

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**ENGLISH 2323: ENGLISH LITERATURE I**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** English Literature I surveys the literary, cultural, philosophical, religious, social, and economic dimensions of the Anglo-Saxon, Medieval, Renaissance and Seventeenth Century periods through a chronological study of the major authors and their writings.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS:**

Abrams, M. H., ed., *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* (Major Authors Edition), Norton.

Chaucer. *Canterbury Tales*, (Luminansky, Prose Translation), 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Trade Paperback, Prentice Hall.

Damrosch, *Longman Anthology of British Literature*, Paperback, (Volumes I-A and I-B), Addison.

Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest*. Paperback, Dover.

**UNIT OBJECTIVES:** Complete unit objectives will be distributed to students.

**UNITS OF STUDY:**

- Anglo-Saxon Period (450-1066)
- Medieval Period (1066-1485)
- Renaissance Period (1485-1616)
- Seventeenth Century (1616-1700)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Students will be required to earn a D average or better in the course based on a combination of any class assignments, class projects, and tests.

**PLAN OF EVALUATION:** Students must be evaluated by at least one major assessment tool, such as a research paper, test which includes essay questions, or unit project for each unit of study. Other assessment tools may be reading logs, oral presentations, homework assignments, or collaborative activities. Students will take a comprehensive final exam.

**DISTRICT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT GRADING SCALE:** Students in English courses will be graded according to the District English Department Grading Scale:

A	100 - 95
B	94 – 85
C	84 - 75
D	74 - 70
F	69 and below

**EXIT REQUIREMENTS:** At the conclusion of English Literature I, students must have demonstrated the ability to analyze, evaluate, and think critically about the material studied by successfully completing the course requirements.

**UNIT 1: ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD (450-1066)**  
**ENGLISH 2323: ENGLISH LITERATURE I**

**UNIT OBJECTIVE:** The student will explain the geographical, historical, and philosophical influences that shaped the literature of the Anglo-Saxon period and have an understanding of the major authors and their writings.

**PLAN OF EVALUATION:** The student will be evaluated by at least one major assessment tool.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

The student will

1. explain the development of the English language
2. analyze the historical background of the Anglo-Saxon period, which may include a discussion of the following:
  - warrior society
  - emphasis on community
  - societal structure
3. define “epic”
4. identify conventions of the epic as found in *Beowulf*
5. learn facts about the background of *Beowulf*
6. identify the juxtaposition of Christian and pagan elements in the poem
7. define and illustrate common characteristics of Old English poetry
8. cite references in *Beowulf* that reveal the character Beowulf as the ideal Anglo-Saxon warrior
9. read additional selections of Anglo-Saxon literature, which may include:
  - *Caedmon’s Hymn*
  - *The Dream of the Rood*
  - *The Wanderer*
  - various riddles

**UNIT 2: THE MIDDLE AGES (1066-1485)**  
**ENGLISH 2323: ENGLISH LITERATURE I**

**UNIT OBJECTIVE:** The student will be able to explain the geographical, historical, and philosophical influences that shaped the literature of the Middle Ages and have an understanding of the major authors and their writings.

**PLAN OF EVALUATION:** The student will be evaluated by at least one major assessment tool.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

The student will

1. explain the effects of the Norman Conquest on English language, literature, the societal structure, and the church
2. understand the role of the church in the development of medieval literature
3. explain the features of the medieval romance
4. list important facts about the time, life, and works of Geoffrey Chaucer
5. identify types of 14<sup>th</sup> century literature used in the *Canterbury Tales*
6. identify pilgrims described in the *Canterbury Tales* and group them into the major social classes of Chaucer's time
7. identify characters, plot, theme, and narrator of each assigned tale
8. explain the relationship in each tale to the social, religious, and/or historical life of 14<sup>th</sup> century England
9. read additional selections of Medieval literature, which may include:
  - *Everyman*
  - *The Second Shepherd's Play*
  - *Gawain and the Green Knight*
  - *Malory's Morte D'arthur*
  - various ballads

**UNIT 3: THE RENAISSANCE (1485-1616)**  
**ENGLISH 2323: ENGLISH LITERATURE I**

**UNIT OBJECTIVE:** The student will explain the geographical, historical, and philosophical influences that shaped the literature of the English Renaissance and have an understanding of the major authors and their writings.

**PLAN OF EVALUATION:** The student will be evaluated by at least one major assessment tool.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

The student will

1. define "Renaissance"
2. explain contributions of the Tudor monarchs
3. examine the philosophy of the Order of Being
4. define "Humanism"
5. list reasons for Henry VIII's establishment of the Anglican Church
6. list reasons for the rise of the middle class during the Renaissance
7. cite examples of a new spirit of English nationalism
8. explain the development of the English drama during the Renaissance
9. list key biographical facts about Shakespeare
10. read and study at least one Shakespearean play
11. define "sonnet"
12. read additional selections of Renaissance literature, which may include selections from the following authors:
  - Sir Thomas More
  - Edmund Spenser
  - Sir Walter Raleigh
  - Christopher Marlowe