

**English 204:**  
**Survey of English Literature, Part I**  
**Dr. Jessie Herrada Nance**

**Term:** Winter 2020

**CRN:** 45094

**Meeting Place/Time:** CH 283TR 12:00-1:50

**Office hours:** TR 10:45-12:00

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This is a survey of English literature of the period from Old English (*Beowulf*, etc. c. 800) through the seventeenth century (John Milton). This class is concerned with significant works and authors, as well as genres, forms and major literary movements. You will learn the early *history of English literature*: works, authors, dates, major intellectual and historical movements of the Medieval and Renaissance periods. This class will also build your *literary vocabulary* with hands-on, creative assignments designed to give you practice analyzing and discussing literature in academic contexts.

In addition to discussing the historical development and literary content of these works, we will also look at them from the perspectives of critical race and ecocritical theories. Students are encouraged to question why these texts are considered part of the literary canon and analyze how they construct an image of whiteness that haunts the academy today. What role do survey classes like this one have in modern, multicultural college campuses? How might we decolonize the syllabus and make it more inclusive? We will also consider how authors throughout the premodern periods represent interactions between humanity and the natural world. How do these texts lead us to the current environmental epoch (what some call the “Anthropocene”)?

**Required Text:** *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. Volumes A and B

Alternate Versions: There is an electronic version of our book available for purchase at a slightly reduced price. If you would like to use this version, please let me know. Also, you might find an earlier edition of the textbook at a slightly reduced price. Feel free to purchase an older textbook, but make sure you check the syllabus and with me to figure out what is missing. You’ll need to acquire a copy of any readings missing from your textbook.

Supplementary Readings: Other readings will be added from online materials. See the hyperlinks in the schedule below for access to these readings. If you have trouble accessing them, please let me know as soon as possible.

Online Access: This class will use **Desire2Learn (D2L)** to complete assignments and distribute handouts, study questions, the syllabus, and various images. Please check the site regularly! Additionally, you will need reliable access to your campus email account.

**Assignments and Grading:**

- **Creative Imitation Project:** *Imitatio*, or Imitation, was one of the cornerstones of humanist pedagogy (which was important during the early modern period). Diligent students would take an idea or literary technique popularized by esteemed, respected authors and adapt those ideas and techniques to address the student’s own time and concerns. (Think about it as an early version of early fanfiction.) In this class, you will complete your own imitation project. For more information, please see the guidelines on D2L.

- **Instagram Takeover:** When literature is centuries old, it is sometimes tempting to think that it is too far removed from our experiences and culture to be relevant. What do we have to learn from these old texts? This assignment encourages you to think about how the themes and concerns of the premodern texts we will study intersect with our daily, lived experiences. For more information, please see the assignment sheet on D2L.
- **Reading Quizzes:** Throughout the term, we will take reading quizzes. Reading quizzes will be randomly given, though you should expect to have about one a week. These quizzes are open note and occasionally open book, depending on the questions I ask. They will be given in the first ten to fifteen minutes of class. These are Pass (“P”) or No Pass (“NP”), and I will drop one NP quiz grade. I will also, in the event of an absence or tardy, allow you to substitute your reading notes for *one* NP quiz grade. A note about the notes: these can be as detailed as you want, though they should be hand written and on a sheet of paper separate from your book.

- **Grading:**

Instagram Takeover	:		30%
Reading Quizzes	:		20%
Creative Imitation Project:			50%
Source Passage & Weeks 2-5		25%	
Weeks 6-10 & Final Reflection		25%	

Total: 100%

Grading Policy: The percentage ranges below will earn the following final grades. Grades that are on the verge (89.99, for instance) will only be rounded up for students who have a strong participation record. Policy on grading and incompletes for this class follow those stated in current PSU catalogue. INCOMPLETES are not given other than for a significant medical reason, and must be arranged *before* the last day of classes. If you have unfinished work at the end of the term, your grade is “F.”

93-100 (A), 90-92.99 (A-), 87-89.99 (B+), 83-86.99 (B), 80-82.99 (B-), 77-79.99 (C+), 73-76.99 (C), 70-72.99 (C), 67-69.99 (D+), 63-66.99 (D), 60-62.99 (D-) lower (F)

**Guidelines:**

Late work: Work is due on the dates listed in the guidelines. While I do not accept late work, I will grant you an extension of three days on one of the due dates for the Creative Imitation project (see guidelines). Instagram Takeover posts are due the date you sign up. If something comes up and you cannot come to class to participate in discussion on your assigned day, please let me know as soon as possible so we can reschedule you (if such an option is available). Reading quizzes cannot be made up, though I can accept reading notes for one missed quiz and I do drop one NP quiz.

Turning in work: Throughout the term, you will submit some assignments electronically. All work should be submitted in the proper format (Microsoft Word or Instagram or Adobe PDF) to the appropriate platform (Desire2Learn or Instagram). If you foresee this being a problem, please let me know immediately to make different arrangements.

Make sure you can access D2L and check your e-mail often. If you have trouble accessing materials on D2L, please let me know as soon as possible.

Participation and Discussion: Participation and discussion are a major part of this class. I expect to hear from you at least once during this term. In addition to leading discussion with your Instagram Takeover day, you will need to plan on participating verbally this term. I know this can be difficult for some. Please feel free to stop by office hours or email me for strategies to work through these difficulties. Throughout the term, we will also work in groups; as individuals or part of your groups, you are expected to be prepared and participate in the discussion. You can only do this if you keep up with the reading.

Attendance: Students are responsible for signing in to class each day. If you do not sign in, I will assume you were absent. Missing **two** or more classes (over a week of class) will threaten your grade. For each class missed **over two**, your grade will be lowered by ten points (B+ becomes C+). Missing **four classes** (two weeks of class) could result in failure, while missing **six classes** (three weeks) will result in failure. Attendance and participation matter please stay in contact with me if you feel that this may be an issue due to extenuating circumstances.

Additionally, if you are more than fifteen minutes late to class or if you leave more than ten minutes early, you will receive an automatic absence, as you have missed a significant amount of class time. Do *not* approach me in the minutes before class asking to be let out early. I understand that life happens. If you have an extenuating circumstance, email me a few hours before class.

Classroom Decorum: Please be on time. **TURN OFF Cell-Phones!** Please treat every person in the classroom professionally and with respect. We will talk about some sensitive topics in this class. While I encourage everyone to participate, I want you to do so in the spirit of camaraderie and mutual learning and respect. That means no one should speak in a way that is deliberately degrading or dehumanizing. (This rule also applies to our correspondence outside of class, including email and our Instagram posts and comments.) If we misstep or misspeak, then we (myself included) should be open to learning from our mistakes and being better. We are here to learn about literature and culture and to support the learning of others. Each person, students and instructor, deserves a calm and respectful learning environment, as required in PSU's Code of Conduct. <http://www.pdx.edu/dos/codeofconduct>.

Accommodations: The Disability Resource Center at Portland State University provides accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability that may have an impact on your work in this class, please get in touch with them and with me within the first two weeks of term so that we can work together to adapt assignments to meet your needs and the requirements of the course. Disability Resource Center, Room 116 of Smith Memorial Student Union (503-725-4150). Website: <http://www.drc.pdx.edu/>

### ***SYLLABUS SCHEDULE***

Subject to emendation. Unless otherwise noted, readings are due the day they are listed.

#### **Week 1: Old English literature (800-1100): Rethinking “Anglo-Saxon”**

**1/7:** Introduction to Course and navigating online resources.

In-Class:

- Introductions: Welcome to English 204!

- Creative Imitations & Instagram Takeover
- Old English history and “Middle Ages Timeline” (27-29)
- David Wilton, [“Anglo-Saxon”](#) (Follow the link here or in D2L to access materials.)

**1/9: Reading Due for Today:** Pages listed below are from *The Norton Anthology, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. Vol. A.*

- Bede, *Caedmon’s Hymn* (30-33)
- *Dream of the Rood* (33-37)
- *Wanderer* (118-121)
- *The Ruin* (125-126)
- *Wife’s Lament* (123-125)
- *The Riddles* (126-128)
- Introduction (3-11)
- Mary Rambaran-Olm, [“Misnaming the Medieval: Rejecting ‘Anglo-Saxon’ Studies”](#) (Follow the link here or in D2L to access materials.)

**1/12: Creative Imitation Due Date:** Submit source text passage

## Week 2: Old English Literature

**1/14: Reading Due for Today:**

- *Beowulf*, p. 36-80

**1/16: Reading Due for Today:**

- *Beowulf*, p. 79-108
- [Dorothy Kim, “The Question of Race in Beowulf”](#) (Follow the link here or in D2L to access materials.)

## Week 3: Middle English Romance

**1/21: Reading Due for Today:**

- Anglo-Norman Literature (11-14)
- Andreas Capellanus, excerpts from *De Amore*, [“A Treatise on Courtly Love”](#) (Follow the link here or in D2L to access materials.)
- Myth of Arthur’s Return (136-137)
- *Lanval* (171-185)
- *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Fitts 1 & 2 (201-227)

**1/23: Reading Due for Today:**

- *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Fitts 3-5 (227-256)
- Middle English Literature (14-18)

## Week 4: Middle English Literature

**1/28: Reading Due for Today:**

- Geoffrey Chaucer & The Canterbury Tales (256-261)
- *The Canterbury Tales*: The General Prologue (261-281)

- Middle English Literature: The Fifteenth Century, 18-20

**1/30: Reading Due for Today:**

- Margery Kempe, From *The Book of Margery Kempe* (442-456)
- *Everyman* (558-580)

### **Week 5: Transitions: Middle English to Early Modern**

**2/4: Reading Due for Today:**

- Thomas Malory, *Morte Arthur* (534-554)

**2/6: Reading Due for Today:** Pages listed below are from *The Norton Anthology, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. Vol. B.*

- Pico Della Mirandola (trans. Richard Hooker): [Oration on the Dignity of Man](#) (Follow the link here or in D2L to access materials.)
- Thomas More, Biography (41-43)
- More, *Utopia*: Book 1 (44-69)
- The Sixteenth Century: Introduction (3-27)

**2/9: Creative Imitation Due Date:** Submit Creative Imitations for Weeks 2-5

### **Week 6: The Sixteenth Century: The Travel Narrative**

**2/11: Reading Due for Today:**

- More, *Utopia*: Book 2 (69-118)
- Philip Sidney, Biography (539-541)
- Sidney, excerpt from *The Defense of Posey* (546-564)

**2/13: Reading Due for Today:**

- The Wider World (609-657)
- Margo Hendricks, [“Coloring the Past, Rewriting our Future: RaceB4Race”](#)

### **Week 7: The Sonnet Tradition: 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century**

**2/18: Reading Due for Today:**

- Thomas Wyatt the Elder (118-119)
  - “The long love that in my heart doth harbor” & Petrarch, Rima 140 (120-121)
  - “Whoso list to hunt” & Petrarch, Rima 190 (121)
  - “My galley” & Petrarch Rima, 189 (123-124)
- Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey (133-134)
  - “The soote season” (134)
  - “Love, that doth reign and live within my thought” (135)
  - “Alas! so all things now do hold their peace” & Petrarch, Rima 164 (136)
- Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella* (collection starts on 586)
  - Sonnets no. 1, 2, 9,10, 52, 53, 106

**2/20: Reading Due for Today:**

- Shakespeare (718-722)
  - Sonnets (collection starts on 722)
    - 1, 12, 20, 35, 60, 135, 138, 144, 147
- Spenser (238-240)
  - *Amoretti* 1, 34, 37, 54, 67, 74, 75, 79 (487-491)
  - *The Faerie Queene*, Book 1: Canto 1 (253-267)
- Mary Wroth—17<sup>th</sup> Century (1110-1111)
  - *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*: 1, 16, 25, 39, 68 (1116-1119)

**Week 8: The Seventeenth Century****2/25: Reading Due for Today:**

- The Seventeenth Century: Introduction and Timeline (891-910)
- Inquiry and Experience & Francis Bacon (1211-1213)
  - “On Truth” (1213-1214)
  - “Of Marriage and Single Life” (1214-1215)
  - “Of Plantations” (1219-1221)
  - “Of Studies” (1223-1225)
  - from *The New Atlantis* (1231-1236)

**2/27: Reading Due for Today:**

- John Donne (920-922)
  - “The Flea” (923)
  - “The Canonization” (927)
  - “Elegy 19: To His Mistress Going to Bed” (943-944)
  - from *Holy Sonnets* (This collection starts on 960)
    - numbers 1, 10, 11, 14, 18
  - From *Devotions*, Meditation 17 (970-971)
- Lanyer (980-981)
  - “Eve’s Apology in Defense of Women” (983-986)
- Ben Jonson (991-993)
  - “To My Book” (1089)
  - “To John Donne” (1091)
  - “To Penshurst” (1096-1098)
  - “A Sonnet to the Noble Lady, the Lady Mary Wroth” (1100-1101)

**Week 9: The Seventeenth Century****3/3: Reading Due for Today:**

- The Revolutionary Era, 1640-60 (910-917)
- George Herbert (1255-1257)
  - “The Altar” (1257)
  - “Easter Wings” (1259)
- Robert Herrick (1306)
  - “Delight in Disorder” (1308-1309)
  - “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time” (1312)

- “Upon the Nipples of Julia’s Breasts” (1314)
- Richard Lovelace (1329)
  - “To Lucasta, Going to the Wars” (1329)
- Andrew Marvell (1339-1340)
  - “To His Coy Mistress” (1346-1347)
  - “The Mower Against the Gardens” (1350)
  - “Damon the Mower” (1351-1353)
  - “The Mower and the Glowworms” (1353)
  - “The Mower’s Song” (1353-1354)

**3/5: Reading Due for Today:**

- John Milton (1447-1451)
  - “Lycidas” (1467-1473)
  - From *Areopagitica* (1479-1489)
  - “When I Consider How My Light is Spent” (1492)

**Week 10: The Seventeenth Century: Milton**

**3/10: Reading Due for Today:**

- Milton, *Paradise Lost* Book 1 (1493-1514)

**3/12: Reading Due for Today:**

- Milton, *Paradise Lost* XII, lines 610-649 (1726-1727)

**3/15: Creative Imitation Due Date:** Submit Creative Imitations for Weeks 6-10

**Finals Week:**

**3/17: Creative Imitation Due Date:** Final Reflection Creative Imitation Due