

English 255: English Literature--Beginnings Through the Renaissance

Dr. Gretchen Schulz

Office: 103 Humanities Hall

Office Hours: 2:00-4:30 M, Tu, W and by appointment

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Texts:

Beowulf, trans. by Burton Raffel

The Norton Anthology of English Literature, vol.1, 6th ed.

The Canterbury Tales, trans. by David Wright

Malory: The Morte Darthur, ed. by D. S. Brewer

Class Schedule:

Jan 18 introduction to the course

Jan 23 Old English poetry

Jan 25 Beowulf

Jan 30 Beowulf

Feb 01 Beowulf/Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Feb 06 Sir Gawain

Feb 08 Sir Gawain; possible essay 1 due (B and/or SirG)

Feb 13 Canterbury Tales

Feb 15 Canterbury Tales; possible essay 1 due (B and/or SirG or CT)

Feb 20 Canterbury Tales

Feb 22 Canterbury Tales

Feb 27 Canterbury Tales; possible essay 2 due (SirG or CT)

Mar 01 Morte Darthur

Mar 06 Morte Darthur

Mar 08 medieval poetry; possible essay 2 due (CT or MD)

SPRING BREAK

Mar 20 medieval poetry

Mar 22 medieval drama

Mar 27 Doctor Faustus

Mar 29 Faustus; possible essay 3 due (MD or medieval poetry or drama or Dr.F)

Apr 03 Henry the Fourth, Part One

Apr 05 Henry

Apr 06 possible essay 3 due (medieval drama or Dr.F and/or 1HIV)

Apr 10 another Renaissance drama

Apr 12 another Renaissance drama

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Apr 17 16th century poetry  
Apr 19 17th century poetry; possible essay 4 due (1HIV or another drama)  
  
Apr 24 17th century poetry  
Apr 26 Paradise Lost  
  
May 01 last class; Paradise Lost; possible essay 4 due (poetry or PL)  
  
May 02 reading day; due date for make-up essay (5:00 p.m.)  
  
May 03 final exam, Thursday, 2:00-5:00

#### Policy on Attendance:

You may have two absences with no penalty (though you will be considered responsible for work done or due in class on any day you miss for any reason and responsible for informing yourself about any assignments or announcements made on days which you miss). If unexcused, absences three and four will count 1 1/2 each off your final grade in the course. If unexcused, absences five and six will count 2 1/2 each off. Further absences will count 4 points off each. Only significant illness, major emergency, or required religious observance will excuse an absence. You should inform me about the latter ahead of time.

#### Policy on Late Work:

Only significant illness or major emergency will excuse late written work. Work whose lateness is unexcused will lose one letter grade for each calendar day it is late. After four days, unexcused late work will not be accepted at all and will receive a zero. And note that such a zero may not be made up with a make-up essay.

Reading quizzes missed because of unexcused absences may not be made up and will receive a zero. If missed because of an excused absence, a quiz may be made up.

#### Determination of Final Grade:

You will be graded (in part) on four essays (of a minimum of 1000 words each). You must submit two of these essays before spring break (one from the "essay 1" group and one from the "essay 2" group), and two after (one from the "essay 3" group and one from the "essay 4" group). You will see the possible topics and due dates for these essays on the syllabus. Each of these essays will be worth 16% of your grade in the course.

Should you be dissatisfied with your performance on any one of these essays, you may submit a fifth essay, a make-up essay, on a work you have not already dealt with, on reading day at the end of the semester, May 2, by 5:00 p.m.

The course will conclude with a final exam which will be worth another 16% of your grade.

Another 4% of your grade will be an average of the grades you receive on the reading quizzes and recitations we will have often throughout the semester (all announced ahead of time).

A final 16% of your grade will be based on the frequency and quality of your on-going class participation-- in the form of both contributions to in-class discussions and contributions to on-line discussions in the Learnlink conference for the 255 class. See the relevant handout sheet for further information about this conference.

There will also be occasional opportunities for you to earn some extra credit by seeing productions (video, film, live) related somehow to course content. For example, you will have a chance to attend live productions of a couple of Shakespeare plays at the Shakespeare Tavern in Atlanta. You may earn up to 2 points of extra credit in this way, 1/2 point for each production (of whatever sort) seen. Just keep track of what you see and report it to me at the end of the semester.

Note that throughout the semester and at the end I will be assigning grades based on the plus/minus grading system.

Note, too, that the Honor Code will apply to every assignment in this class. Your name on any piece of work will constitute acknowledgement that you have done that work in accordance with the dictates of the Honor Code.