Objectives:

Literature & 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 or modes, consisting of narrative (The Inferno and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight), drama (Shakespeare’s Macbeth), and lyric poetry (focusing on the poems of John Donne).

This course also builds upon Literature & Composition I with the intermediate study and practice of academic writing. Instruction and practical exercise in rhetoric and composition will figure prominently in the class, and the direct assessment of writing will constitute some 65% of the final grade. Students will learn the rudiments of classical rhetorical theory and practice while studying the techniques of persuasion and argumentation. We will learn the protocols of academic discourse, the fundamentals of expository and argumentative writing, the principles of analysis and synthesis, together with the uses of evidence and illustration. Students will engage primary texts to develop interpretive arguments, formulate substantial thesis judgments, and using exemplary models of academic prose compose coherent critical essays and 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:
(Various handouts distributed over the course of the term)

Requirements:

To receive credit for this course, students are expected to attend every class session, read all of the assignments on the syllabus, participate in classroom discussion and in-class writing exercises. Students will also compose and revise two formal essays, including a research paper (8-10 pp.), write three short practicum papers (2 pp. each), sit for a mid-term and final examination, and take occasional quizzes throughout the semester.
Unexcused absences and habitual tardiness will not be tolerated and will result in a reduction of the final grade at the instructor’s discretion.

Written work is due on the dates designated on the syllabus, at the beginning of class. Work submitted late without prior approval will be penalized with the reduction of a letter grade for each two-day period after 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 Undergraduate Catalog (pp. 71-73) and the Student Handbook (pp. 40-45). Any instance of plagiarism is grounds for summary failure of the course and may lead to formal judicial proceedings.

**Grading:**

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

- *Essay 1* 15 %  *Mid-term Exam* 15
- *Essay 2* 20  *Final Exam* 20
- *Practicum Papers* 15  *Participation & quizzes* 15
ENGL 1342  Middle Ages & Renaissance  Schedule of Readings & Assignments

January
18 Th Introductory: Literature & Composition II / Active Reading & Deliberate Writing
23 T Exploring the Middle Ages & Renaissance; Read The Discarded Image
25 Th Quiz on The Discarded Image; Practicum Paper 1 due
30 T Classical Rhetoric & the Trivium; Read The Office of Assertion

February
  1 Th Rhetoric & Composition: Invention, Disposition, Style, & Delivery
  6 T Quiz on The Office of Assertion
  8 Th Reading Narrative / Reading Allegory / Reading Dante’s Inferno
13 T The Inferno, Cantos 1-2
  15 Th 3-7
  20 T 8-12
  22 Th 13-16;
  27 T 17-21; Practicum Paper 2 due

March
  1 Th 22-26
  6 T 27-31
  8 Th 32-34

Spring Break – March 12-16

20 T Concluding the Inferno;
22 Th Mid-term Examination
27 T Reading Chivalric Romance / Sir Gawain and the Green Knight; Essay 1 due

Holy Week & Easter Break – March 29-April 1

April
  3 T Sir Gawain
  5 Th Sir Gawain; Writing Workshop; Practicum Paper 3 due
10 T Reading Drama / Reading Tragedy / Reading Shakespeare
12 Th Macbeth
17 T Macbeth
19 Th Macbeth; Writing Workshop: The Research Paper / Research & Documentation
24 T Macbeth
26 Th Reading Lyric Poetry; Essay 2 - Research Paper due

May
  1 T Lyric Poetry of John Donne (handouts); “The Flea,” “The Indifferent”
  3 Th Donne, “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning,” “Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward”; Conclusion & Review

Final Examination: Tuesday, May 8, 12:00-2:30