUG 27  MEDIEVAL LITERATURE: Middle English Period (1100-1500).
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 5-11 ("Introduction" to Middle English Period.)
3. 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 200 words. The best journals will routinely exceed the minimum requirement.

AUG 30  Middle English Period: Romance
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:
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.

SEPT 1  IMPORTANT: Today's class will meet at Booth Library. Meet me at Booth's SOUTH ENTRANCE (on the Coleman Hall side) at 10:00 a.m. sharp. A librarian will conduct us to our library meeting room.

1. HOW TO PREPARE FOR TODAY'S CLASS: Before our meeting at Booth Library today, spend at least TWO HOURS in Booth's Reference area (at the north end of the main floor (3000 level). 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 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 entry) some specific discussion of how you might use one or more

(assignement continued on next page)
of these resources to gather information pertinent to a paper you plan to write in this or another of your English courses.

SEPT 3 Middle English Period: Popular Ballads

**READING ASSIGNMENT:**
1. Abrams, 384-386 (Popular Ballads)
2. Abrams, 389 ("Lord Randall") & 392 ("Three Ravens").
3. 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 handouts entitled “QUICK INTRODUCTION TO SOME RESEARCH TOOLS,” “BACKGROUND TO RENAISSANCE ... (KABOOM),” "SHORT HISTORY OF PAPER AND PRINTING," & "REFORMATION AND HUMANISM."

SEPT 6 Labor Day. No class.

SEPT 8 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:** Remember to prepare a journal entry to bring to class:
1. 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")

SEPT 10 RENAISSANCE (1500-1660)

**READING ASSIGNMENT:**
1. Abrams, 748-749 (to mid page; Christopher Marlowe)

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

SEPT 13 **READING ASSIGNMENT:** Abrams, 787-801 (Dr. Faustus, to end).
For a portion of your journal entry, try to connect specific moments in today’s assigned pages from Dr. Faustus (pp. 787-701) to some of the points made in your “REFORMATION AND HUMANISM” handout.
SEPT 15

HOW TO PREPARE FOR TODAY'S CLASS:
1. Carefully review pages 2-4 of your THEME REQUIREMENT handout. Note that "Sample [4950] Themes" are available for three-hour checkout at Booth Library's Reserve desk (call number: 147).
2. Spend at least two hours brainstorming to discover potential topics for THEME 1. Do at least 250 words of written brainstorming in your JOURNAL before today's class.

THINGS YOU WILL REMIND ME TO DO TODAY IN CLASS:
1. Remind me to distribute handouts entitled "FIGURES OF REPETITION" and "ELIZABETHAN CRITICAL THEORY."
2. 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.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE CONFERENCE DESCRIBED ABOVE:
Before coming to your conference, spend at least three additional hours brainstorming for a topic (i.e., devote a total of at least five hours to brainstorming). 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 topic that has occurred to you so far. (Keep a copy of the 250-word description for yourself.)

SEPT 17
No class. I'll see you in conference

SEPT 20
RENAISSANCE: Sixteenth-Century Poetry

READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 404-409 ("Art and Nature," "Poetic Conventions").
2. Abrams, 820 (Shakespeare, Sonnet #129).
3. Handouts:
   a. "FIGURES OF REPETITION"
   b. "ELIZABETHAN CRITICAL THEORY.

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 the two handouts.

THEME 1: Continue working on Theme 1.

SEPT 22
No class. Work on Theme 1 – due at our next meeting.

SEP**24
Theme 1 (2 copies) due at beginning of today's class. Submit in left pocket of theme folder, along with photocopies and printouts (right pocket) of library and

.assignment continued on next page
Internet materials you have used in preparing your paper. Highlight or bracket portions of the library materials which you have quoted or paraphrased in your paper.

Remind me today to give you the following handouts: "SKETCH OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE RESTORATION OF 1660" & MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE.

AGENDA FOR TODAY'S CLASS: After I collect your theme at the beginning of today's class, an advisor in Eastern's Career Services office will visit with us to offer suggestions concerning job-hunting, résumé preparation, and the procedure for setting up your placement file in the Career Services Office.

SEPT 27 No class. You need a break, and I need time to read your papers.

SEPT 29 NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD -- 1st Phase: RESTORATION (1660-1700)

READING ASSIGNMENTS:
1. Handout: "SKETCH OF EVENTS LEADING UP 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").

OPTIONAL CONFERENCES: I will do my best to return Theme One (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 the last day of class -- and revision must be substantial.

OCT 1 NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD--2nd Phase: 18th CENTURY (Pope)

READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 2212-2213 (Alexander Pope's life and poetry)
2. Abrams, 2219--the final two paragraphs, beginning on l. 118: "You then whose judgment . . . . " (from Pope's Essay on Criticism).
3. Abrams, 2252 (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)

REMIND ME today to distribute a photocopied poem -- Anne Ingram's “Epistle to Mr. Pope”; a photocopied excerpt from Alexander Pope’s Dunciad; and a “Mid-Term Exam Study Guide.”
OCT 4 NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD--2ND Phase: 18th CENTURY (Pope & Ingram)
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Photocopied excerpt from Pope's Dunciad.
2. Anne Ingram, "Epistle to Mr. Pope" (photocopied poem).

OCT 6 NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD--2nd Phase: 18TH CENTURY (Johnson)
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 2295-2297 (Samuel Johnson)

OCT 8 Fall Break. No class.

OCT 11 In class today we will review for the Mid-Term Exam. Study your "MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE" and bring your questions about the exam to class. Note that you have a 500-word journal-based paper due at our next meeting.

OCT**13 Mid-Term Exam, Part I. (Please try to arrive five minutes early.)
** SUBMIT YOUR JOURNAL and 500-WORD JOURNAL-BASED PAPER TO ME FOR EVALUATION AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY

OCT**15 Mid-Term Exam, Part II.

OCT 18 ENGLISH ROMANTICISM (1798-1832)
READING ASSIGNMENT:
In class today I will return and discuss your Mid-Term exam.
REMIND ME to distribute photocopied "NOTES ON ROMANTICISM."
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.

DATE AND TIME OF OPTIONAL RE-TAKE OF OBJECTIVE PORTION OF MID-TERM EXAM: ____________________________

OCT 20 ROMANTICISM (1798-1832)
READING ASSIGNMENT:

OCT 22 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.

(assignment continued on next page)
3. Abrams, 844-847 (Mary Shelley's life).

Oct 25

ROMANTICISM, Mary Shelley
READING ASSIGNMENT: Abrams, 851-862 (Mary Shelley's "Transformation").
IMPORTANT: If you have signed up for a mid-term conference, see me at the appointed time.

OCT 27

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 today to distribute a handout entitled “MAJOR PERIODS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE/HISTORY.”

OCT 29

VICTORIAN PERIOD: Historical Background/Poetry
READING ASSIGNMENT:
2. Abrams, 1133-1134 (Tennyson, "Charge of the Light Brigade").
JOURNAL ENTRY:
1. As you read the “Introduction” to the Victorian Period (READING ASSIGNMENT #1 above) take careful notes in your journal. Your notes will be useful when you begin writing THEME 2 – a written synthesis of the literary periods we have been studying this semester.
2. Perform the exercises outlined on the front and back of your “MAJOR PERIODS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE/HISTORY” handout; i.e, write a chronological outline and brief summary of English history and literature from 500 A.D. through 1901 (the end of the Victorian period). Doing so will give you 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.)

AGENDA FOR TODAY'S SESSION:
(1) You will ask me questions about how to prepare THEME 2 (see "JOURNAL" above); (2) we will look at some successful syntheses students have prepared for this assignment in past semesters; and (3) you will sign up for an optional conference with me to discuss your progress on THEME 2.
NOV  1  No class. Optional conferences.

NOV  3  MOVIE and PARTY class. I will bring refreshments. We will devote today's session to watching an Academy Award-winning movie adaptation of George Eliot's *Mill on the Floss*.

NOV  5  MOVIE and PARTY class continued. We will watch the remainder of *Mill*.

NOV  8  VICTORIAN PERIOD (1832-1901), Novel
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 1311-1313 (George Eliot, pen name of Marian Evans).

NOV 10  VICTORIAN PERIOD: Poetry
READING ASSIGNMENT: 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."

NOV 12  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. 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, 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.)

NOV 15  No class. Work on THEME 2

NOV**17  Theme 2 (2 copies) due at beginning of today's class.
AGENDA FOR TODAY'S CLASS:
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.
3. We will prepare for the oral synthesis conference.

NOV 19  No class. Individual conferences instead. (See 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.

NOV 22, 24, 26  Thanksgiving Recess. No classes.
NOV 29  No class. Individual conferences.

DEC  1  No class. Individual conferences.

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.

DEC  3  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.)

DEC  6  AMERICAN REALISM  (late 19th century)
READING ASSIGNMENT: Perkins, Vol. 2, 404-413 in 7th ed., or 410-419 in
6th ed. (Howells, "Editha").
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.

DEC  8  MODERNISM (earlier 20th century)
in 6th ed. (Plath, "Daddy").

DEC**10  SUBMIT JOURNAL and 500-WORD JOURNAL-BASED PAPER 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: ____________________________