

ENGL 310: Literary History I

Professors Jonathan P. Lamb and Laura L. Mielke

MW 3-4:15 Wescoe 4076

Instructor contact information

- Lamb: jonathanplamb@ku.edu; Wescoe 3066; office hours: Tuesdays 1-3pm, Wednesdays 1:30-2:30pm, and by appointment
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Course Description & Learning Goals

In this course, we will explore **transatlantic writing in English** from its medieval origins to the end of the eighteenth century. We will pay particular **attention to the way “standard” narratives of literary history are troubled by questions of colonialism, race, gender, genre, religion, language, and economics**. When, for example, the poet John Donne addresses his mistress as “my America! My new-found-land,” an English colonial project underwrites his affection. And when Euro-American revolutionaries describe themselves as bondsmen to Britain, they elide the colonies’ dependence on enslaved African Americans. Course readings will feature a variety of genres from eight centuries of cross-continental writing in English. We will study the development and social power of important forms of imaginary writing, and students will think and write critically about the literary movements of the past as they persist in the present. Over the course of the semester, students will complete three papers or projects and two exams, as well as participate in daily discussion and in-class activities.

In this class you will...

- increase your understanding of literary history of writing in English up to the turn of the nineteenth century;
- critically examine and reassess longstanding narratives of literary history;
- cultivate your analytic reading, writing, and conversational skills;
- write thesis-driven interpretative arguments that draw on appropriate evidence and reasoning; and
- forge connections between past/other cultures and your own, and to respond in a thoughtful and sustained manner to those connections.

Required Textbooks*

Greenblatt, Stephen, general editor. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. 9th ed., vol. 1, Norton, 2012.

Baym, Nina, general editor. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. 8th ed., vol. A, Norton, 2012.

*Students *must* bring the pertinent textbook every class period.

Assignments and Grading

In this course we will be using the +/- grading scale, approved by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to describe intermediate levels of performance between a maximum of A and a minimum

of F. Intermediate grades represented by plus or minus shall be calculated as .3 units above or below the corresponding letter grade. More to the point, we will grade all work on a 0-100 scale and determine your final grade accordingly:

- Paper 1: 20%
- Paper 2: 20%
- Exam 1: 20%
- Exam 2: 20%
- Small-scale assignments: 20% total (25 pts each)

93-100 = A; 90-92 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-; 77-79 = C+; 73-76 = C; 70-72 = C-; 67-69 = D+; 63-66 = D; 60-62 = D-; 0-59 = F

Attendance policy: If you miss more than three classes **for whatever reason** (including sickness, a doctor's appointment, a funeral, a university sanctioned event, or just good old-fashioned skipping), your course grade will drop one level. For every successive absence, your grade will drop another level. If you are more than five minutes late for class, you will be counted late. Two such instances equals a full absence. Please note that we will enforce this absence policy!

Exams: The exams will include textual identifications, short-answer questions, and essays. Exam 2 will not be cumulative.

Small-scale assignments: Over the course of the semester, you will complete eight small-scale assignments to be turned in through Bb (with the exception of the recitation). These must be posted to Bb before the start of class on the due date. The recitation assignment will be due prior to Thanksgiving Break.

Paper assignments: For Paper 1, you will choose from several prompts, all of which involve close attention to one of the texts in the first three weeks of the semester. For Paper 2, you will construct an argument for adding a particular reading not covered in the course to a future syllabus.

Paper format: All writing assignments for this class must be formatted according to MLA style, including parenthetical citations, works cited page, and other formatting guidelines. Please follow the 8th edition of the MLA Handbook.

Late assignments: **Late small-scale assignments are not accepted, and there is no makeup of in-class work.** Papers should be turned in online via Blackboard before the deadline. If you turn in a paper on the due date but after the specified time, three points will be deducted. For every day a paper is late, ten points will be deducted. Papers submitted four or more days after the due date will receive a zero. If you have no internet access on the due date, you should plan to submit the paper earlier. If you need assistance submitting your paper on Blackboard, be sure to ask *before* the last minute. Please note as well that your paper will be run through SafeAssign, a digital plagiarism detection program that checks submitted work against webpages and databases of existing papers.

A note on grading: In this team-taught course, we will both read and assess all paper assignments and exams, and we will divide the grading of small-scale assignments. You are welcome to come to either of us with concerns (about grades and the course more generally).

University and Course Policies

Electronic Devices: Please turn off all electronic devices, including cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, and typewriters before class begins. Do not check for messages or respond to calls while in the class. Failure to comply with this policy will result in being counted absent for the day. **If you want to use an electronic device to take notes in class or to access the day's readings, please ask permission.**

Basic Needs Security: Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Office of Student Affairs (785-864-4060), who will direct you to where you can find help. Furthermore, please notify the professor(s) if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources to which they have access.

Prerequisites (from the University timetable): Admission to English courses numbered 300 and above is limited to students who have completed the KU Core Written Communication requirement. We highly recommend prior completion of one 200-level English course.

Enrollment (from the University timetable): Students may neither add nor change sections in any English course after **Friday, August 25** without departmental permission. For courses numbered above 200, instructor's permission is required to add or change sections. The last day to petition to add classes is **Monday, September 18**. The Department of English reserves the right to terminate administratively the enrollment of any student who misses two consecutive class meetings during the first two weeks of the semester. Should an emergency situation cause the student to miss two consecutive class meetings, the student should contact the instructor(s) or the English Department, 864-4520, immediately. Students who decide to drop English classes should do so promptly so that other students may enroll in the class. The last day to withdraw from classes under any circumstances is **Wednesday, November 15**.

Academic Misconduct: We want to read students' original engagement with the class material. Should we determine that a student has committed plagiarism on an assignment, cheated on coursework, or assisted others in committing plagiarism or cheating, we will contact the chair of the English Department and follow University Senate rules and regulations for academic misconduct. Specific examples of plagiarism, as established by the English Department, include: pasting together uncredited information or ideas from online or print sources, submitting an entire paper written by someone else, submitting a paper written for another class, and copying another student's work (even with the student's permission).

Accessibility: The Student Access Center (Academic Achievement and Access Center) coordinates accommodations and services for all KU students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted the AAAC, please do so as soon as possible. (22 Strong Hall; 785-864-4064; achieve@ku.edu; <http://access.ku.edu>) Please contact one of us privately in regard to your needs in this course.

Statement on Diversity and Inclusion: We affirm the university's official statement on diversity and inclusion: "the University of Kansas is committed to an open, diverse and inclusive learning and working environment that nurtures the growth and development of all. KU holds steadfast in the

belief that an array of values, interests, experiences, and intellectual and cultural viewpoints enrich learning and our workplace. The promotion of and support for a diverse and inclusive community of mutual respect require the engagement of the entire university.” We further emphasize that we take seriously the goal of fostering an open, diverse, and inclusive space in which we can all pursue free intellectual inquiry. We hope you will share with us any concerns about the way in which the course is proceeding.

Religious Observances: Please speak with one of us privately if scheduled class activities conflict with mandated religious observances, so that a make-up activity may be scheduled for you at a mutually acceptable time.

Sexual Assault and Harassment: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been assaulted or harassed, and you wish to speak in confidence to a trained counselor, contact the GaDuGi Safecenter at 785-843-8985 or <http://www.gadugisafecenter.org>. You may also wish to contact Lawrence Memorial Hospital Emergency Room at 785-505-6162. If you want to pursue disciplinary action or criminal charges against the perpetrator, you may contact the Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access at 785-864-6414 (instructions on how to file a complaint can be found here: <http://ioa.ku.edu/file-complaint>) and the KU Police at 785-832-7509) or the Lawrence Police Dept. at 785-822-7509.

On Guns: If you choose to carry a gun, you must abide strictly by KU requirements. For more information, see the KU implementation policy: <https://policy.ku.edu/provost/KU-L-Weapons-Implementation-Procedures>.

Reading and Assignment Schedule

Textbook designations: **NAE** = Norton Anthology of English Lit, Volume 1; **NAA** = Norton Anthology of American Lit, Volume A; **Bb** = Blackboard

Date	Topics	Readings (to do before class)	Assignments (due by the start of class)
8/21	Introductions; the boundaries of literary history	None	
8/23	Old English and untimely origins	<i>Beowulf</i> synopsis (Bb); <i>Beowulf</i> , lines 1-1798, trans. Heaney (NAE 36-80)	
8/28	Indigenous literacies and untimely origins	Stories of the Beginning of the World; Native American Trickster Tales (NAA 21-34; 100-20)	
8/30	Middle English	Chaucer, "General Prologue" (NAE 238-64) and "The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale" (NAE 282-310)	Pilgrim assignment
9/4	Labor Day - no class		
9/6	Medieval genders	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> synopsis (Bb), Fitt 1 (NAE 183-96), Fitt 3 (NAE 209-27); Kempe, <i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i> (NAE 424-38)	
9/11	Early encounter narratives of the Americas	Columbus; de Las Casas; Cabeza de Vaca; Cortés; Champlain; Juet; Heckewelder (NAA 34-71)	
9/13	Fashioning a Gentleman	Spenser, <i>The Faerie Queene</i> letter to Raleigh (NAE 777-80), Book 1 synopsis (Bb), Book 1, cantos 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11 (excerpted from NAE 775-934)	OED Assignment

9/18	Virginia and New England	Smith, from <i>General History, Description, and New England's Trials</i> (NAA 81-99); Bradford, from <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i> (NAA 121-56)	
9/20	Sonnet Day	Sonnets by Wyatt ("The long love," "My galley"), Surrey ("The soote season," "Love, that doth reign"), Spenser (34 & 79), Sidney (1, 9, 45, 71), Shakespeare (20, 29, 55, 116, 130), Donne (Holy Sonnet 10), and Milton ("How Soon Hath Time"), poems by Marlowe ("The Passionate Shepherd to His Love") and Jonson ("On My First Son"). (<i>found in</i> NAE 646-670; 985-989; 1084-1101, 1170-86; 1412; 1939; 1126; 1542)	
9/25	Exam 1		
9/27	Early Literary Theory	Sidney, <i>Defense of Poesy</i> (NAE 1044-1083); Francis Bacon, excerpts from <i>The Advancement of Learning</i> (NAE 1675-77)	Paper prep assignment
10/2	Lyric Poetry in Seventeenth-century England	Donne, "The Flea," "The Good Morrow," "The Sun Rising," "The Apparition," "A Valediction: Forbidding Morning"; Herbert, "The Altar," "Easter Wings," "The Collar," "Love (3)"; Katherine Philips, "Upon the Double Murder," "On the Death of My First and Dearest Child"; Marvell, "The Definition of Love," "The Mower to the Glowworms," "The Garden"; Cavendish, "The Poetess's Hasty Resolution"; Milton, "Lycidas" (<i>found in</i> NAE 1370-86; 1705-26; 1783-1806; 1884-86; 1917-23)	
10/4	All the Queen's Men	Queen Elizabeth selections (NAE 749-66); Herrick, "To the Virgins" (NAE 1762); Donne, "Elegy 19" (NAE 1393-4); Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress" (NAE 1796-1798)	
10/6 (Fri)			Paper 1 due at midnight
10/9	Tragic Sovereignty	Shakespeare, <i>King Lear</i> (NAE 1251-1339)	

10/11	Sovereign Tragedy	<i>King Lear</i>	<i>Lear</i> short writing assignment
10/16	Fall Break		
10/18	Seventeenth-century lyric poetry in New England	Bradstreet, "The Prologue," "In Honor of . . . Queen Elizabeth," "To Her Father," "The Flesh and the Spirit," "The Author to Her Book," "Before the Birth of One of Her Children," "To My Dear and Loving Husband," "Here Follows Some Verses" (<i>found in</i> NAA 207-33); Edward Taylor "Meditation 8," "Meditation 22," "Meditation 38," "Upon Wedlock," "Huswifery," "A Fig for Thee" (<i>found in</i> NAA 289-307)	
10/23	So Epic	Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Books 1 & 2 (NAE 1943-1986)	
10/25	Still Epic	<i>Paradise Lost</i> , Books 9 & 12 (NAE 2091-2116 & 2160-2175)	
10/30	Spiritual journeys	Bunyan, <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> (NAE 2269-78); Donne, "Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward" (NAE 1415-16); the Bible (NAE 671-76, 689-92, 1102-6, and Bb)	Biblical Translation assignment
11/1	Spiritual removes	Rowlandson, <i>A Narrative</i> (NAA 256-88)	
11/6	Exam 2		
11/8	An "American" "novel"?	Behn, <i>Oroonoko</i> (NAE 2313-58)	
11/13	Awakenings	Edwards, "Personal Narrative," "On Sarah Pierpont," "Sarah Edwards's Narrative" (NAA 396-416); Samson Occom, "Short Narrative" (full text on Bb); Mohegan Wood-splint basket and essay by Stephanie Fitzgerald (Bb)	Conversion assignment

11/15	Enlightenment lives	Franklin, <i>Autobiography</i> (NAA 455-57, 480-542)	
11/20	Middle Passage	Equiano, from <i>Interesting Narrative</i> (NAA 687-721)	
11/22	Thanksgiving Break		Recitation due before Thanksgiving
11/27	America!	Locke, from <i>Two Treatises on Government</i> (NAE 3014-3018); Burke, "Speech on the Conciliation" (NAE 3028-32); Paine, from <i>Common Sense</i> (NAA 6439-47); Jefferson, from <i>The Autobiography</i> and <i>Notes on the State of Virginia</i> (NAA 659-77)	
11/29	America!	Crèvecoeur, from <i>Letters from an American Farmer</i> (NAA 604-25); Red Jacket, "Reply" (NAA 450-53); Tecumseh, "Speech to the Osages" (NAA 453-55)	Paper prep assignment
12/4	Poetic Neoclassicism	Pope, TBD; Wheatley, poems and letters (NAA 762-774)	
12/6	Synthesis		
12/7 (Thu)			Paper 2 due at midnight