

Mayville State University



ENGL 355: Survey of British Literature

Spring 2025
3 Credit Hours

Course and Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Matthew Berglund

Contact Information: CB 126, matthew.berglund.1@mayvillestate.edu, and 701.335.9582

Hours of Availability: TR 9:30-11AM; 2-4PM, or by appointment

Instruction Mode: online asynchronous

Time Zone: All times indicated throughout this syllabus reflect Central Time (CT).

Course Materials and Technologies

Required

Beowulf

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

The Canterbury Tales by Chaucer

Dr. Faustus by Marlowe

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

Microsoft Word, working laptop or desktop computer.

Course Description

Examines British literary works from Old English, Middle English, and Modern English periods. The course focuses on selected texts that are representative of significant literary periods, such as the renaissance, the enlightenment, the romantic era, the Victorian era, the modernist era, and the postmodernist era. Involves critical reading and writing.

Pre-requisites: ENGL 110; ENGL 120 or ENGL 125, or consent of the instructor.

Course Objectives

- To reach a broad understanding of the relationship of art and culture through a study of the intellectual, religious, political, literary, and moral climate of each time period and its representative literature
- To reach a specific understanding of representative literary works through careful reading and study of their particular histories and their thematic, aesthetic, and stylistic qualities

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- To reach a personal evaluation and interpretation through individual research, reflection, class discussion, and exposure to diverse literary sources/resources
- To identify the specific characteristics of literary works from each period
- To recognize the position an individual work occupies in the development of literature over time
- To articulate the changes in a literary genre over time

Standards Alignment (English Education Program Approval Standards-ND ESPB):

- 05020.1.1 Candidates are knowledgeable about texts—print and non-print texts, media texts, classic texts and contemporary texts, including young adult—that represent a range of world literatures, historical traditions, genres, and the experiences of different genders, ethnicities, and social classes; they are able to use literary theories to interpret and critique a range of texts.
- 05020.3.1 Candidates use their knowledge of theory, research, and practice in English Language Arts to plan standards-based, coherent and relevant learning experiences utilizing a range of different texts—across genres, periods, forms, authors, cultures, and various forms of media—and instructional strategies that are motivating and accessible to all students, including English language learners, students with special needs, students from diverse language and learning backgrounds, those designated as high achieving, and those at risk of failure.
- 05020.3.5: Candidates plan instruction that incorporates knowledge of language—structure, history, and conventions—to facilitate students’ comprehension and interpretation of print and non-print texts.

Course Expectations

Instructor/Student Communication

Students are accountable for all academic communications sent to their MSU email addresses.

I prefer that you contact me via email seven days a week from 7 am to 8 pm. I will get back to you within 24 hours with a response.

Assignments and Assessments

All assignments are found in Blackboard as are all the assessments. Timeliness of submission is paramount. Work will be docked if late or in the wrong format. All written submissions must be attached as a WORD.doc. Work submitted five days past the due date will be docked 10%: making an A grade impossible for this assignment.

If there are extenuating circumstances that might cause work to be submitted late, it is your responsibility to contact me (via email preferably) BEFORE the date due. We might be able to reach accommodation.

How to address your instructor

Given my rank at MSU and my degree, please call me either Berglund or Mr. Berglund.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading Policies

I strive to have all work graded and returned/posted to Blackboard within 1-week of the assignment being turned in.

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For all assignments, please submit your Word document into Blackboard and a hard copy during the class period immediately following the due date. I will provide feedback only on hard copies of assignments, but all grades will be posted on Blackboard and included on turned in assignments.

I will accept and grade all late assignments; however, as stated earlier, any major assignment turned in later than 5 days from the due date cannot receive an “Excellent or A” grade. Part of work being considered excellent is timeliness.

Attendance/Participation Policies

I take attendance every day we are in class. Also, we will be discussing readings and texts every week of class. Therefore, you will receive 100 points if you are in class and participate in the discussions. You will be given three excused absences before any points are taken from your participation/attendance grade.

I will take attendance every class period. Students who show up to class, pay attention, and turn in work are the ones that 100% will pass the course with a grade of C or better; those that fall behind in attending the lectures and class sessions are also the ones who inevitably fail the course from lack of assignments turned in and/or poor assignment submissions.

When it comes to needing an excuse from a specific class period. Please reach out to me, by email, before class. I do not require you to have a doctor’s note for you to be excused from my class; I simply require you to communicate with me.

Grading Scale

A – 100-90 B – 89-80 C – 79-70 D – 69-60 F – 59 and below

Breakdown of Grades

Activity	No. of Occurrences	Points Possible	Percentage of Total Grade
Participation	n	100	20%
Paper	3	300	20% (each)
Final Project	1	100	20%
Total Points Possible		500	100%

Enrollment Verification

On-Campus Course Statement

The U.S. Department of Education requires instructors to conduct an activity which will validate student enrollment in this course. Class attendance will be used to verify enrollment in on-campus courses. If you do not attend, your enrollment in this course will be at risk.

Proctor Notification

No proctors are required for this course.

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Important Student Information

In the Announcements section of the Blackboard Institution Page, you can view and download the Important Student Information document for the current academic year. It includes information about:

- ✓ Land Acknowledgement Statement
- ✓ Academic Grievance Concerns and Instructor English Proficiency
- ✓ NetTutor - Online Tutoring Program
- ✓ Starfish - Student Success System
- ✓ Students with Documented Disabilities
- ✓ Student Learning Outcomes / Essential Learning Outcomes
- ✓ Academic Honesty
- ✓ Emergency Notification
- ✓ Continuity of Academic Instruction for a Pandemic or Emergency
- ✓ Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)
- ✓ Diversity Statement (Title IX)

Course Timeline/Schedule

All Necessary assignment due dates can be found in the BlackBoard Shell on the Calendar and listed within each unit within the course. BlackBoard is the official schedule for the course: all necessary changes and updates will only be found and reflected in the course shell.

Course Timeline and Schedule are subject to change as deemed necessary by the instructor.

<i>Week 1</i>	<i>Introduction: Start Beowulf</i>	
<i>Week 2</i>	<i>Continue Beowulf</i>	
<i>Week 3</i>	<i>Finish Beowulf, Begin Gawain</i>	
<i>Week 4</i>	<i>Continue Gawain</i>	
<i>Week 5</i>	<i>Finish Gawain</i>	<i>Paper Due</i>
<i>Week 6</i>	<i>Begin Chaucer</i>	
<i>Week 7</i>	<i>Continue Chaucer</i>	
<i>Week 8</i>	<i>Continue Chaucer</i>	
<i>Week 9</i>	<i>Finish Chaucer</i>	<i>Paper Due</i>
<i>Week 10</i>	<i>Begin Dr. Faustus</i>	
<i>Week 11</i>	<i>Finish Dr. Faustus</i>	
<i>Week 12</i>	<i>Start Importance of Earnest</i>	
<i>Week 13</i>	<i>Finish Importance of Earnest</i>	<i>Paper Due</i>
<i>Week 14</i>	<i>Short Stories and Poems</i>	
<i>Week 15</i>	<i>Final Assignment</i>	
<i>Week 16</i>	<i>Final</i>	