

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

Department ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 371
ENGLISH 371: BRITISH LITERATURE FROM THE MEDIEVAL ERA TO THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

English 371 surveys works of English literature from its origins in pre-Norman England to the eighteenth century. The objectives are three-fold: (1) to develop the student's appreciation for literature and an acquaintance with literary masterpieces written in English during the years of this survey; (2) to introduce the student to the major political and cultural events and ideals that shaped England during these years; (3) to illustrate how cultural and political ideals shape people's thinking and have their reflections in and are reflected by literature. Selections may include *Beowulf*, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Shakespeare's plays, and Swift's writings.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

C. Student Outcomes

Students will

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts.

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

Instructors may use either a standard anthology of English literature, such as the *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, Vol. 1, or a series of paperbacks such as the following:

Beowulf, trans. B. Raffel (Mentor)

Canterbury Tales, ed. Heatt (Bantam Dual-Language Edition)

The Merchant of Venice, *Henry IV, Part I*, and *Othello* (Signet, Pelican, or Folger editions)

Gulliver's Travels (Houghton Mifflin; Riverside Paperback)

Joseph Andrews or *Robinson Crusoe*

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students will read *Beowulf* and Chaucer in modern translation, though time will be spent on acquainting students with the development of the English language and the characteristics of Chaucer's Middle English. Two or three Shakespearean plays will be studied closely, along with several books of *Gulliver's Travels* and either *Paradise Lost* or a short eighteenth-century novel. Students may be asked to take quizzes on these readings or keep a journal recording their responses to passages that most affect them. Either a long term paper or a series of short essays will also be assigned, as well as a midterm examination and a final. Students may be asked to give oral reports and work in small discussion groups. Grades will be based mainly on written work, but class participation is important.

College Attendance Policy

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web site, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

F. Outline of Topics

Week 1: Introduction: Historical Background and Class Procedures

Weeks 2-4: The Anglo-Saxon Period

- A. The Origins of the English Language
- B. The Epic, Its Examples and Purposes

C. The Feudal System and Its Values in *Beowulf*

Weeks 5-7: The Middle English Period

- A. The early Renaissance; the Norman Conquest
- B. Chaucer's Life and Society
- C. *The Canterbury Tales* as a Work of Art

Weeks 8-12: The Elizabethan Period

- A. Shakespeare and His Age
- B. The Origins of Drama in England
- C. The Elizabethan Theater
- D. Shakespeare's Plays: One Comedy, One History, One Tragedy

Weeks 13-14: The Augustan Age: The Enlightenment in Europe

- A. The Civil Wars and Restoration
- B. Satire and the Age of Reason: Pope, Dryden, Johnson, Swift
- C. The Rise of the Novel