COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 1342A.
Middle Ages & Renaissance: Lit&Comp II
Professor Krohn (krohn@stthom.edu)
Spring of 2018

Office: Malloy 226
Office Hours: M/W/Fri: 9:30-11
T/Th: 11:12:30 (or by app’t)

TEXTS:


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

Henry V. Shakespeare. Folger Shakespeare Library 9780743477123

(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 some selections from 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 Henry V 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: Expect a short, objective test on all of the reading assignments. In
addition, students will write five ANALITICAL ESSAYS, bring forth A RESEARCH PAPER, and, of
course, write a FINAL EXAM. (All essays 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 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 need for “make-up
work,” a certain number of your lower test grades and your lowest essay grade will be dropped.
January
19: PEARL POET: *Sir Gawain & the Green Knight*  INTRO.

22: *Sir Gawain* Part I
24: *Sir Gawain* Part II
26: *Sir Gawain* Part II (con’d)

29: *Sir Gawain* Part III
31: *Sir Gawain* Part III (con’d)

February
2: *Sir Gawain* Part IV

5: *Sir Gawain* Part IV (con’d)
7: *Sir Gawain*
9: *Sir Gawain* ESSAY #1 DUE

12: CHAUCER  *Canterbury Tales*, Prologue: lines 1-42
14: *Tales*  The Prioress, lines 118-162
16: *Tales*  “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale”, pages 297-342

19: “NPT”
21: “NPT”
23: “NPT” ESSAY #2 DUE

26: “The Pardoner’s Tale”: “Prologue” and “Tale”:  pages 343-383
28: “TPT”

March
2: “TPT”

5: “TPT” ESSAY #3 DUE
7: *Henry V* Act 1
9: *Henry V* Act 1 (con’d)

12-16: SPRING BREAK

19: *Henry V* Act 2
21: *Henry V* Act 3
23: *Henry V* Act 3 (con’d)
26: Henry V Act 4
28: Henry V Act 5
March 29-April1 EASTER BREAK

April
2: Henry V
4: Henry V ESSAY 4 DUE
6: Hamlet Act 1 and Act 2, Scene 1

9: Hamlet Act 2, scene ii
11: Hamlet Act 3
13: Hamlet Act 4

16: Hamlet Act 5
18: Hamlet (con’d)
20: Hamlet

23: Hamlet FILM
25: Hamlet FILM
27: Hamlet ESSAY #5 DUE (NB: THIS IS AN IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENT.)

30: Hamlet FILM
May
2: Hamlet FILM RESEARCH PAPER DUE
4: LAST DAY OF CLASSES. FINAL EXAM PROMPT

FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 7th from 8:30-11AM in this room.

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