

ENGLISH 201: EARLY ENGLISH LITERATURE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

DETAILS

Instructor: John M. Ware

Office: Main 331

Office hours: Thursday 4:00-5:00; Wednesday/Friday 2:00-3:30.

Online calendar: <https://johnmware.youcanbook.me/>

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COURSE MATERIALS

Norton Anthology of English Literature, 9th ed., Ed. Stephen Greenblatt (Norton, 2012). This anthology can be purchased as either a one-volume (5.2 lbs.) or a three-volume (.2 lbs., 3 lbs., 2 lbs.) set.

Additional readings supplied as pdf files in Moodle.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 201 surveys texts written in English from a time before English as we know it existed (Old English requires translation) to a time during which the language, literature, and culture demonstrate characteristics similar to our own. This particular section of 201 begins with Anglo-Saxon poetry and ends in the early 19th century. In addition to the wide expanse of time, this section also covers a wide range of literature: history, poetry, biography, drama, and fiction. We'll take an interest in the genres of literature and the changes that take place between and within genres.

The goals of 201 are two-fold. First, a survey of writing in English helps one develop a sense of English literary history despite the fact that we are reading only a fraction of the writing produced over this span of time. A sense of literary history is to some extent a sense of cultural history. In this class, we will not only employ concepts such as form, meter, and genre to enrich our understanding, but we will also consider the ways in which the readings affect our sense of the culture in which the works were produced. Does Chaucer's *Wife of Bath* tell us anything about womanhood in 14th-century England? Does the account of Margery Kempe? How do female characterizations and concerns change between the 15th and the early 19th centuries? Are there significant differences in form or theme as writing shifts from privileged occupation to profession? Is there a change in sensibility as England becomes the nation of Great Britain and plays an increasingly significant role on the global stage? Second, the methods employed in and the assignments required for 201 give students a sense of the expectations governing work in the field of English language and literature. Whether you're an English major, an English minor, or someone who made an error during registration, the skills demonstrated and developed in this course are valued across the curriculum and in many occupations.

COURSEWORK

The graded assignments for English 201 include a research assignment, an explication essay, a literary analysis, a midterm examination, and a cumulative final examination.

In addition to the graded assignments, I expect you to attend class regularly in a timely fashion, complete the assigned reading, and contribute to class discussion. Projects, discussion, peer review during draft workshops, and any assigned writing other than those noted above are graded informally and contribute to your participation grade.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance, preparation, and participation contribute 15% to your final grade. A general, but not binding, way of conceiving of the effect of attendance on your grade is as follows: with 1-2 absences, you may still earn an A in attendance; with 2-3 absences, you may still earn a B in attendance; with 3-5 absences, you may still earn a C or a D in attendance; with 6 absences, you will likely receive an F (00) in attendance; with more than 6 absences, you will not get credit for this course. Alert me to necessary absences and unusual circumstances; retain documentation of absences such as physician's notifications. With supporting documentation, absences due to illness or official college events will not negatively affect your grade, but they will count as absences.

If you enter class after I have checked the roll, you are late, and it is your responsibility to see me immediately after class to be certain that I count you as present. If you are more than 15 minutes late to class, you are welcome to stay, but I will not give you credit for having attended.

Participation begins with adequate preparation for class: the completion of any required reading and writing. Participation includes the extent of your contributions to discussion and your attentiveness.

MOODLE

Our Moodle site serves as the hub for the distribution of documents and readings not included in the anthology, its online gradebook feature, informal writing such as forms, and the site for submitting electronic versions of drafts and final essays.

GRADES

During the semester, you will receive six grades each of which contributes 15-25% to your final grade:

- Research Assignment (5%)
- Explication Essay (20%)
- Literary Analysis (30%)
- Midterm Examination (15%)
- Final Exam (15%)
- Attendance and Participation (15%)

Grades are represented on a 100-point scale that breaks down as follows:

- 93-100: A
- 90-92: A-
- 87-89: B+
- 83-86: B
- 80-82: B-
- 77-79: C+
- 73-76: C
- 70-72: C-
- 60-69: D
- 00-59: F

Your grade is something you earn, and you have every right to be concerned about it. Please visit me during my office hours or schedule a time to meet with me if you have any questions or concerns about your grade.

OFFICE HOURS, EMAIL, PHONE

Office hours are times during which you can drop by my office without prior notice and with the assurance that I will be there unless I have indicated otherwise. Please take advantage of this time to discuss any aspects of this class. I will gladly meet with you at other times; we simply need to arrange to do so. My office phone number is 597-4362, but the most effective way to contact me is by [email](#).

THE HONOR CODE

The Wofford College Honor Pledge charges students to uphold the integrity of the College. In this course, we will discuss methods by which writers clearly signal material that they have borrowed from an outside source and incorporated into their own work through quotation, paraphrase, or summary. Failure to properly acknowledge one's sources or to quote, paraphrase, or summarize appropriately constitutes plagiarism, which is an honor code violation.

All writing for this class is to originate with this class. If you wish to use writing from an earlier point in your academic career, you need to discuss this matter with me prior to submitting any assignment.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Food and drink; telephony; laptops/tablets.

OTHER RESOURCES

Wofford College offers services related to students' academic performance and personal wellbeing: [The Writing Center](#) and [Health Services](#) are two services to keep in mind.