Objectives: Literature and Composition II develops the Core Curriculum in English, building upon the foundation of the Classical Tradition through an introduction to selected literary works of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. We will explore this literature in its relevant historical and cultural context, both in relation to the legacy of classical antiquity and to the development of the modern age. We will also engage the distinctive qualities of the major literary genres consisting of narrative (Beowulf, and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight), drama (Marlowe’s Dr. Faustus, and Shakespeare’s Macbeth) and lyric and epic poetry (Inferno as a “theological-epic”).

This course also builds upon Literature and Composition I with the intermediate study and practice of academic writing. Students will review the rudiments of writing and the techniques of persuasion and argumentation. Students will engage primary texts to develop interpretive arguments, formulate substantial thesis judgments, and, using exemplary models of academic prose, compose coherent critical essays a research paper. Although this course will focus on reading and writing about literature, students will acquire skills in analytic and interpretive writing with relevance to all of the disciplines in the university curriculum.

Required Texts:


Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. Trans. Marie Borroff, Norton.


William Shakespeare, Macbeth. Folger Shakespeare Library.


Various Handouts of Readings.

(Students are required to bring to class hard copies of all of the textbooks in the specific translations and editions listed above).

Requirements: To receive credit for this course students are expected to attend every class session, read critically all of the reading assignments, and to perform diligently all of the writing assignments listed on the syllabus. Further, students are expected to participate in class-room discussion. Students will compose and revise two formal essays of 4-5 pages, a research paper of 6 to 8 pages, and write four
practicum papers of 2 pages each. Students are also required to sit for a mid-term and a final examination as well as take occasional quizzes throughout the semester.

Unexcused, habitual absences or tardiness will result in a reduction of the final grade at the instructor’s discretion.

Written work is due on the dates assigned, at the beginning of class. Work submitted late without prior approval will be penalized with a reduction of a letter grade for each period beyond the due date.

The university’s policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced, and students are expected to familiarize themselves with the relevant sections of the University Catalogue and Student Handbook. Any instance of plagiarism is grounds for summary failure of the course and may result in expulsion from the university.

**Grading:** For the satisfactory achievement of these requirements, letter grades will be awarded and will constitute percentages of the final grade as follows:

- Practicums = 20%
- Essay 1 = 10%
- Essay 2 = 10%
- Research Paper = 20%
- Midterm = 15%
- Final Exam = 15%
- Quizzes and Participation = 10%

(Students will be expected to keep a record of all of their graded assignments throughout the semester as the instructor will not calculate averages except at the end of the semester).

**Weekly Schedule of Readings and Assignments**


24-26 January: *Inferno.* I-VII.

31 January/ 2 February: *Inferno.* VIII-XVI

7-9 February: *Inferno.* XVII-XXVI. Practicum 1 due.

14-16 February: *Inferno.* XXVII—XXXIV

21-23 February: Midterm Exam / *Beowulf* and Elegies/ Essay 1 due.
28 February/ 2 March: Beowulf and Old English Elegies


Spring Break (13-17 March)

21-23 March: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight


4-6 April: Dr. Faustus

11 April: Dr. Faustus. Practicum 3.

Easter Holiday (April 13-14)

18-20 April: Macbeth


Final Exam TBA