Online Course Syllabus

ENGL 3301-91L: SURVEY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE I
Spring 2016

- Instructor: Professor Gary Schneider
- Office: ARHU 209 (do not call my office to contact me, as I will be working often from home)
- Contact: Through Email on Blackboard. Face-to-face meetings are by appointment only. Email me to set up an appointment.
- Back-Up Email: if Blackboard is down or not functioning properly, email papers and exams to gary.schneider@utrgv.edu before the deadline. Contact me through Blackboard using the Email tool first; use the back-up email second.

Course Overview:

- **This is a totally online class.** I will assume that you are familiar and comfortable with Blackboard. If you feel you need more instruction in Blackboard you may explore the “Blackboard Support” link located on the main content page. You may also contact the Blackboard Help Desk in the Education Complex, EDCC 2.202 at (956)665-5327 or email them at colthelp@utrgv.edu.

- **Do not expect that because this is an online class that it will be somehow easier in terms of course content or assignments.** There will be just as many lectures, readings, and assignments as in a regular class—although of course you will not have to travel to campus to attend.

- **You will need to be a self-starter and be able to manage your time effectively without the structure of a classroom setting in order to succeed in this course.**

*The overall organization of the class will consist of two parts:*

- The first part (Modules 1-2) will conclude with an at-home midterm exam

- The second part (Modules 3-4) will conclude with an at-home final exam taken during finals week
  - I arrange the course content in each module into parts. This arrangement will help you to keep abreast of the material so that you do not fall behind.
You are expected to do the assigned readings and listen to the lectures every week in order to stay organized and not fall behind.

- Quizzes will help you to stay on track and are given at the conclusion of every module.

- **Log onto this course on Blackboard every weekday** to check for announcements, emails, or other developments.

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**Course Description and Learning Objectives:**

ENG 3301 is a chronological study of the principal authors, works, and trends in English literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the beginning of the Romantic movement. Prerequisite: nine hours of English.

In this particular section of ENG 3301, we will read significant literary works in several genres, paying attention to the sociocultural and historical context of the literature, but also reading closely in order to develop a critical understanding of written texts we call literature. I will be utilizing Tegrity to deliver audio lectures based on the readings outlined in each module (see **Class Schedule and Course Readings**, below).

**State/Institutional Goals:** Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Exemplary Objectives for Humanities and Performing Arts:

1. To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. To respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. To engage in the creative process or interpretive performance and comprehend the physical and intellectual demands required of the author or visual or performing artist.
5. To articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
6. To develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide or govern the humanities and arts.
7. To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy, and/or the arts on intercultural experiences.

**Departmental Goals:** Student Learning Outcomes for English (SLO’s)

SLO1—Students will articulate the historical, theoretical, cultural, and/or personal significance of language and literature.

SLO2—Students will analyze and interpret a variety of texts, using a range of theoretical approaches and disciplinary modes of inquiry.

SLO3—Students will demonstrate a broad and foundational knowledge of the traditions of American, British, Ethnic, and/or World literatures by critically situating specific works of literature within these traditions.
SLO4—Students will write coherently and demonstrate a consistent use of the conventions of a variety of genres, including, but not limited to, the academic essay.

SLO5—Students will apply appropriate research methodologies to understand and/or illuminate specific questions about language and literature.

SLO6—Students will demonstrate information literacy through the use, analysis, and evaluation of appropriate resources, including, but not limited to, those found in electronic databases and websites.

SLO7—Students in certification tracks will demonstrate knowledge and skills in the areas of writing, literature, reading, oral communication, media literacy, and English language arts pedagogy.

Instructor’s Course Objectives:

1. to introduce students to great writers and great works in imaginative literature. (THECB 1, 7; SLO 3)
2. to develop students’ literary tastes and their aesthetic pleasure in reading. (THECB 6; SLO 1, 2, 3)
3. introduce students to literary studies and the specialized terminology of these studies. (THECB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7; SLO 1, 2, 3)
4. to develop critical thinking and critical reading skills. (THECB 3, 4; SLO 1, 2, 3)
5. to develop students’ ability to analyze texts, generalize, and think abstractly. (THECB 4, 5; SLO 1, 2, 3, 4)
6. to further improve writing competencies acquired in English 1301 and 1302. (THECB 3, 4, 5; SLO 4, 5, 6)
7. to develop oral communication skills. (THECB 3, 4, 5; SLO 4)

Technical Requirements:

- Computer Requirements: Blackboard is a web-based application that is run through a web browser. Keep in mind that your browser must be configured to work properly with Blackboard. This means having Java installed, pop-up blockers disabled and cookies enabled.

- Java Runtime Environment: For Blackboard to function properly, you will need to have Java installed on your machine. This is important when using certain features in Blackboard. To ensure that you have the latest version of Java you can download it at http://java.com/en/.

For the following issues, you should contact the Blackboard Help Desk directly:

- Server issues (site not available, server is slow)
- Course access (login problems, course not available)
- Technical problems (a function not working properly)

Contact Information:
Education Complex, EDCC 2.202
Assignment Requirements:
1. Four quizzes (totaling 25% of the final grade)
2. One midterm exam (25%)
3. One 1500-word term paper (25%)
4. One final exam (25%)

Exams
- There will be two at-home exams, one midterm exam and one final exam, to be typed and returned within a given period. **The midterm exam will cover Modules 1-2** and the **final exam will cover Modules 3-4**.
- I have posted an exam outline in the “Begin Here: Course Introduction” module so you can see what sort of exams you will be writing; the midterm and final exams will both have the same format.
- The exam questions themselves will be posted on specific dates; your answers are to be returned on specific dates:
  - **MIDTERM EXAM**: In Module 2 the midterm exam questions will be available on Mar. 7—the link to the exam questions will become visible on this date in the table of contents of that module. The typed responses are to be submitted to me on Blackboard by Mar. 10 at 11:59 pm (just before midnight). Submit the midterm exam as a single Word document in Module 2.
  - **FINAL EXAM**: In Module 4 the final exam questions will be available on May 6—the link to the exam will become visible on this date in the table of contents of that module. The typed responses are to be submitted to me on Blackboard by May 9 at 11:59 pm (just before midnight). Submit the final exam as a single Word document in Module 4.

- **Submit each exam as a SINGLE Word document attachment.** Do not use other formats such as pdf or Notepad. **DO NOT cut and paste your exam in the submission box.** When you submit your exams, the beginning of the file name you will give them will be your first name last, last name first (for instance, “Gomez, Jorge midterm” or “Ramirez, Mari final exam”). Only if Blackboard is down or not functioning properly, email the exam to gary.schneider@utrgv.edu before the deadline.
- **Do not do outside research to answer the exam questions.** Everything you need to know to answer an exam question effectively is located in the audio lectures.
Therefore, know the audio lectures well. This means taking careful notes on the audio lectures in advance of the exams, and then using these notes to answer the exam questions. Using outside research to answer an exam question may result in a failing grade on the exam.

- If you encounter technical problems with Blackboard contact the Blackboard Help Desk in the Education Complex, EDCC 2.202 at (956)665-5327 or email them at coltthelp@utrgv.edu

- Late exams will not be accepted. If you encounter a technical problem in submitting the exams on Blackboard, use the back-up email address, gary.schneider@utrgv.edu. Submitting the wrong file or an incomplete exam due to negligence are not acceptable excuses, and I will not allow a resubmission of the exam due to these errors.

- The exams will be returned to you and the grades posted in the My Grades area on Blackboard within a week

Quizzes
- You will take four quizzes. The scheduled quizzes are taken on Blackboard. The dates between which you may take the quizzes are located in the Class Schedule and Course Readings, below. The four quizzes are available through the table of contents in each of Modules 1 through 4—the link to each quiz in each module will become visible the first day the quiz is available to take.

- Each quiz will consist of 15 questions and you will have 30 minutes to complete each quiz. The quizzes will be multiple choice where you choose the best answer out of four choices. Each question is worth 1 point. All quizzes will be delivered one question at a time and you will not be able to backtrack or revisit a question once it has been answered.

- Unlike the midterm and final exams, which will ask you to interpret and analyze, the quiz questions will be of a factual nature asking for basic information. Choose the multiple-choice option that best answers the question.
  
  o Sample quiz question:
    - Why is the subject of William Shakespeare’s Sonnet 20 called his “master mistress”?
      a. because this is what he wishes to be called
      b. because he is androgynous
      c. because he dresses in women’s clothing
      d. both a. and b.

- Your grades on your quizzes will be available the day after the deadline to take the quiz has passed
Term Paper

- **The topics for the Term Paper are posted in the “Begin Here: Course Introduction” module and in Module 4**

- Use these topics to generate a thesis and argument. Whatever the topic is, what I am looking for is a specific analysis, **not plot summary or description**. Respond to the given topic by illustrating your analysis with quotes from the text (but not over-quoting!). Think about your analysis in terms of an argument that you are supporting with evidence from the text. Ask “why?” or “how?” something is as it is. The point of these papers is to show me you have thought carefully and deeply about the work. The highest grades are given to thoughtful, insightful, critical commentaries that are free from writing errors. Therefore, proofread CAREFULLY. See also the “Paper Writing Strategies and Hints” document I have included in the “Begin Here: Course Introduction” module.

- As I always instruct my students, **do not write your term paper at the last minute!** You have from the beginning of the semester to prepare your paper since the topics are available right now. You may send me a thesis statement or draft of your paper at any point during the semester for feedback (but not on the day or on the day before it is due!). **The term paper must be a minimum of 1500 words in length.**

- You may use outside sources in researching your term paper, but these must be cited in a proper Works Cited page in MLA format. I have placed a web-link on Blackboard to a webpage that offers information on MLA style.

- **The Term Paper is due on May 5 by 11:59 pm in Module 4**

- **Submit the paper as a single Word document attachment.** Do not use other formats such as pdf or Notepad. **DO NOT cut and paste your paper in the submission box.** When you submit your paper, the file name you will give it will be your first name last, last name first (for instance, “Gomez, Jorge term paper”). If Blackboard is down or not functioning properly, email the paper to gary.schneider@utrgv.edu before the deadline.

- **Late papers will not be accepted.** If you encounter a technical problem in submitting the paper on Blackboard, use the back-up email address, gary.schneider@utrgv.edu. Submitting the wrong file due to negligence is not an acceptable excuse, and I will not allow a resubmission of the paper due to this error.

- The paper will be returned to you and the grade posted in the My Grades area on Blackboard within a week

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**Grade Values**
Course Policies:

1. Policy on Papers—The paper is to be submitted on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on the due date. **A late paper will not be accepted.** If there is an emergency, please contact me before the paper is due. If Blackboard is down or not functioning properly, email the paper as a Word document to my back-up email address before the deadline.

2. Policy on Exams—Both exams are to be submitted on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on the due dates. **Late exams will not be accepted.** If there is an emergency, please contact me before the exam is due. If Blackboard is down or not functioning properly, email the exam as a Word document to my back-up email address before the deadline.

3. Policy on Plagiarism—Plagiarism means that one writer is using another writer’s words or ideas without crediting the first writer. Likewise, paraphrasing, summarizing, and citing passages from another writer without acknowledging it, is plagiarism. Contact me if you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism. Any student plagiarizing will be reported to the Dean of Students and a failing grade will be recommended.

4. Policy on Online Availability—I will do my best to be online regularly throughout the weekdays between 12 am and 2 pm. If you contact me by email before 2 pm, I will get back to you that day. If you contact me after 2 pm I will return your email the next day or on Monday if it is after 2 pm on a Friday.

5. Extra-Credit Policy—I give extra-credit opportunities only under exceptional circumstances. Earning a high grade in this course means dedicating yourself to doing well on all the semester’s assignments. However, in some cases, students may indeed fall short on an assignment throughout the semester. It is at this point that you should contact me for assistance. I will advise you on how to improve your work. If you take my advice and I see improvement after this, I believe this is worthy of reward and may give extra-credit opportunity to make up for the assignment(s) on which you did not do as well. However, if you have not contacted me to discuss your progress and if you have not shown a genuine effort to improve, do not expect an extra-credit opportunity at the end of the semester. I do not reward procrastination.

6. Course Evaluation—Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

   - Note: If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or
other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.

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Required Text:


   I have included the ISBN (0393912477) of the ninth edition, so if you order the book yourself use this number to order the exact edition I will be using. You may use an earlier edition, such as the 8th edition; however, the pagination will be different, and will not accord with the page number references I give in the modules.

   - Recommended: An up-to-date style/writing manual such as *The Little, Brown Handbook* or *Keys for Writers*
   - The required text is available at the Campus Bookstore

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Class Schedule and Course Readings:

- You must cover all parts of each module within the given timeframe, which means doing the required readings as well as listening to the lectures on those readings, giving yourself time to review the material before the quizzes and exams. Pace yourself, doing a bit of work each day; do not let the work pile up at the end of a given timeframe.

- Modules 2 and 4 are scheduled for a few days longer than the others because you will write your midterm and final exams within these modules.
• You should read the biographical introductions to every writer we discuss in the *Norton Anthology*. These biographical introductions precede the literature we will be reading.

• What follows here is a part-by-part listing of what we will be doing, elaborated on in full in each of the individual modules on Blackboard. Each module has multiple parts (4 parts). **Follow this schedule to stay on track:**

  ➢ *Begin Here: Course Introduction* (complete the module on 1/19)

  ➢ *Module 1* (Jan. 19 – Feb. 11)

    **Readings:**

    o *Part 1*—Introduction to the Middle Ages to 1485

    o *Part 2*—*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

    o *Part 3*—Geoffrey Chaucer, “The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale,” from the *Canterbury Tales*

    o *Part 4*—*Everyman*

    ✓ Take QUIZ 1 on Module 1 (take the quiz between 2/9 and 2/11 by 11:59 pm)

  ➢ *Module 2* (Feb. 12 – Mar. 10)

    **Readings:**

    o *Part 1*—Introduction to the Sixteenth Century, 1485-1603
      — Thomas Wyatt, “Whoso List to Hunt,” “Stand Whoso List,” “Mine Own John Poins”

    o *Part 2*—Edmund Spenser, *Amoretti* 34, 64, 67

    o *Part 3*—Philip Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella* 1, 34, 45
Part 4—William Shakespeare, Sonnets 3, 20, 144

✓ Take QUIZ 2 on Module 2 (take the quiz between 3/4 and 3/6 by 11:59 pm)

✓ MIDTERM EXAM on Modules 1-2: In Module 2 the midterm exam questions will be available on Mar. 7—the link to the exam questions will become visible at 9 am in the table of contents. The typed responses are to be submitted to me on Blackboard by Mar. 10 by 11:59 pm (just before midnight).

Module 3 (Mar. 11 – Apr. 10)

Readings:

o Part 1—Introduction to the Seventeenth Century, 1603-1660

o Part 2—George Herbert, “Jordan (1),” “Denial,” “The Forerunners”


o Part 4—John Milton, Lycidas

✓ Take QUIZ 3 on Module 3 (take the quiz between 4/8 and 4/10 at 11:59 pm)

Module 4 (Apr. 11 – May 9)

Readings:

o Part 1—Introduction to the Restoration and Eighteenth Century, 1660-1785
  —John Dryden, “Mac Flecknoe”

o Part 2—Jonathan Swift, “Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift”

o Part 3—Alexander Pope, “Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot”

o Part 4—Samuel Johnson, “The Vanity of Human Wishes”
✓ Take QUIZ 4 on Module 4 (take the quiz between 5/2 and 5/4 by 11:59 pm)

✓ The TERM PAPER is due May 5 by 11:59 pm. Submit the paper as a Word document in Module 4.

✓ FINAL EXAM on Modules 3-4: In Module 4 the final exam questions will be available on May 6—the link to the exam will become visible at 9 am in the table of contents. The typed responses are to be submitted to me on Blackboard by May 9 by 11:59 pm (just before midnight).

UTRGV Policy Statements:

1. Scholastic Integrity—As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

2. Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence—In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

3. Drop Policy—According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher
education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

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**Drop Date:**
*April 13* is last day for students to drop the course and receive a DR grade. After this date, students will be assigned a letter grade for the course that will count on the GPA.

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**Final Note:**
If there are any typos in the dates or other minor errors in the syllabus, I will adjust them accordingly and let you know about any changes.