

**Oakland University**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Department of English**  
**English 2300: British Literature, Section 44681, 4 credits**  
**Fall 2018 Syllabus**

**Name:** Dr. Amy Pollard  
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**Phone:** (248) 370-2268  
**Office Hours:** T/R, 11-1pm, and by appointment  
**Class Time:** Thursdays, 6-9:27pm  
**Class Location:** Anton/Frankel Ctr. 209

**This course satisfies the University General Education requirement in the Literature Knowledge Exploration Area.**

**Course Description:** Introduction to literary analysis and appreciation through readings in the British literary tradition. Emphasis will be placed on authors such as Chaucer, Shakespeare and Oscar Wilde.

**General Education Learning Outcomes:** The student will develop the skills to read, comprehend, and evaluate works of literature as an art form as well as learn to understand and recognize the variety of literary devices and conventions. The student will discuss and express, in oral and written form, ideas, images, themes, motifs, techniques, and issues as presented by writers deeply rooted in their own culture. In addition, the student will develop and improve critical thinking and writing skills through interpretation and comparative analysis, as well as one's imagination and sensitivity.

**General Education Cross-Cutting Capacities:**  
Critical Thinking

**Required texts and supporting materials (available at the OU Bookstore)**

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature: the Major Authors*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition. Stephen Greenblatt, Ed. New York: W.W.Norton. 2013. ISBN# 0393919639

**Grade determination:**

Quizzes	10%
Responses	20%
Essay	20%
Exams	25% each (x2)

**Add/Drops:** The University add/drop policy will be explicitly followed. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the university deadline dates for dropping the course.

**Response Papers:**

The goal of the response is simply to get students writing on a regular basis. The writing does not need to be technically perfect, but it should not be illegible either. Students will respond to a provided prompt with a brief, handwritten response (1-2 pages). Please write the responses on loose paper and keep them together as returned. Responses may be turned in up to one class late for half credit.

**Attendance and Quizzes:** Students may miss no more than one class. While I will not be taking attendance on a daily basis, quizzes and responses function as my attendance log. Excessive tardiness will not be tolerated and pop quizzes will always be given in the first few minutes of class and **CANNOT** be made up. In addition to attendance, students must actively participate in classes. Class participation does not necessarily mean talking the most in class, but it does demand that students actively participate in class at all times, which includes reading the assigned material, listening attentively and respectfully to peers, as well as asking questions and sharing individual opinions and ideas in order to promote class dialogue. Please be considerate and turn cell phones off and do not text message during class time.

**Essays:**

Students will write one original essay, 3-5 pages. Papers should be typed double-spaced with Times New Roman font and traditional margins. MLA format, which can be found in both any rhetoric handbook or online, must be followed. Be sure to include your name, course number and page numbers. Papers must be stapled prior to class and are due at the beginning of designated class period. **I will not accept papers electronically!!!** Late papers will receive a .5 grade reduction, and may not be accepted at all after one week. Paper assignment will be provided later in the semester.

**The Writing Center:**

Students are encouraged to utilize the writing center during the semester, and will be required to do so if necessary. The OU Writing Center is a free service to all students enrolled at OU and provides a range of services for writers at all levels. Trained consultants at the center work with students during individual sessions and serve as sensitive readers, while emphasizing writing as a process. The Writing Center is located at 212 Kresge Library (the Northwest corner of the main entrance level of the library), and can be contacted at (248) 370-3120.

**Special Needs:**

If you have a physical or mental impairment that may interfere with your ability to complete successfully the requirements for this course, please contact the Office of Disability Support Services located in Room 102A of North Foundation Hall to discuss appropriate accommodations on a confidential basis. You may contact them by phone at (248) 370-3266 or by email at [dss@oakland.edu](mailto:dss@oakland.edu).

**Academic Conduct Policy:**

Cheating on examinations, plagiarism, falsifying reports/records, and unauthorized collaboration, access, or modifying of computer programs are considered serious breaches of academic conduct. The Oakland University policy on academic conduct will be strictly followed with no exceptions. See the university catalog under Academic Policies and Procedures for more information. **Please know that I am a professor who WILL turn all cases of academic misconduct over to the Dean of Students.**

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## Tentative Class Schedule

### Week 1

Thur 9/7 Introduction  
Syllabus Overview  
*Beowulf*, 36-43, 55-58, 88, 105-06

### Week 2

Thur 9/14 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

### Week 3

Thur 9/21 Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*  
Julian of Norwich's *A Book of Showings*, 290-94  
Margery Kempe's *The Book of Margery Kempe*, 294-98

### Week 4

Thur 9/28 Will Langland's *Piers Plowman*, Passus XVIII, (**Moodle**)  
Thomas Wyatt, 382-86,  
Thomas Surrey

### Week 5

Thur 10/5 Philip Sidney's *Astrophil and Stella*, 489-96  
William Shakespeare, 535-552 (excerpts)

### Week 6

Thur 10/12 Christopher Marlowe's *Dr. Faustus*

### Week 7

Thur 10/19 Elizabeth I, 392-99  
Edmund Spenser's, *The Faerie Queene*, 399-TBA  
William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*

### Week 8

Thur 10/26 William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, cont'd.  
Margaret Cavendish's, *The Blazing World*, 761-TBA

### Week 9

Thur 11/2 Jonathan Swift's "A Modest Proposal"  
Alexander Pope's "An Essay on Man"  
**Catch-up**

### Week 10

Thur 11/9 Aphra Behn's *Oronoko*  
William Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, 1451-53, 1456-71

### Week 11

Thur 11/16 William Wordsworth's "Lines", 1532-35, 1539-43  
Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, 1503-32 (excerpts)  
Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*

**Week 12**

Tues 11/21

Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, cont'd.

**Essay Due\***

Thur 11/23

**NO CLASS**

**Week 13**

Tues 11/28

Virginia Woolf, "Modern Fiction", 2503-05, 2510-15

James Joyce, *Ulysses* 2629-31, 2664-72

Thur 11/30

Samuel Beckett's, *Waiting for Godot*

**Week 14**

Tues 12/5

Samuel Beckett's, *Waiting for Godot*, cont'd.

Thur 12/7

Salman Rushdie's "The Prophet's Hair", 2922-33

**Week 15**

Thur 12/13

**Final Exam, 7-10pm**

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