

Summer 6-15-2006

# ENG 4950-001: Literary History and Bibliography

F McCormick  
*Eastern Illinois University*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english\\_syllabi\\_summer2006](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_summer2006)



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

McCormick, F, "ENG 4950-001: Literary History and Bibliography" (2006). *Summer 2006*. 9.  
[http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english\\_syllabi\\_summer2006/9](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_summer2006/9)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2006 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Summer 2006 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact [tabruns@eiu.edu](mailto:tabruns@eiu.edu).

English 4950/Summer 2006  
LITERARY HISTORY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Instructor: Dr. McCormick  
Office: CH 3050  
Phone: 581-6121/345-9773  
E-Mail: fgmccormick@eu.edu  
Office Hours: MTWRF 12:20-2:00  
(and by appointment)

Required Texts:

1. Abrams, Norton Anthology of English Lit., 1 & 2
2. Perkins, American Trad. in Literature, 1 & 2
3. Holman, Handbook
4. MLA Handbook

**SUPPLEMENTARY PURCHASE:** Spiral notebook (for this course only; to be used as journal -- see **JOURNAL** handout)

THREE PRELIMINARY REMARKS

- A. I welcome your questions about any of our assignments for this course. Ask and I'll be happy to clarify.
- B. Abrams and Perkins (texts #1 and #2 above right) will be our primary texts. Regard Holman's Handbook (#3) as a tool for reviewing and consolidating materials presented in lectures and assigned readings.
- C. If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

NATURE OF THE COURSE

English 4950 has a dual purpose: to help advanced (and graduate) English majors develop a coherent picture of the history of English and American literature, and to introduce them to some of the basic tools and methods of literary research.

HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED

You will be expected to attend class regularly, to perform reading and writing assignments diligently and promptly, and to contribute to class discussion. Your grade for the course will be determined by your performance on the following tasks:

1. 25% A 750-1500 word library paper, due before mid term. (See THEME REQUIREMENTS handout for specifications.)
2. 25% Mid-Term Exam
3. 25% Journal. (See JOURNAL handout for details.)
4. 25% A 1500-2000 word synthesis of course materials, due at the end of the semester. (See THEME REQUIREMENTS handout.)

### HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED (continued)

I will assign the following values to the grades you receive on the five projects described above:

A+ = 4.2	B+ = 3.2	C+ = 2.2	D+ = 1.2	F = 0.0
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	Missing = -1.0
A- = 3.8	B- = 2.8	C- = 1.8	D- = 0.8	

I will use the following cutoff points in determining final grades:

A = 4.2 to 3.8	B = 3.7 to 2.8	C = 2.7 to 1.8
D = 1.7 to 0.8		

But note the following incentive to attend class faithfully:

If at the end of the semester your average falls 1 to 2 decimal points below the cutoff for the next higher grade category, I will assign you the higher grade if you have had **no more than 3 unexcused absences**. For example, if your average were 2.6 or 2.7 (i.e., 1 or 2 points below the cutoff for a B), you would receive a final grade of B if you had had no more than 3 unexcused absences. If you had 4 or more unexcused absences, your average of 2.6 or 2.7 would earn a final grade of C.

### ATTENDANCE

I will expect you to attend this class regularly. If an emergency arises which prevents your attending one of our sessions, please call me promptly to explain.

### LATE AND MISSED WORK

Papers are due at the beginning of the class period on the dates indicated by an asterisk (\*) on your syllabus. Late papers will be penalized one-half letter grade for each class day they are late. **TWO EXAMPLES:**

- (1) If your paper were due on **MONDAY** and you submitted it on **TUESDAY**, your grade would be penalized by a half letter: e.g., the grade of a "C" paper would be lowered to a C-;
- (2) if your paper were due on **MONDAY** and you submitted it on **WEDNESDAY**, the grade would be lowered by two half letters; e.g., the grade of a "C" paper would be lowered to a D+. Papers that have still not been submitted two weeks after the due date will be regarded as "missing" and will receive a -1. They may not be made up.

### OPTIONAL REVISION

Any of you who wish to do so may elect to revise your 750-1500 word library paper in hopes of raising the grade for the paper by a maximum of one letter. One exception: a paper whose grade I have penalized for plagiarism (see below) may not be revised and resubmitted. Optional revisions are due no later than the final class meeting of the semester.

### PLAGIARISM

Note the English Department's statement concerning plagiarism:

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--"the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)--has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including assignment of a grade of F for the course.

SYLLABUS

NOTE: Asterisks in the left-hand margins of the following pages indicate important due dates--for papers, journals, and exams.

JUNE 12 Introduction to the course. CRAVN ReNeoRomVic (see explanation below.)

CRAVN:

C[elts] -- native inhabitants of England

R[omans] -- occupy England, 55 B.C-450 A.D.

A[nglo-Saxons] -- Danes invade England c. 500 A.D.: OLD ENGLISH LITERATURE

V[ikings] -- More Danes invade England c. 856-870 A.D.

N[ormans] -- French defeat Anglo-Saxon king in 1066: MIDDLE ENGLISH LITERATURE

RenNeoRomVic:

Re[naissance] -- c. 1500-1660: Humanism & Reformation

Neo[classical] -- 1660-1798 [Restoration & 18th century]: Neoclassical

Rom[antic] -- 1798-1832

Vic[torian] -- 1832-1901: roughly the lifetime of Queen Victoria

The first period of English literature we will study in this course is MEDIEVAL LITERATURE.

The MEDIEVAL PERIOD in European history is the period which begins after the fall of the Roman Empire (c. 500 A.D.) and ends with the advent of the Renaissance. England's medieval literature is divided into two historical periods: (1) Old English (Anglo-Saxon period; e.g., Beowulf); (2) Middle English (Norman [French] period; e.g., Chaucer)

The second period of English literature we will study is the RENAISSANCE:

HARBINGERS OF RENAISSANCE:

1450 -- invention of printing press;

1453 -- fall of Greek city of Constantinople -- Turks force Greek scholars to flee with ancient "humanist" Greek manuscripts to ITALY, birthplace of the Renaissance;

PIVOTAL EVENTS OF RENAISSANCE:

1492 -- Columbus "discovers" New World;

1517 -- 1517 (German monk Martin Luther attempts to reform the Roman Catholic Church; after he is excommunicated he establishes (in Germany) the first "Protestant" church -- the Lutheran Church.

JUNE 13 **MEDIEVAL LITERATURE: Old English Period (500-1100)**

**READING ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Study the following handouts: (a) "**ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND**" & (b) **JOURNAL: ENG 4950.**
2. Abrams, Vol. 1, pp. 1-4 ("Introduction" to Old English period).
3. Abrams, 21-23 & 33-37 (Beowulf, introduction and excerpt).

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

Remember to bring to class a spiral notebook in which you have written a journal entry of no fewer than **250 words** in response to the readings listed below. And please remind me today to give you a handout entitled "**MEDIEVAL ENGLAND FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST TO 1500.**"

JUNE 14 **MEDIEVAL LITERATURE: Middle English Period (1100-1500).**

**READING ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Abrams, 5-11 ("Introduction" to Middle English Period.)
2. Abrams, 363-384 (Everyman).
3. Handout: "**MEDIEVAL ENGLAND FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST TO 1500.**"

**JOURNAL ENTRY:** Don't forget to prepare -- and bring to class -- a journal entry responding to today's assigned reading. See your **JOURNAL** handout for suggestions. Remember that the minimum requirement for your entry is 250 words. The best journals will routinely exceed the minimum requirement.

JUNE 15 **Middle English Period: Romance & Ballad**

**JOURNAL ENTRY:** Before this and **EVERY** class session for which we have a reading assignment, remember to prepare a journal entry before you come to class. Bring your journal to every class.

**READING ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Abrams, excerpts from Sir Gawain and the Green Knight:
  - a. 205-212 (to Part 2): Green Knight interrupts Christmas feast; Sir Gawain humbly accepts challenge;
  - b. 214-215: Sir Gawain gets dressed;
  - c. 227-228: Sir Gawain declines sexual overture.
2. Abrams, 384-386 (Popular Ballads)
3. Abrams, 389 ("Lord Randall") & 392 ("Three Ravens").
4. Handout: "**THEME REQUIREMENTS.**" Bring your questions concerning "THEME 1" to class. Today we will do some preliminary brainstorming for theme topics.

Remind me today to distribute handouts entitled "**SHORT HISTORY OF PAPER AND PRINTING**" & **REFORMATION AND HUMANISM.**"

JUNE 16

**RENAISSANCE** (1500-1660)**RENAISSANCE TOPICS** to be covered in today's readings:

1. Advent of Printing Press
2. Humanism (study of Greek texts and ideas)
3. Reformation (Martin Luther's attempted reformation of -- and eventual break with -- the Catholic Church).
4. Renaissance Drama: Dr. Faustus

**READING ASSIGNMENT:** This is a long and demanding set of reading tasks.

Start early -- and remember to prepare a journal entry to bring to class:

1. Handouts: "SHORT HISTORY OF PAPER AND PRINTING," "BACKGROUNDS TO RENAISSANCE . . . (KABOOM)," and "REFORMATION AND HUMANISM."
2. Abrams, 395-400 ("Introduction")
3. Abrams, 968-969 ("Kinds of Prose and Poetry")
4. Abrams, 971-973 ("Translating the Bible")
5. Abrams, 748-749 (to mid page; Christopher Marlowe)
- \* 6. Abrams, 768-787 (Marlowe's Dr. Faustus, to Chorus 2).

JUNE 19

**READING ASSIGNMENT:** Abrams, 787-801 (Dr. Faustus, to end).**REMINDE ME** to distribute "QUICK INTRODUCTION TO SOME RESEARCH TOOLS."

JUNE 20

**IMPORTANT:** Today's class will meet at **BOOTH LIBRARY**. Meet me at Booth's **SOUTH ENTRANCE** (on the Coleman Hall side) at 11:00 sharp. A librarian will conduct us to our library meeting room.**READING ASSIGNMENT:** Carefully review pp. 2-4 of your "**THEME REQUIREMENTS**" handout.

1. **HOW TO PREPARE FOR TODAY'S CLASS:** Before our meeting at Booth Library today, spend at least **TWO HOURS** in the Library's Reference area (at the north end of the main floor (3000 level). Familiarize yourself with the reference books and computer databases listed in your handout entitled "QUICK INTRODUCTION TO SOME LIBRARY REFERENCE TOOLS."
2. For your journal entry, record your experiences inspecting several of these reference books/databases and make a list of questions you have concerning how to use any of the books or databases which confuse you. I'll be tremendously impressed with those of you who include (in your journal entry) some specific discussion of how you might use one or more of these resources to gather information pertinent to a paper you plan to write in this or another of your English courses.

**REMINDE ME today** to distribute handouts entitled "**FIGURES OF REPETITION**" and "**ELIZABETHAN CRITICAL THEORY**."

JUNE 21 RENAISSANCE: Sixteenth-Century Poetry

**READING ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Abrams, 404-409 ("Art and Nature," "Poetic Conventions").
2. Abrams, 820 (Shakespeare, Sonnet #129).
3. Handouts:
  - a. "FIGURES OF REPETITION"
  - B. "ELIZABETHAN CRITICAL THEORY."

**JOURNAL:** For a portion of your journal entry, make a list of as many connections as you can discover between Shakespeare's Sonnet #129 and the material in the two handouts.

**ADDITIONAL PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S CLASS:**

Spend at least **one hour** brainstorming to discover potential topics for **THEME 1**. Do at least 150 words of written brainstorming in your journal before today's class.

**WHAT YOU WILL REMIND ME TO DO TODAY IN CLASS:**

Remind me to have each of you sign up for a conference at which you will discuss your tentative plans for THEME 1 with me. The more thinking and preliminary writing you do before then, the more productive your conference will be.

**HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE CONFERENCE DESCRIBED ABOVE:**

Before coming to your conference, spend at least three additional hours brainstorming for a topic (i.e., devote a total of at least five hours to brainstorming). Bring to the conference (and show me) ALL of the written brainstorming you have done to date. In addition, bring -- and give me -- a 250-word description of your tentative plans for developing what seems to you to be the single most promising topic that has occurred to you so far. (Keep a copy of the 250-word description for yourself.)

I will attach a copy of our official conference schedule to my office door.

JUNE 22, 23, 26, 27. No class. Work on THEME ONE. I will meet with you individually in conference

JUNE\*\*28 Theme 1 (2 copies) due at beginning of today's class.

Remind me today to give you the following handouts: **"SKETCH OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE RESTORATION OF 1660"** & **MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE**.

**AGENDA FOR TODAY'S CLASS:** After I collect your theme at the beginning of today's class, Bobbi Kingery (career advisor in Eastern's Career Services office) will visit with us to offer suggestions concerning job-hunting, résumé preparation, and the procedure for setting up your placement file in the Career Services Office.



JUNE 29 No class. I need time to read your papers.

JUNE 30 **NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD -- 1st Phase: RESTORATION (1660-1700)**  
**READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. Handout: "**SKETCH OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE RESTORATION OF 1660.**"
2. Abrams, 1989-1990 (Earl of Rochester) & 1990-1991 (Rochester's "Disabled Debauchee"). (Assignment continued on next page.)
3. Abrams, 1786-1788 (John Dryden).
4. Abrams, 1821-1822 (Dryden's "[Elegy] to the Memory of Mr. Oldham").
5. Abrams, 1829 (Dryden's "Epigram on Milton").

**REMINDE ME** today to distribute a photocopied poem -- Anne Ingram's "Epistle to Mr. Pope" -- and a photocopied excerpt from Alexander Pope's Dunciad.

JULY 3 **NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD--2nd Phase: 18TH CENTURY (Pope & Ingram)**  
**READING ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Abrams, 2212-2213 (Alexander Pope's life and poetry)
2. Abrams, 2219--the final two paragraphs, beginning on l. 118: "You then whose judgment . . . ." (from Pope's Essay on Criticism).
3. Abrams, 2252 (Pope's "Ode on Solitude")
4. Abrams, 2266-2270, section 4 to end of poem, ending "Whatever is, is RIGHT" (from Pope's Essay on Man)
5. Photocopied excerpt from Pope's Dunciad.
6. Anne Ingram, "Epistle to Mr. Pope" (photocopied poem).

**OPTIONAL CONFERENCES:** I will do my best to return Theme One (graded) to you today. I would be pleased to have you sign up for a conference at which we can discuss your paper and you can ask me to clarify my comments. If you wish to revise the paper to try to raise the grade by a maximum of one letter, you may do so. The (entirely optional) revision will be due no later than the last day of class -- and revision must be substantial.

JULY 4 No class. Independence Day.

JULY 5 **NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD--2nd Phase: 18TH CENTURY (Johnson)**  
**READING ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Abrams, 2295-2297 (Samuel Johnson)
2. Abrams, 2365-2370 (excerpt from Johnson's novel Rasselas, Chapters 40-44).

In class today we will review for the Mid-Term Exam. Study your "**MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE**" and bring your questions about the exam to class.

JULY 6 No class. Study for your **MID-TERM EXAM**. Your Take-Home essay will be due at the beginning of the exam period.

- JULY\*\*7      **MID-TERM EXAM.** (Please try to arrive five minutes early.)  
 \*\*            **SUBMIT YOUR JOURNAL & TAKE-HOME ESSAY TO ME FOR  
 EVALUATION AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY.**
- JULY 10      **ENGLISH ROMANTICISM** (1798-1832)  
**READING ASSIGNMENT:**  
 Abrams, Vol. 2, pp. 1-13 ("Introduction" to the Romantic Period).  
 In class today I will return and discuss your Mid-Term exam. Remind me to  
 distribute photocopied "NOTES ON ROMANTICISM."  
**SIGN UP TODAY** (if you'd like) **FOR A MID-TERM CONFERENCE.** If you  
 are not doing as well at mid term as you had hoped, I'll offer encouragement and  
 suggestions for doing better in the second half. Bring your journal and Theme One  
 to the conference.
- JULY 11      **ROMANTICISM** (1798-1832)  
**READING ASSIGNMENT:**  
 1.        Abrams, Vol. 2, 126-129 (Wordsworth)  
 2.        Abrams, Vol. 2, 172-182 (Wordsworth's "Michael").
- JULY 12      **ROMANTICISM**, Percy Shelley and Mary Shelley.  
**READING ASSIGNMENT:**  
 1.        Study "NOTES ON ROMANTICISM" handout. For a portion of your  
 journal entry, make a list of points of connection between the Percy and  
 Mary Shelley selections assigned below and the Romantic tendencies noted  
 in your "Romanticism" handout.  
 2.        Abrams, 673-675 (Percy Shelley's "A Song: Men of England," "England in  
 1819," and "To Sidmouth and Castlereagh").  
 3.        Abrams, 844-847 (Mary Shelley's life).  
 4.        Abrams, 847-851 (Introduction to Mary Shelley's Frankenstein).  
 5.        Abrams, 851-862 (Mary Shelley's "Transformation").
- JULY 13      In class today we will watch a movie called "Gothic" (about Percy and Mary  
 Shelley and their friends).  
**REMIND ME** today to distribute an outline you will find useful in preparing  
**THEME 2** – a synthesis of the literary and historical periods we have studied,  
 concluding with the Romantics..

JULY 14 For your homework today, prepare a detailed outline of developments in English literature and history from the Old English period through the Romantic period. Devote several sentences at the beginning of your outline to the Celts and the Romans.

In class today I will distribute (and give you an opportunity to peruse) some sample syntheses students have written for this course in past semesters. You will then begin writing a draft of your own synthesis (**THEME 2**). Be sure to bring your detailed outline to class.

**REMIND ME** today to distribute a sign up sheet for your **ORAL SYNTHESIS**. Your performance on your 20-minute oral synthesis (no notes allowed) will count for 50% of your grade for **THEME 2**. Practice delivering your oral synthesis to a friend before you deliver it to me in my office.

JULY 17, 18, & 19 No class. Work on your synthesis (**THEME 2**).

JULY\*\*20 **THEME 2** (synthesis) is due at the beginning of today's session. After you have submitted your papers I will dismiss class so that we may begin the oral syntheses in my office.

JULY 21 No class. Synthesis conferences instead.  
\*\* **OPTIONAL REVISION OF THEME 2 due in my office no later than 3:00 p.m. this afternoon, along with the original graded version.** Bracket your new content and label it "N.C." in your margin.