COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 1342A & 1342B
Middle Ages & Renaissance: Lit&Comp II
Professor Krohn (krohn@stthom.edu)
Spring of 2017

Office: Malloy 226
Office Hours: Mon-Thursday, 11-1.
(Or, by appointment.)

TEXTS:

The Canterbury Tales. (Selected) Chaucer. An Interlinear Translation. Barron’s
Educational Series. ISBN 9780812000399.

(THE ABOVE TEXTS ARE REQUIRED. NO OTHER VERSIONS OF THESE TEXTS ARE ACCEPTABLE. PLEASE DO NOT ASK ABOUT “ALTERNATIVE” TEXTS.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course we will look at The Middle Ages through the Pearl Poet’s Sir Gawain and the Green Knight and Geoffrey Chaucer’s The Canterbury Tales. Supplemental material for these works will be produced in the form of handouts.

The “Renaissance” (meaning the English Renaissance) comes to us courtesy of William Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Hamlet. Additional handouts will ensue.

Further, our texts include commentaries of a critical bent and this material will become part of our discussion and/or part of the writing assignments. All of the above works and their critical commentaries will serve as a point of departure for both class discussion and the writing assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: As a result of discussing and writing about these works, students should be able to hone their reading and writing skills, grasp the essentials of critical objectivity, arrive at an appreciation of the “universality” inherent in all that qualifies as literature, and develop that acuteness of mind so vital to the demands of analytical writing. Some sense of the “intellectual background” of both the Medieval and Renaissance periods should filter into the consciousness of the students, aided by some of those sources referred to above.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: There will be a short, objective test on most of the reading assignments. In addition, students will write five analytical essays, bring forth a research paper, and, of course, write a FINAL EXAM. (All written work must be typed and double-spaced.)

Students are expected to attend class, take the tests, produce the writing assignments and contribute to class discussions. Do not be shy about coming in for an office visit. If you cannot come during the posted office hours, make an appointment.

If you have questions, please do not attempt to contact me “telephonically.” I will make every effort to respond to an e-mail. (Classes for both sections begin at 8:10AM; “Enough said”?)

EVALUATION: The TESTS count 10% of your grade. The ESSAYS count 40%. The RESEARCH PAPER counts 20%. The FINAL EXAM counts 30%. So as to avoid the amusing notion of “make-up work,” a certain number of your lower test grades and your lowest essay grade will be dropped.
ENGLISH 1342A  SPRING OF 2017  SYLLABUS.

Jan.  20:  PEARL POET.  Sir Gawain & the Green Knight.  Intro.
          23:  Sir Gawain, Part I, con’d.
          25:  Sir Gawain, Part II.
          27:  Sir Gawain, Part II, con’d.

          30:  Sir Gawain, Part III.

Feb.  1:  Sir Gawain, Part III, con’d.
          3:  Sir Gawain, Part IV.
          6:  Sir Gawain, Part IV, con’d.
          8:  Sir Gawain.
          10:  Sir Gawain.  ESSAY #1 DUE.

          13:  CHAUCER.  Canterbury Tales,  Prologue: lines 1-42.
          15:  Tales.  The Prioress, lines 118-162.

          20:  “NPT”
          22:  “NPT”
          24:  “NPT”;  ESSAY #2 DUE.


Mar.  1:  “TPT”
          3:  “TPT’
          6:  “TPT” ;  ESSAY # 3 DUE.
          8:  SHAKESPEARE.  “A Midsummer Night’s Dream Act I.
          10:  MND: Act I, con’d.

13-17:  SPRING BREAK.

          20:  MND: Act 2.
          24:  MND: Act 3 (con’d).

          29:  MND: Act 5.
          31:  MND: Act 5.

April  3:  MND:  ESSAY #4 DUE.
          5:  HAMLET:  Act 1 and Act 2, Scene i.
          7:  HAMLET:  Ditto.
10: *HAMLET*: Act 2, Scene ii.
12: *HAMLET*: Act 3, Scenes I & ii.
14: **EASTER BREAK.**

21: *HAMLET*: Act 5.

24: *HAMLET*: Act 5.
26: *HAMLET*: Act 5.
28: *HAMLET*: **ESSAY #5 DUE.** NB: This an IN-CLASS assignment.

May 1: *HAMLET.*
3: *HAMLET*: **RESEARCH PAPER DUE.**
5: **LAST DAY OF CLASSES. FINAL EXAM PROMPT.**

FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 8th: 8:30-11AM in this room.

(This Syllabus is not Holy Writ. Changes could occur.)