

Course number and section: ENGL 220.001

Course Name or Topic: Foundations: Literature in Historical Context 1

Credits: 3

Term: Winter T1, 2020 (Sept.-Dec., 2020)

Instructor: Dr. Robert Eggleston

Course Description:

This course examines selected examples of canonical English literature (prose, poetry, and drama) written from the middle ages through until the early eighteenth century. Students will study the primary texts in relation to their literary, cultural, and historical contexts to advance their knowledge of developments in literary form and style throughout the earlier historical literary periods.

Method of Course Delivery:

This course will run online with the exclusive use of self-guided (asynchronous) materials. For a fuller description of asynchronous and synchronous, see below.

Tentative Reading List:

“The Dream of the Rood” (ca. 8th century; poem)

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (ca. 14th century; poem; Arthurian romance)

Geoffrey Chaucer, from *The Canterbury Tales* (General Prologue, Knight’s Tale—poems)

16th-century poets (e.g. Thomas Wyatt, Elizabeth I, Edmund Spenser, Phillip Sydney, William Shakespeare)

17th-century poets (e.g. John Donne, Ben Jonson, Robert Herrick, Andrew Marvell)

John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (1667) [selections—epic poem]

Aphra Behn, *The Rover* (1677) [play]

Alexander Pope, *Essay on Criticism*, parts 1 & 2 (1711) [poem]

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*, Part 1 (1726) [prose narrative]

NB: Students must read introductory material on each assigned historical period, reading, and author.

Synchronous: Some or all of the scheduled class hours are spent in a real-time, online virtual classroom, with the instructor and registered students in attendance; these class hours may be devoted to lecture, discussion, group work, or other real-time virtual learning activities. Consult your instructor for specifics.

Asynchronous: Refers to course instruction delivered in the form of materials that can be accessed and worked through at the student’s own pace; these materials might include recorded lectures or power point demonstrations, required readings, etc. Consult your instructor for specifics.