English 261 surveys English literature from its beginnings through 1660, emphasizing the more influential prose and verse with close attention to theme, style, genre, and cultural backgrounds. Class discussion will afford students opportunity to test their readings of the texts considered with a minimum of risk. Exams and papers will demand expansion of those ideas into careful analysis using textual analysis.

You are required to come to campus for the midterm (Friday February 26 at 5:00 p.m.) and the final (Thursday May 13 at 5:00 p.m.). Please note their times and make plans to be present. If you have a conflict, contact me immediately. I can arrange make-up times if given advance notice. All tests must be taken with me; I do not authorize use of proctoring services under any circumstances.

This course fulfills a GER requirement for Humanities - Literature

Objectives: Each course within the literature requirement of the General Education Requirements in the Humanities will provide instruction and guidance that help students to: 1. Understand and engage in the human experience through the interpretation of literature (this objective must be the central focus of each literature course); and 2. Become aware of the act of interpretation itself as a critical form of knowing in the study of literature; and 3. Make scholarly arguments about literature using reasons and ways of supporting those reasons that are appropriate to the field of study.

By the end of this course, students will be able to 1) compose an essay explaining the significance and meaning of a work from the period, 2) identify and analyze predominant themes and styles within the works considered, 3) recognize quotations by work, author, and context, and 4) interpret those quotations in their own words.

READINGS: The classes on the DVDs meet twice per week. The biographical section for each author is also required reading.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>The Middle Ages: 1-14, &quot;Cædmon’s Hymn&quot; 23-26, Beowulf 29-100.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Chaucer: from The Canterbury Tales: “General Prologue” 216-238.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Chaucer: “The Miller’s Prologue and Tale” 239-255.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Morality Plays: Everyman 463-484.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>The Renaissance: Hoby (Baldassare Castiglione): 645-661.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>The Sonnet Sequence: Sidney: from Astrophil and Stella 1, 2, 5, 15, 31, 41, 49, 71, “Fourth Song,” 975-989;</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Sidney: from Defence of Poesie 953-961, 967-974.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Spenser: from Amoretti (all) 902-907.</td>
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19-20 Renaissance Drama: Christopher Marlowe: *Doctor Faustus* 1022-1055.
21-23 Shakespeare: *King Lear* 1139-1223.

**PAPER DRAFT DUE MONDAY, APRIL 5 (email submission is fine)**

26 From *Paradise Lost*: Book I, 1830-1840 (to line 375)

**PAPER (FINAL VERSION WITH MARKED DRAFT) DUE MONDAY, MAY 3**
**FINAL EXAMINATION THURSDAY, MAY 13, 5:00 PM**

**GRADING** (plus/minus grading will be used)
Midterm counts 30%, paper 30% and Final Exam 40%.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653. For more information on NC State’s policy on working with students with disabilities, please see [http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/offices/affirm_action/dss/](http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/offices/affirm_action/dss/) and [http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php).

**PAPERS**
Papers will be drawn from the sonnets covered in class. Papers on other topics and research papers will not be accepted. I am not interested in reading about what critics have said about a given text; I want to read how you understand the text. This will require a method to be demonstrated throughout the semester of (a) introducing your idea, (b) quoting a passage of the text which supports that idea, (c) explaining in detail what the quotation means, and then (d) logically connecting this meaning to your idea and the text as a whole. All papers should be typed according to MLA format and submitted on time. I will ask for a draft for your paper which I will mark carefully before returning to you for further editing. Then you will submit the previous version with my comments AND the final version for grading. Submitting your draft late will result in a letter grade penalty on the paper. Failure to submit a complete draft (with introduction, body, and conclusion) will result in a letter grade penalty. Papers are generally 4-6 pages. Additional detailed instructions will be given out regarding papers.

I am far more understanding of student difficulties when I receive advance notice. If you know you will miss a test or be late submitting a paper, your best bet is to leave me a message explaining why BEFORE the deadline. Make-ups are allowed only in case of verified excused absences, such as illness of the student, death of a family member, or University-sanctioned travel. Tests missed due to unexcused absences will receive zeros.

**CORRESPONDENCE**
I will frequently take advantage of the class emailing software provided through NCSU’s Wolfware. This means you must have the email address you typically use listed with the University, or you will miss vital correspondence regarding this class. If you fail to update your email address, then you willingly jeopardize your own grade and must accept whatever academic disadvantage comes from that.

As this is an English course, practice in writing is part of the class. I encourage you to send me emails regarding questions or any other matters pertaining to the class. However, if I receive an email from you that ignores the rules of Standard English (i.e., full of misspellings, capitalization errors, or mis-punctuation), I will simply send you
an email that says “Try again.” I will continue to ignore your message and reply with that phrase until your message
adheres (generally) to the rules of the language.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I take plagiarism and cheating seriously. Plagiarism is copying the language, phrasing, or specific ideas of
another and presenting any of these as your own work. The penalty for either violation is a failing grade and possibly
more severe punishment by University administrators. There are no collaborative assignments in this course. It is my
understanding and expectation that the student’s name on any test or assignment means that the student neither
gave nor received unauthorized aid.

You will be held accountable for violations of academic integrity. For more, see
http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php

Anytime you have questions about incorporating sources into your work, please ask me.