Fall 8-15-2003

ENG 4950-002: Literary History and Bibliography

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Eastern Illinois University

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English 4950: **Literary History and Bibliography**  
fall 2003

Instructor: Richard Sylvia  
Office: 3775 Coleman  
Office Hours: TR 8:30 – 9:30 am; MWF (to be announced); and by appt.  
Telephone: 581-6292; 351-1731  
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**Course Goals and Objectives:** Required of all English majors, this course is an overview of the major developments in English and, with much less coverage, American Literature, from their beginnings to the present century. The goal is to strengthen your understanding of literary periods and how literary periods relate to each other and to social, historical, and political change. Class time will be devoted to occasional lectures on background issues, but more frequently to discussion of assigned readings and class reports. This course is also an opportunity for you to demonstrate the reading, writing, and research skills you have developed as an English major, so you will be required to complete a series of writing assignments designed to reinforce your understanding of selected methods of literary study.

This is a writing-intensive course. You may submit a paper from this class as part of your EWP. For more information, visit the assessment website: [www.eiu.edu/go/assess](http://www.eiu.edu/go/assess)

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.

English Department Statement on 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 own original work' (Random House Dictionary) – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

- careful preparation of the readings as assigned -- 10%  
- regular participation in class discussions -- 10%  
- a brief class report on an assigned topic – 15%*  
- several brief writing assignments -- 25%  
- a mid-term examination -- 25%  
- a final examination -- 25%

You must complete **all** of the requirements above to pass the course.
Tentative Schedule

Old English Period (500 - 1066)

Aug. 26: course introduction

Aug. 28: period background lecture; Beowulf

Sept. 2: Beowulf

Sept. 4: Beowulf; report on the O.E. elegy*

Middle English Period (1066 - 1500)


Sept. 16: Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales: “The Miller’s Prologue and Tale”; report on the M.E. Mystery Plays*

Sept. 18: Margery Kempe, The Book of Margery Kempe

The Renaissance (1500 - 1660)

Sept. 23: period background lecture; Marlowe, The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus

Sept. 25: Spenser, The Faerie Queene Book I, Canto 1; report on Shakespeare’s history plays*

Sept. 30: Wyatt, “The long love that in my thought doth harbor”; Surrey, “Love, that doth reign and live within my thought”; Sidney, “Loving in truth, and fain in verse my love to show”; Shakespeare, “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day,” “My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun”

Oct. 2: Mary (Sidney) Herbert, Psalms 52 and 139; report on the English Bible*

Oct. 7: Mary Wroth, “Pamphilia to Amphilanthus”; report on George Herbert*

Oct. 9: Donne, “The Flea,” “Going to Bed,” “Good Friday, 1613”; Jonson, “Inviting a Friend to Dinner,” “To Penshurst,” “Song: To Celia”; report on Thomas Hobbes*

Oct. 14: Milton, Paradise Lost I, II; report on the Cavalier poets*

Oct. 16: Milton, Paradise Lost IV, IX; report on Andrew Marvell*
Early American Literature (1660 - 1800)


Oct. 23: **mid-term exam**

The Restoration and Eighteenth Century (1660-1780)

Oct. 28: Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*; report on John Dryden*

Oct. 30: Swift, *Gulliver's Travels* Part I; report on Restoration drama*

Nov. 4: Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*; report on Johnson and Boswell*; report on Mary Wollstonecraft*

The Romantic Period (1789 - 1830)

Nov. 6: period background lecture; Wordsworth, “Tintern Abbey,” “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”; report on Blake’s illuminated texts*

Nov. 11: Shelley, “Ode to the West Wind”; Keats, “Eve of St. Agnes”; report on Mary Shelley*; report on Byron*

The Victorian Period (1830 - 1901)


Nov. 25, 27: Thanksgiving break

American Literature (1800 - 1900)

Dec. 2: Bradley 413-419; Emerson, “Nature”; Thoreau, “Civil Disobedience,” “Life Without Principle”; report on Frederick Douglass*

Dec. 4: Hawthorne, “Wakefield”; Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher”; report on Margaret Fuller*
Modern British and American Literature (1900 - 1950)

Dec. 9: Yeats, “Among School Children”; report on Hardy*; report on Virginia Woolf*

Dec. 11: Bradley, 66-69; Whitman, “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry”; report on Dickinson*

final exam; date and time to be announced

*Class Reports*
Your class report is an opportunity to share your expertise on a subject or writer with your classmates. If possible, choose a topic you have some knowledge of from another course or from a previous research project. Your report should be no more than a ten-minute explanation/description of the assigned topic in the context of significant period issues. A detailed outline of your report is due the day you give your report. Do not read to the class; speak from your outline. Feel free to use the computer technology in the classroom for power point outlining or website access. I will be glad to speak with you about your topic and help you plan your presentation. (Make an appointment to see me the week before you are scheduled to make your presentation.)

Sept. 4: O.E. elegy

Sept. 11: the Gawain poet

Sept. 16: the Mystery Plays

Sept. 25: Shakespeare’s history plays

Sept. 30: Queen Elizabeth

Oct. 2: the English Bible

Oct. 7: George Herbert

Oct. 9: Thomas Hobbes

Oct. 14: the Cavalier poets

Oct. 16: Andrew Marvell

Oct. 28: John Dryden

Oct. 30: Restoration Drama

Nov. 4: Johnson and Boswell
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Author/Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>Blake’s illuminations</td>
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<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Mary Shelley</td>
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<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Margaret Fuller</td>
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<td>Dec. 9</td>
<td>Thomas Hardy</td>
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<td>Virginia Woolf</td>
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<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>Emily Dickinson</td>
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