

Lecture 1

January 21, 2020 3:52 PM

- 449 - 1066 Anglo-Saxon period
 - AD 449 Anglo-Saxons conquer the Celtic people
 - AD 1066 Norman's capture the Anglo-Saxons (Battle of Hastings)
- The earliest people were the Celts
- AD 410 Roman civilization falls

Lecture 2

January 23, 2020 12:59 PM

- 597 - St. Augustine (not the famous one) sent from Rome to the Anglo-Saxons (reintroduced Christianity)
- Anglo-Saxon Worldview
 - Code of Comitatus: a deep sense of loyalty
 - Agreement between lord and thanes
 - Warriors serve/ protect lord
 - Lord rewards warriors with land, etc.
 - Wyrd (fate): Mixture of pagan and Christian beliefs (syncretism)
 - Heroism: bravery, courage, super-human strength
 - Heroes sought both personal glory and tribal glory
 - Weregild: revenge (man price)
- Literary Characteristics
 - Nature's sterner moods
 - Harsh, cruel, violent culture with a strong sense of doom (fate)
- Beowulf - Epic
 - Greatest Anglo-Saxon poem
 - Oldest surviving Germanic epic
 - Major characters:
 - Danes
 - Hrothgar - king of Danes
 - Aeschere - killed by Grendel, Hrothgar's advisor
 - Geats (Swedish) (pronounced Ya-ats)
 - Beowulf - Great hero visiting Danes
 - Hygelac - King of Geats, Beowulf's uncle
 - Ecgtheow - Beowulf's father
 - Monsters
 - Grendel - a troll or demon
 - Grendel's Mother - swamp hag
- Epic
 - Long narrative poem
 - Great national hero (high station)
 - Lofty poetic language
 - Supernatural elements
 - Struggle of good and evil
 - Takes place over a long period of time
- Anglo-Saxon Poetic Devices
 - Kenning (Metaphor made from compound nouns: swan-road, ring-bestower, word-hoard)
 - "Whale road" = the ocean
 - "Battle sweat" = blood
 - "blood icicle" = sword
 - Alliteration: major poetic device rather than rhyme; repetition of the same sound
 - Litotes: using a negative to express a positive
 - He was not bad = he was good
 - You won't be sorry = you'll be glad
 - They slew not a few that day = they killed many
- ★ ➤ AD 1066 - Battle of Hastings

Lecture 3

January 23, 2020 2:11 PM

- 1066-1485 - The Medieval Period
- Medieval Worldview
 - Religious - catholic church dominated all aspects of life
 - Culture accepted authority of Christian worldview. (Moral absolutes)
 - Feudalism - lord/vassal: land for service; 2 social classes; Normans abolished slavery in England
 - Chivalry - code of conduct: strength, courage, loyalty; aid the lowly, reverence for women
- Medieval Characteristics
 - Ornateness
 - Lighthearted and merry
 - Sentiment: romantic love/elevation of women
 - Courtliness: chivalrous knight
 - Religious themes/morals sprinkled throughout
- ★ ➤ Geoffrey Chaucer (1343-1400)
 - "The Father of English literature"
 - Helped to make vernacular English acceptable (Middle English)
 - Middle English
 - Transitional language between Old English and Modern English
 - The Canterbury Tales: 1386-1400 (estates satire [criticism])
 - Framed Story - A story within a story
 - 32 pilgrims traveling to the shrine of Thomas Becket in Canterbury
 - Start at Tabard Inn, London
 - Each pilgrim was supposed to tell 4 tales (128 total)
 - Only 24 were written before Chaucer died
 - "The General Prologue"
 - What is Chaucer's attitude toward each pilgrim?
 - Knight: nobility/chivalry
 - Squire: knight's son/chivalry
- Sir Thomas Malory (1415-1471)
 - A knight and member of Parliament
 - Author of Le Morte d' Arthur [*The Death of Arthur*]
 - A collection of stories about King Arthur and his Knights
 - The first major prose work in English literature
 - Le Morte d' Arthur
 - Characters:
 - King Arthur
 - Bedivere
 - Nimue (Lady of the Lake)
 - Hermit (former Bishop)
 - Era: Medieval Era (Middle English Language)
 - King Arthur legends were written about by many different people; Malory collected and edited them

Lecture 4

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- British Renaissance (1485-1625): Golden Age of British Literature
 - 1485 - Henry VII crowned king
 - 1625 - Death of King James I
- Elizabethan Period (1558-1603)
- Brief overview
 - Modern English language solidifies
 - Henry VIII (1509-1547)
 - 1532 Broke with the Roman Catholic Church
 - Established Church of England (Anglican Church), beginning the English Reformation
 - Edward VI (1547-1553) (Anglican)
 - Mary I (1553-1558) (Catholic)
 - Persecution of Protestants
 - Foxe's Book of Martyrs
 - Encouraged Anti-Catholic sentiment
 - Elizabeth I (1558-1603) (Anglican)
 - Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson
 - Drama and poetry were very popular
 - James I (1603-1625) (Anglican)
 - Persecution of Separatists
 - 1620 - Plymouth Colony established in the New World
- Worldview
 - Renaissance = Rebirth
 - England experienced rebirth in politics, religion, philosophy, science
 - Humanism (Human Achievement)
 - "Man's place in God's world"
 - Scholars studied the ancients in light of God's Word.
- Literary Characteristics
 - Ornate, flowery language (artful, not vernacular)
 - Experimental in forms
 - Variety in content and genres
 - Patriotism (pro-Britain)
 - Didactic (to teach and delight)
- William Shakespeare (1564-1616): considered England's greatest author
 - Macbeth
 - Setting
 - 1040 - Scotland (Celts)
 - England (Anglo-Saxon)
 - Genre: Tragedy
 - Man of high station
 - Fall because of a tragic flaw (pride, ambition, etc.)
 - ◆ Macbeth's tragic flaw = pride
 - Themes
 - Appearance not what they seem
 - Blind ambition
 - Power corrupts
 - Superstition influencing behaviour
 - Consider as you read Macbeth

- What part do the weird sisters and Lady Macbeth have in the downfall of Macbeth
- What are the steps in Macbeth's downward progression?
- Plot
 - Act I: Planning Duncan's murder
 - ◆ Context: Scotland was attacked by Norway
 - ◇ Helped Scottish traitors (MacDonwald and Thane of Cawdor)
 - ◇ Macbeth good guy (for now)
 - ◆ The witches' prophecy. Macbeth tempted
 - ◆ Lady M. Plans murder M. Not so sure, until the end
 - Act II: Murder of Duncan
 - ◆ Macbeth Disturbed by prospect of murder (dagger soliloquy)
 - ◆ Consequences of the murder
 - ◇ No more sleep (guilty conscience)

Lecture 5

February 4, 2020 1:10 PM

- Soliloquy - 1 character speaks to audience alone
- Aside - 1 character speaks to audience with others on stage
- Iambic pentameter (5 stresses)
 - "So foul and fair a day I have not seen"
- Plot - continued
 - Act II: Murder of Duncan
 - Macbeth disturbed my prospect of murder (dagger soliloquy)
 - Consequences of the murder
 - No more sleep (guilty conscience)
 - Cant wash blood off.
 - Regret
 - Must cover up the sin (more murders)
 - Act III: Macbeth now king. Murder of Banquo
 - Banquo is suspicious
 - Macbeth's first act as king is to kill Banquo
 - (contrasted to good king Duncan)
 - Lady Macbeth experiencing consequences; reversal of roles
 - Macbeth's consequences
 - Doubt, fear, paranoia
 - Sees ghost (guilt)
 - Plans to seek the witches' counsel again
 - Hecate - Greek goddess of witchcraft
 - Act IV: Sets up Macbeth's fall. Macbeth orders the murder of Macduff's wife and children
 - Macbeth seeks the witches
 - "Beware Macduff."
 - "None of woman born shall harm Macbeth."
 - Macbeth cannot be vanquished until Great Birnham Wood moves up Dunsinane Hill.
 - 8 kings, last with glass (mirror) showing Banquo's line of kings, Banquo's ghost
 - Macbeth tries to kill Macduff, but only kills his family (big mistake)
 - Macduff is in England with Malcom
 - Contrasts Macbeth to King Edward
 - Act V: Macbeth's Downfall
 - Condition of Lady Macbeth and Macbeth
 - Sleepwalking, rubbing of hands
 - Tyrant, madness(?), loose clothing image
 - Waiting for battle
 - Macbeth trusts in the prophecies
 - Knows he's hated; seared conscience; shows little concern for Lady Macbeth; life meaningless

Lecture 6

February 6, 2020 1:06 PM

- British Puritan Age 1625-1660 (American Puritan Age begins in 1625)
 - "Purifying" the Anglican Church of Catholicism
- Puritan Age: Characteristics
 - Spirit of criticism: scientific discovery; analyze/classify everything
 - Truth: Established by God; man can analyze it and make it work for him
 - Sola Scriptura: Scripture alone is the Truth
 - People classified, analyzed, and systematized new things for the first time (this is the age of Sir Isaac Newton)
 - Literature: Deep spiritual/introspective truths explored through
- Puritan Age: Worldview
 - Language is used for instruction and learning
 - Intense focus on the moral nature of man
 - Overall purpose: to make people free (spiritual and political) and honest (personal morality)
 - Typology: The American Puritans saw themselves as the children of Israel inheriting the Promised Land
- Puritan Age: Poetic Groups
 - Two schools of poets:
 - Metaphysical Poets - deep spiritual ideas ("School of Donne")
 - John Donne 1572-1631 (wrote the Sonnets)
 - ◆ Leader of the Metaphysical Poets
 - ◆ Master of the Metaphysical Conceit (focus of the poem)
 - ◇ An elaborate comparison drawn from science, philosophy, the classics, or every day life
 - ◇ Original unusual comparisons), complex and witty
 - George Herbert 1593-1633
 - ◆ "The Pulley"
 - ◇ Metaphysical conceit
 - ◇ God poured out many blessings on man
 - ◇ He held back rest
 - ◇ Restlessness is what brings man to God (the pulley)
 - Cavalier Poets - nature romance ("Tribe of Ben")
 - Royalist supporters of King Charles I
 - Lyrical/pastoral (avoided sonnets)
 - Petrarchan conceits - exaggerated comparison by a person in love, uses symbolism
 - Even meter, witty, smooth, precise, idiomatic, light-hearted
 - Themes: war, loyalty to king, living the good life
 - Robert Herrick 1591-1674
 - ◆ Cavalier poet who supported King Charles II
 - ◆ "To the Virgins, To Make Much of Time"
 - ◇ Theme: Make the most of life
 - ◇ Ballad
 - ◇ Stanza 1: Enjoy life while you can
 - ◇ Stanza 2: Just as the sun rises and sets, so does our life
 - ◇ Stanza 3: Youth is the best time of life
 - ◇ Stanza 4: Don't be hesitant now; you may regret it later
 - Unaffiliated Poet - John Milton 1608-1674
 - Second best to Shakespeare
 - "How Soon Hath Time"
 - ◆ Theme: Evaluating Life
 - ◆ Personification
 - ◆ Octave: Question
 - ◇ I'm 23, and what have I done with my life?

- ◆ Sestet: Answer
 - ◇ It doesn't matter if I've done something great as long as I serve God
- "When I Consider How my Light Is Spent"
 - ◆ Theme: Overcoming Adversity
 - ◆ Octave: Problem
 - ◇ This hardship is keeping me from using my talent
 - ◆ Sestet: Solution
 - ◇ Relying and waiting on God is all that He expects

- ★ ➤ Sonnet - always have 14 lines; each line has 10 syllables (John Donne)
 - The first 8 lines are called the Octave
 - The last 6 lines are called the Sestet
 - The last line is the Volta (turn)
 - Italian Sonnets: abba abba
 - Holy Sonnets (Associate the first line with number)
 - Sonnet 10: "Death be not proud" - Donne
 - Theme: Facing death with confidence
 - Sonnet 14: "Batter My Heart" - Donne
 - Theme: surrendering to God complete control of the heart
 - Imagery: Battle terminology

Lecture 7

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- American Puritan Era (also called the Colonial Era) - 1625
 - Puritan Literary Characteristics
 - Nonfiction only
 - Didactic: to teach and delight
 - Political and religious instruction
 - American Puritan Worldview
 - Bible is man's guide for living
 - Providence of God
 - God's hand is involved in every part of life
 - Anne Bradstreet 1612-1672
 - First published poet and first female writer published in the North American British colonies
 - "The Author to Her Book"
 - Theme: How writers feel about their work (positives and negatives)
 - Never meant for her poetry to be published
 - Devices:
 - ◆ Extended metaphor (comparison to struggling child)
 - ◆ Puns: feet of poem/feet of child
 - ◆ Imagery: rags, limping
 - Jonathan Edwards
 - Most famous colonial preacher
 - One of America's greatest essayists
 - "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"
 - Wrote his sermons in the proper format of an essay
 - Theme: "There is nothing that keeps wicked men at any one moment out of hell, but the mere pleasure of God"
 - Vivid Imagery
 - "The wrath of God is like great waters that are damned for the present"
 - "The bow of God's anger is bent, and the arrow made ready on the string, and justice bends the arrow at your heart, and strains the bow"
 - "The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect, over the fire-"

Lecture 8

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- ★ ➤ 1700's Restoration and Neoclassic Eras (The end of the British restoration period was The French Revolution)
 - Stepping away from the Bible and stepping toward science
- Dominant Worldviews of the Age (Age of Reason)
 - Rejected Puritan spiritual fervor
 - Rationalism - human reason is the source of truth
 - Truth must be verifiable
 - Science - study of the physical features of the world
 - Opposing philosophies:
 - Deism: God is creator, but lets the world run itself through laws of science
 - Rejects theology (inerrancy of Bible) and miracles
 - Believes in impersonal, benevolent deity; natural goodness of man; environment as cause of evil
 - Morality is based on what's good for society as a whole
 - Traditionalism: continued to accept traditional source of authority (Bible)
 - Satire
 - The ridicule of human folly or vice through wit or humor with the purpose of correcting it
- ★ ○ Alexander Pope (1688-1744) - used the "Heroic Couplet" style
 - First became famous for translating Homer (*The Odyssey*, *The Iliad*)
 - Best known for his satire:
 - *The Rape of the Lock*
 - *Essay on Criticism*
 - *The Dunciad*
 - Emphasized reason, rational thinking, and striving to do the best work possible
 - An Essay on Criticism
 - Theme: Avoid extremes when criticizing
 - Written in Heroic Couplets - rhyming lines of iambic pentameter
 - Lines 1-21: Some focus too much on style/sound
 - Lines 22-47: Some focus too little on style/sound
 - Lines 48-57: Avoid extremes
 - ◆ "Fools admire, but men of sense approve." (Line 55)
- Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)
 - Greatest writer of the 18th century
 - Supporter of the Bible against deism
 - ★ ▪ His dictionary established his reputation and standardized spelling in England
 - Qualities of Good Literature:
 - Discretion
 - ◆ Is it appropriate?
 - Didactic
 - ◆ Does it teach?
 - Distinguish
 - ◆ What is good or bad in the work?
- Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784)
 - First African American poet published
 - Brought to America as a slave at 7 years old
 - She was set free in 1773
 - "On Being Brought from Africa to America"
 - Theme: Spiritual Freedom
 - How does she portray slavery?
 - Look for:

- ◆ Anti-Deistic ideas
- ◆ Personification (mercy)
- ◆ Symbolism (light vs. Dark)

Lecture 9

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- J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur (1735-1813)
 - A Frenchman who came to the New World in 1755
 - ★ ▪ He published Letters in 1782 in England, and it turned him into the first American author to be successful in Europe
 - Letters from an American Farmer
 - Theme: What/who is an American?
 - Important ideas discussed:
 - ◆ "American Dream" idea
 - ◆ "Noble Savage" idea
 - ★ ◆ Melting Pot metaphor
 - Important themes discussed:
 - ◆ Patriotism
 - ◆ Progress
- 1800's Romantic Era (Emotion/Fiction)
 - England (1798-1832)
 - ★ ▪ Began in 1798 - Lyrical Ballads was published by Wordsworth and Coleridge
 - Lyrical Ballads established a new type of poetry
 - Wordsworth - "For all good poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings:"
 - Romantic Era: ended in 1832 - Sir Walter Scott died
 - America (1820-1865)
 - Overall peaceful and prosperous
 - ★ ▪ "Golden Age of American Literature"
 - The American Renaissance
 - Era ends with Civil War in 1865
 - Characteristics of the Age and Literature
 - Love of nature
 - Emotional responses (opposite of Restoration/Neoclassic rationalism)
 - Imagination/Supernatural events/Mysterious fiction
 - Focus on the individual/common man (rustic, country life) rather than intellectuals
 - Major Worldviews
 - ★ ▪ Pantheism: worship of nature. Nature = God
 - The belief that God exists in everything. In Pantheism, the universe, Nature, and God are interchangeable terms.
 - ★ ▪ Primitivism: preference for uncivilized life. Country > City
 - City life leads to corruption
 - ★ ▪ In America: Transcendentalism - man can transcend his initial state and be like God
 - Man has the "spark of divinity" within him
- Comparing Two Eras
 - Restoration/Neoclassical
 - Reason/rational thought
 - Scientific method
 - Civilized, modern
 - Urban life
 - Poetic life
 - Poetic diction/elevated style
 - Deism
 - Romantic
 - Imagination (feeling)

- Philosophic idealism
- Simple, rustic
- Country life
- Common language
- Pantheism
- William Wordsworth (1770-1850) - Middle class
 - The Supreme Poet of Nature the Lead Romantic Poet
 - "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud"
 - Theme: Finding happiness in Nature
 - Vivid imagery
 - Narrator is not active
 - "Spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling"
 - "It is a Beauteous Evening"
 - Theme: Finding God in nature
 - An Italian (Petrarchan) Sonnet
 - ◆ Octave: How Wordsworth finds God
 - ◆ Sestet: How his daughter finds God
 - Conclusion? (there is no real conclusion)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)
 - "Work without Hope"
 - Theme: The necessity of hope
 - Unconventional Sonnet
 - ◆ First 12 lines: Show nature busy working
 - ◆ Final Couplet: Author does not work because he has no hope

Lecture 10

February 25, 2020 1:25 PM

- Kubla Kahn - is weird
- Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)
 - [it is] "Error to assert that the finest passages of poetry are produced by labor and study"
 - "Ode to the West Wind"
 - Form/structure:
 - ◆ Terza rima: ABA BCB CDC, etc.
 - ◇ This is a nod to Dante
 - ◆ Written in 5 verses where each verse has 14 lines: 5 cantos
 - ◆ Each canto is a modified English (Shakespearean) sonnet
 - ◇ A nod to Shakespeare
 - ★◆ Apostrophe: address an object or a person not present
 - It is a mystical incantation/evocation
 - Theme: Renewal through nature
 - Stanza 1: Effect of wind on seeds/leaves
 - Stanza 2: Effect of wind in the sky
 - Stanza 3: Effect of wind at sea
 - Stanza 4: Poet's desire to be driven by winds of inspiration
 - Stanza 5: Poet's prayer - spread his ideas by the power of the wind
- John Keats (1795-1821)
 - "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." - *Endymion*, Book I
 - "Ode on a Grecian Urn"
 - Theme: Finding Truth in Beauty
 - Stanza 1: Description of the urn
 - Stanza 2: Picture of a young couple
 - Stanza 3: Picture of tree
 - Stanza 4: Picture of religious scene
 - Stanza 5: Whatever is beautiful is truth

Lecture 11

February 27, 2020 1:07 PM

- American Romanticism
 - Nathaniel Hawthorne
 - "Young Goodman Brown"
 - Theme: Losing Faith
 - Setting: New England during Salem Witch Trials
 - Symbols:
 - ◆ Forest: sin/hidden sin
 - ◆ His wife: faith
 - Transcendentalism
 - ◆ Optimists
 - ◇ Emerson
 - ◇ Thoreau
 - ◇ Longfellow
 - ◆ Pessimists
 - ◇ Melville
 - ◇ Hawthorne
 - ◇ Poe
 - He questions everything he knows

Lecture 12 End of Midterm

March 3, 2020 1:57 PM

- Edgar Allan Poe
 - Father of the Detective Story
 - Pallas Athena = Wisdom, rational
 - Carnival = Mardi Gras
 - Motley = clown/jester = fool
 - "Cask of Amontillado"
 - Theme: Revenge
 - Setting: Italy
 - Irony
 - ◆ Fortunato = Lucky (he is actually unlucky)
 - First person narrator
- Transcendentalism: The Recurring Failure
 - Characteristics
 - Transcendentalism = major philosophy
 - Believed man is naturally good
 - Taught that divinity is achievable
 - Promoted the benefits of communing with nature
 - Focused on nonconformity and individuality
 - Worldviews
 - The individual: spark of divinity
 - Reason + Intuition = means truth
 - Nature = source of truth
 - Nature worship = divinity
 - Results of the Worldview
 - Rejects the Bible and Jesus Christ
 - Rejects the authority of organized religion
 - Rejects social norms of American culture
- ★ ▪ Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)
 - The main philosopher of Transcendentalism
 - His book Nature became the "bible" of transcendentalists
 - "Transparent eyeball" - he is one with nature and therefore part of god
- ★ ▪ Henry David Thoreau
 - Disciple of Emerson
 - The practitioner of Transcendentalism
 - Known for his book Walden
 - The Walden Experiment
 - ◆ Themes: Rejection of social norms/ nonconformity
 - ◆ Communion with nature
 - ◆ It covers his time of living at Walden Pond near Concord, Massachusetts
 - ◆ He built a cabin on property owned by Emerson

Lecture 21

March 24, 2020 10:14 AM

★➤ Victorian Era 1832-1901

- Fredrick Douglass (1818-1895)
 - Major abolitionist leader (against slavery)
 - Famous speaker
 - His narrative is incredibly important
 - *Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass*
 - Douglass's narrative is the best example of a slave narrative
 - ◆ The epitome of common characteristics and themes
 - Common Conventions of Slave Narratives
 - Usually begin with birth (but in vague terms)
 - Points out prominent events of the slave's life
 - Typically ends with journey to freedom
 - Common Slave Narrative Themes
 - Literacy: slaves saw this as the key to intellectual freedom
 - Freedom: physical freedom from slavery
 - Dehumanization: showed slave owners as cruel and inhuman
 - Separation of families: slave families were often split and sold to different owners across the country
 - Chapter 1
 - Begins with convention "I was born"
 - ◆ Shows lack of knowledge about lineage
 - Theme: separation of families (introduced)

Lecture 22

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- Chapter 2
 - Cruelty of slave owners shown
 - Slave spirituals and songs
 - False impression: slaves singing was evidence of happiness and content
 - Reality: They sang from a heart of sorrow
- Important names:
 - Mr. Gore - a brutal slave owner
 - Sophia Auld - slave owners wife
 - Extremely kind but was still evil
 - Captain Anthony
 - Master Thomas
- Chapter 4
 - More cruelty shown
 - Injustice shown toward the slaves
 - They were not looked at as people. They were property
- Chapter 6
 - The key to freedom: literacy
- Chapter 7-8
 - He shows how slavery brutalizes all involved
 - His thinking torments him
 - Slave valuation (dehumanization)
- Chapter 9
 - Master Thomas - bad man, terrible master
 - Shows more of his view of religion
 - His "Rebelliousness" gets him in trouble

Lecture 23

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- Chapter 10
 - Sent to work with Mr. Covey "the slave breaker" for a year
 - p. 39: first thoughts of freedom/escape (famous section)
 - Fight with Covey: turning point
 - Tries to escape
 - Gets sent to jail for a bit and then back to Baltimore to work at a shipyard
- Chapter 11
 - Finally: the moment of escape and freedom
 - No details about escape (to protect him)

★ ➤ Victorian Era 1832-1901

- 1832: Death of Sir Walter Scott
- 1851: Great Exhibition
- ★ ○ 1859: *Origin of Species* published
- 1870: Married Woman's Property Act
- 1901: End of Queen Victoria's reign (Queen Victoria's Death)
- Influences
 - Higher Criticism: Attacked authorship and accuracy of the Bible
 - Early influence of:
 - Darwinism
 - Marxism
- Worldview
 - Authors saw themselves as moral teachers
 - Great faith in the progress of mankind
 - Realism: truthfully depicting the problems and issues of daily life

Lecture 24

March 26, 2020 1:41 PM

➤ Alfred, Lord Tennyson

- Poet laureate for over forty years
- Most popular Victorian poet
- Shows faith in God and doubt due to evolution
- "The Lady of Shalott"
 - Genre: Literary ballad
 - Medieval setting (typical of Victorian Era)
 - Theme: Freedom comes at a cost
 - Topics:
 - Confinement
 - Truth vs beauty
 - Characteristic: romanticism vs realism
- "Ulysses"
 - Genre: Dramatic monologue
 - A character other than poet speaks in a specific situation at a crucial moment
 - Speaker addresses one or more persons
 - Purpose: to reveals speaker's character
 - Theme: moving forward with life
 - Victorian themes of usefulness and purpose

Lecture 25

March 31, 2020 11:43 AM

➤ Gerard Manley Hopkins

- Jesuit priest who wrote personal and spiritual poems
- Most innovative Victorian poet
- "Pied Beauty"
 - Style:
 - Experimental style/traditional content
 - Sprung rhythm (4 or 5 accented syllables per line)
 - Theme:
 - Thank God for unusual parts of His creation
 - While God's creation has variations, He never changes
- "Spring and Fall"
 - Questions and answers
 - Theme: Changing seasons of life
 - Look for:
 - Made up words/compound nouns
 - Alliteration
 - Symbolism

Lecture 26

April 6, 2020 10:43 AM

➤ Robert Browning

- Master of the Dramatic monologue
 - A character other than poet speaks in a specific situation at a critical moment
 - Speaker addresses one or more persons
 - Purpose: to reveal speaker's character
- Husband of Elizabeth Barrett Browning (p. 398)
- "My Last Duchess"
 - Themes:
 - Justifying control jealousy in a relationship
 - Arrogance vs simplicity
 - Genre: Dramatic Monologue
 - Setting: Italy
 - Duke has a portrait of his late wife
 - Characteristics of the Duke

★ ➤ American Realistic Era 1865-1900 "The Gilded Age"

- Background
 - Reconstruction after civil war
 - Political and financial scandals
 - Realism = literary response to Romanticism
- Characteristics
 - Definition: "Truthful treatment of subject matter." - William Dean Howells
 - Clear and direct language
 - Concerned with immediate and material
 - Known for the use of "local color"

Lecture 27

April 6, 2020 10:59 AM

- ★ ➤ American Realistic Era
 - Local Color Writing
 - Unique qualities of life in a particular Geographical setting (American regions)
 - Picturesque details: scenery, customs, dialects
 - Humor and dialect
 - Intends to make reader smile
 - Genres
 - Novels
 - Short stories
 - Essays
- Mark Twain
 - Birth name: Samuel Clemens
 - Humorist, novelist, essay writer, travel writer, critic, famous speaker
 - "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County"
 - Point of view: first person framed story
 - Genre: anecdote/ tall tale
 - Local color: dialect
 - Theme: none really (humor)
 - Minor lessons about being outwitted and the dangers of compulsive gambling
 - Eastern perspective vs western

Lecture 28

April 6, 2020 12:11 PM

➤ Kate Chopin

- Short story and novelist in Realist Era
- Forerunner of American Feminism
- "Story of an Hour"
 - Theme: Acquiring "freedom" from marriage
 - Example of compression and unified plot
 - This story is known for being influenced by feminism
 - Controversial historically (showing a female main character, "liberated" by the news of her husband's death)

➤ Stephen Crane

- A journalist, poet, short story, and novelist
- Major Naturalist writer
- "Bride Comes to Yellow Sky"
 - Theme: domesticity of the West
 - Setting: the conversion from the "Old West" to the "New West" = civilization
 - Homestead Act 1862: Anyone was given the chance to move West and claim property
 - The small scenario represents the change in society
 - Section 1: The train ride back to Yellow Sky. The married couple is described
 - Section 2: Town is described, and Scratchy Wilson is talked about
 - Section 3: Scratchy is seen. Very dramatic scene - he wants a fight
 - Section 4: The "big showdown" between Wilson and Potter. What has changed?

Lecture 29

April 9, 2020 1:03 PM

➤ Naturalism

- Subcategory of American Realism
- Stephen Crane/Hamlin Garland (among others)
- Extreme form of Realism but with Darwinism at its base
- They believed that man is a pitiful creature, driven by irrational instincts
- Worldview:
 - Determinism: Man's decisions and ultimate fate are determined by previously existing forces and events
 - Pessimistic point of view: They focused on problems of society and lack of hope in humanity
 - Authors offered no judgment regarding moral decisions

➤ Hamlin Garland

- Shows farm life as not ideal, unlike many other authors before him
- Known for combining local color with Impressionism
- "Under the Lion's Paw"
 - Theme: The trap of circumstances
 - Look for deterministic view of man and nature
 - Emphasizes drudgery of farm life
 - Impressionism: how is the author's perception of reality seen?

Lecture 31

April 22, 2020 11:35 AM

★ ➤ Twentieth Century British and American Literature

- Modernism (1914-1945)
- Contemporary (1945-present)
 - Include postmodernism (1960s and on)
- Background
 - 19th Amendment: women allowed to vote
 - World War I
 - Stock market crash: economic depression/Great Depression
 - Growth of socialism/communism
 - World War II
- Worldview Distinction
 - Before WWI, man has faith in society and in art.
 - Secularism
 - Writers generally use traditional forms
 - After WWI, man loses faith in society, but has faith in art (able to portray disintegration of society).
 - Modernism
 - Writers use highly experimental forms
 - After WWII, man has no faith in society or in art.
 - Existentialism
 - Leads to postmodernism
- Twentieth century Modernism: Definition
 - The overall term for the first half of the century
 - Rejection of Victorian and Realistic methods and ideologies
 - Emphasis on industrial-era social and political issues
- Background 2
 - Darwinism - biologic determinism
 - Marxism - political/economic determinism
 - Freudianism - psychological determinism
- Worldviews 2
 - Secularism: Unaware of Christian truths
 - Existentialism: Man/world has no inherent meaning (people must create their own meaning)
 - Nihilism: No value/meaning to life at all, resulting in extreme skepticism
 - Pluralism: Inclusion of multiple viewpoints: no absolutes
- Modernist Literary Characteristics
 - Highly experimental
 - Rejected traditional literary styles
 - Free forms
 - Lack of true meaning (open-ended stories)
 - Cynical and pessimistic
- Modernist Themes
 - Alienation of "Modern" man
 - Disintegration of civilization
 - Moral relativism
 - Moral looseness
- Modernist Terms and Movements (preview)

Lecture 32

April 22, 2020 12:05 PM

➤ Joseph Conrad (1857-1924)

- Early British Modern Era novelist
- Known for showing characters who show dangers of skepticism and corruption
- "An Outpost of Progress"
 - Setting: African jungle
 - Characters:
 - Kayerts and Carrier: White men newly assigned to work at a trading post
 - Makola: African man who is their bookkeeper - he is also in charge of
 - Themes:
 - *The destructive results of colonization and imperialism
 - Progress and society
 - Paranoia and greed
 - Things to observe:
 - *What is Conrad's view of Western civilization
 - What kind of society in the African?
 - Consider the title (irony)

Lecture 33

April 22, 2020 12:41 PM

➤ Paul Laurence Dunbar

- The child of former slaves, slaves he was raised in Dayton, Ohio
- First modern black poet to use black dialect and to achieve popularity among black and white audiences
- "We Wear the Mask"
 - Theme: What society sees vs what we hide
 - Poem type: Rondeau (15 lines, 3 stanzas with refrain)
 - Topics covered: Alienation, hypocrisy, and deception
 - Universal poem for 2 reasons:
 - Shows what black Americans went through
 - Shows what all people experience while hiding pain

➤ Edwin Arlington Robinson

- Known for "portrait" poems
- Invented the fictional town "Tilbury Town"
- His characters are desolate, lonely, disillusioned, materialistic, and failures
- "Richard Cory"
 - Theme: Happiness: perception vs reality
 - Traditional verse forms with untraditional subject matter
 - Look for puns, symbolism, and imagery

Lecture 34

April 22, 2020 1:14 PM

➤ Willa Cather

- Her early career was influenced by Naturalism (Determinism), which she rejected later on.
- She described her style as, "Suggestion rather than enumeration"
- "Paul's Case"
 - Setting: Pittsburgh/New York City, early 1900s
 - Symbols:
 - Red carnation
 - Cordelia Street (his home)
 - Trains
 - Theme: fate is determined by heredity and environment (determinism - late naturalist ideas)
 - Romance vs reality (view of art)
 - Money: earned or entitled

➤ D. H. Lawrence

- English author known for controversial novels that challenged moral traditions
- "Odour of Chrysanthemums"
 - Theme: the ability of traumatic events to put things into perspective
 - The finality of death
 - The reality of broken homes (Modernist theme)
 - Look for:
 - Foreshadowing
 - Time used as a device for adding intensity
 - Meaning of the chrysanthemums (symbol for marriage)

Lecture 35

April 28, 2020 2:08 PM

➤ Free Verse and Open Form

- "Verse with no consistent metrical pattern" (334)
- Line length is a subjective decision made by the poet
- Made popular by Walt Whitman's 1855 Leaves of Grass
- Key ideas:
 - Stanza
 - Refrain
 - Open form

➤ Robert Frost

- He is considered to be one of the greatest American poets of the century
- "After Apple-Picking"
 - Themes: Hard work brings exhaustion
 - Reality vs dreaming
 - Discontentment
 - Great imagery, metaphors, hyperboles, allusions
- "The Road not Taken"
 - Theme: Choices, consequences, and regret
 - His most famous poem
 - Intentionally ambiguous wording
 - Existential undertones
 - Last stanza: did he chose the correct path?

Lecture 36

April 28, 2020 3:35 PM

➤ James Joyce

- Greatest Irish Modern Era novelist
- Known for "stream of consciousness" style
- "Araby"
 - Theme: Failed expectations
 - Symbol: the bazaar
 - What does the young boy look to give his life meaning?
 - Nameless characters
 - Epiphany: No matter what he does, he always experiences disappointment

Lecture 37

April 28, 2020 3:54 PM

➤ Wilfred Owen

- Fought in WWI but died just before the end
- His works were collected and published by a friend after he died
- "Dulce et Decorum Est"
 - Theme: Realities of war
 - Shows a first-person perspective of the destruction of war
 - Imagery of poison gas
 - World War I marked a turning point
 - Major device: irony

➤ T. S. Eliot

- He was a major figure in Modernist poetry movement
- His poetry is known more for its use of language and imagery rather than meaning
- "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
 - Modern dramatic monologue
 - Written in the stream of consciousness style and seems to be the irregular musings of the narrator
 - Themes:
 - Man's inability to live a meaningful existence in the modern world
 - Poking fun (Satire) at inability and spinelessness

Lecture 38

April 28, 2020 4:10 PM

➤ The Harlem Renaissance

- History:
 - Result of the Great Migration
 - From 1920s-mid 1930s, Harlem (New York) became one of the largest Black communities in the world
 - It created an explosion of black art and literature (poetry being the center)
- Themes:
 - Black culture (dialect, tone, interests)
 - Shift from focus on slavery to more modern problems and issues

➤ Langston Hughes

- Primary Harlem Renaissance poet
- "Theme for English B"
 - Theme: Understanding other perspectives
 - Uses the sometimes formal style of a school assignment for effect
 - Narrator: a fictional/representative college student

Lecture 39

April 30, 2020 12:11 PM

➤ William Faulkner

- American Southern Gothic style
- Major modernist novel writer (stream of consciousness also)
- "A Rose for Emily"
 - Theme: Decline of the Old South (Emily's aristocratic family and those like it are dying out)
 - Also:
 - Dealing with loss
 - Community vs isolation
 - First person collective

Lecture 40

April 30, 2020 5:00 PM

➤ Shirley Jackson

- Novelist and short story writer from California Vermont
- Known mostly for humoristic stories but was launched into the spotlight with "The Lottery"
- "The Lottery"
 - Theme: Questioning those who blindly follow traditions
 - Contradiction: barbaric ritual vs very quaint/down-to-earth little village
 - Foreshadowing, irony, opposing beliefs
 - Application: when is it good for us to question tradition?

Lecture 41

April 30, 2020 5:06 PM

➤ Billy Collins

- Poet Laureate of the United States from 2001 to 2003
- One of America's most loved contemporary poets
- "The Lanyard"
 - Theme: Repaying sacrificial love
 - Shift: Begins with busyness of life - moves into the past - ends with realization
 - Tone/Voice: His mother (assertive and direct) vs child (excited and short-sighted)

➤ Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

- "The Black Walnut Tree"
 - Theme: The importance of preserving a family legacy
 - The tree: symbol for family (family tree: roots (history))
 - The decision (keeping the tree): metaphor for preserving the past