

SYLLABUS

FALL 2005

CLASS: ENGLISH IV
SUBJECT: BRITISH LITERATURE
INSTRUCTOR: DEBORAH NICOLEAU
Telephone: 718 639-1752

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. **TEXTBOOKS:** **Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes The British Tradition.** Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2000.

Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar *Communication in Action*
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2001.

Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide. James D. Lester.
11th ed., Longman, 2004. ISBN 0321236475
2. Collegiate Dictionary and Thesaurus
3. Loose Leaf Binder and College Rule Paper
4. Composition Book
5. Pocket Folder
6. Blue and/or Black Ink pen
7. White out (optional)
8. Baron's or Prentice Hall English Regent Review Book**

** For those students that need to take the Comprehensive English Regent

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course covers selected works in British Literature from The Old English and Medieval Periods to the present. Emphasis will be placed on the historical background, cultural context, and literary analysis of major genres of literature: short story, poetry,

novel, drama, and analytical prose. This course considers the elements of literature including plot, structure, characterization, symbolism, conflict, tone, point of view, imagery and so on. Writing well about literature is a key component of the class. Students will keep a writing journal over the course of the year to document their improvement and to engage themselves in thinking about their writing. A research paper incorporating both primary and secondary sources is required. Vocabulary study is important. Emphasis is placed on developing a fundamental understanding and enjoyment of literature.

OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to provide a basis for instruction in usage of the English Language and facilitate the teaching of writing and research through literature. Upon completion of this course each student will have:

1. Discussed the works of major British writers;
2. Traced the development of themes and genres within their historical contexts;
3. Identified the relationships of various genres to the contemporary media of film;
4. Analyzed literary works for their aesthetic features and thematic patterns;
5. Identified styles, themes, and works of major writers;
6. Acquired knowledge and skills necessary to score a 65 or higher on the Comprehensive Examination in English;
7. Studied vocabulary in the context of the literature and with college level word lists;
8. Examined a variety of critical approaches to literature;
9. Developed critical thinking and reasoning;
10. Identified a variety of writing forms, including personal, literary, and persuasive texts, for various audiences.

THE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN ENGLISH

The Comprehensive Examination in English is a two-day test given in the June 2006, by the New York State Board of Regents. It is composed of multiple-choice and essay questions. A student's score may range from 1-6, indicating how qualified he/she is in reading comprehension, literary analysis, and essay composition. All students must acquire a passing score to meet the graduation requirements.

ASSIGNMENTS

OLD ENGLISH and MEDIEVAL PERIOD A.D. 449-1485

- September 7-9 Textbook read pages A3-A6 and 4-10 “The Medieval Period” and “Geoffrey Chaucer
- September 9th The Seafarer and “The Wanderer,”
- September 16th Textbook read pages 40-50 “Beowulf.”
- September 19-23 Complete the reading of “Beowulf
- September 23rd Read pages 88-109 entitled the “Prologue to Tales.”
- October 3-4 Prepare for your pilgrimage presentation
- October 7th Read the handout “Pardoner’s Tale.”
- October 11/12th Read in your textbook pages 142-155 “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.”
- October 14th Read in your textbook Poem “Lord Randall” page 170-171.
- October 17-18 Prepare for Wednesday October 30/31 exam.
- October 21st Read in your textbook the “The Renaissance Age” pages A7-A11 and pages 198-203.

RENAISSANCE AGE 1485-1625

- Oct 24/25th Read Edmund Spenser’s: Sonnet # 1, 35, 75, 31 and 39; pages 209-213.
- Oct 31st –Nov 4th Read Shakespeare “Sonnet 29, 106, 116 and 130.
- November 4th Read “Man for All Seasons” pages 253-257 and Utopia page 238.

November 7th Read pages 246-249 in your textbook.

November 14th Study for your November 15th / 16th exam on the following:
Edmund Spenser and his Sonnets, Shakespeare's Sonnets, Count of Monte Cristo reading, Man for all Seasons, Psalms 23, Sermon on the Mount, Renaissance, Utopia and the Parable.

Nov 15th /16th Read in your textbook the history of the Elizabethan Theater and its playwright Shakespeare; pages 264-265 and 268-270.

November 21-23 Merchants of Venice by William Shakespeare

THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES (1625-1798)

November 22/23 **Holiday Reading: (Due Nov 28th/29th)**
"The Turbulent Time" (1625-1798); pages 382-387
and Shakespeare.

HAVE A NICE THANKSGIVING RECESS

November 28th /29th Read Act I of MacBeth pages 272-291.

December 2nd Read Act II of MacBeth pages 294-307.

December 9th Read Act III and Act IV of Macbeth pages 310-325 and 328-345.

December 16th Read Act V of MacBeth pages 348-361.

NO WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT

ENJOY YOUR WINTER RECESS!!!!!!

Jan 4th /5th In class discussion on MacBeth completed today.

Jan 9-13th Read "The Diary" pages 462-467.
Read "A Journal of the Plague Year" by Daniel Defoe pages 468-471

FINAL EXAMS TUESDAY, JANUARY 17TH – 20TH, 2006

