

## ENGL 137: Survey of English Literature to the Late 18th Century

MJC, Fall 2015

**Instructor:** Dr. Jason Wohlstadter

**Section:** #5185, M/W 12:45-2:10, Founders Hall 275

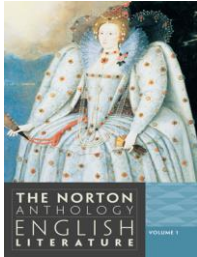
**Office Hours:** M/W 9:30-11:00, T/Th 11:00-12:00

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For more course information, go to our class website at <http://wohlstadterj.faculty.mjc.edu/>



-NINTH EDITION-

**Required Text:** *The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol. 1, 9<sup>th</sup> ed.*

- We're using the 9<sup>th</sup> edition (not the 8<sup>th</sup>). You'll need it in class.
- It's available at the East Campus Bookstore.
- A copy of our text is on two-hour reserve at the East Campus Library.
- ISBN # = 9780393912470

**Recommended for Success:** Students are strongly advised to have passed ENGL 101 and 102.

**Prerequisite:** Satisfactory completion of ENGL 50 or placement in ENGL 101 by MJC assessment process.

**Course Overview:** This course will introduce you to major periods in the history of English literature: the Anglo-Saxon age, the Anglo-Norman period, the Renaissance, and the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Over the course of the semester, we will be reading a diverse range of genres and studying a variety of conventional literary devices. As we read, we'll address questions such as these: How is an author's work representative of its era? How does an author's style compare with the conventions of earlier literary movements? What does the work tell us about its culture's values—its attitudes, for example, toward love, honor, women, wealth, war, politics, nature, and religion? And, by comparison, what does the work tell us about ourselves and our own values? Such questions will help to guide our class discussions and the analytic essays you will write for this course.

**Course Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- Describe literary genres of English literature, from its beginnings to the late eighteenth century, including their associated themes and techniques;
- Explain historical periods relevant to English literature from its beginnings to the late eighteenth century;
- Write analytically about the significance of important works of English literature from its beginnings to the late eighteenth century.

**Administrative Deadlines:** **Sept 7:** Last day to withdraw without a W.

**Nov 12:** Last day to withdraw (and receive a W).

**Attendance:**

**If you're absent from our first class meeting (for whatever reason), it will be assumed that you're not interested in taking the course, and you may be dropped to make room for students who may be waiting to add the course.**

- More than four absences (for whatever reason) is considered excessive and is grounds for being dropped from the course.

- Students are allowed up to four absences. A tip is to save them for illnesses and emergencies, since the allotment is not four days plus illnesses and emergencies—it's four days, period.
- Being absent does not mean that a student has more time to submit an assignment. Assignments are due on their due date even if a student is absent.
- Absences can have a negative impact on one's participation grade since a student cannot participate when he or she is absent.
- Absences can also have a negative impact on quizzes since there are no make-up quizzes.

**Tardiness:** Class starts at its scheduled time, and tardiness disrupts the class. To prevent disruption, students who are habitually or excessively late will be marked as absent. If you arrive to class more than ten minutes late, or if you leave class early, you will be counted as absent. Roll is taken at the beginning of class. *If you arrive after roll is taken, it is your responsibility to let me know at the end of the period.*

**Late Paper Policy:**

- Work must be submitted *at the beginning of class* to be considered on time.\*
- The midterm and final cannot be taken late, unless we've made a *prior* arrangement.\*
- Take-home essays may be submitted one class meeting late, but they will automatically be reduced one full letter grade. Beyond that point, "extra-late" essays may still receive credit but will automatically receive a failing mark—59 points or less, depending on quality.
- Students who plan to turn in late work should inform me of it on the day the work is due or earlier (inform me at the end of class, call me, or e-mail me).

\* **Note:** A more detailed class policy regarding attendance and late work is attached at the end of this syllabus, and the general campus policy on attendance is listed on p. 348 of the school catalog.

**Grading:**

Percentages:		Course Grades are based on a standard scale:		
Quizzes	15%	A	90 and above	Excellent
Essay #1 (5-6 pgs)	15%	B	80 and above	Good
Midterm Exam	20%	C	70 and above	Satisfactory
Essay #2 (5-6 pgs)	20%	D	60 and above	Less than satisfactory (not passing)
Final	25%	F	Below 60	Failing
Participation	5%			

- **Participation marks** reflect one's level of *engagement* in class discussions and activities. The highest marks go to students who gladly volunteer to share ideas with the class and consistently promote a positive learning environment (especially by sparing the class of the distractions of electronics, lateness, etc.). Also factored in participation are reading responses and a presentation.
- A student's lowest quiz score will not be factored into his or her grade.
- Papers must follow MLA standards, including standard 12 pt. font size and 1" margins.
- All work must be typed, unless otherwise noted.
- E-mailed work may be accepted, but I prefer to receive course work on paper. Please see the detailed policies on e-mail near the end of this syllabus.
- Students must keep electronic copies of essays and hold on to graded and marked copies of all their work.

**Note: To be eligible to pass the course, students must complete all four major assignments.**

**Etiquette:** Treat the classroom as a positive learning environment and be aware of the school's regulations regarding disruptive behavior, misconduct, and harassment (*MJC Catalog* 349-354). Behavior that disrupts the learning environment of the classroom will not be tolerated.

- **Cell phones and other such devices must be silent and out of sight. \*Do not text in class.\***
- Laptops are not allowed during class without permission, and permission typically depends on evidence that laptops are being used appropriately for class and are not causing distractions.
- Do not do homework for other courses during class.
- One of the best things students can do in class is to participate in discussions by expressing their views and ideas; however, when students speak in class it should contribute to the class environment, not disrupt it. Share your point of view, but be mindful of others.

*After a first warning, those who continue to be disruptive will be asked to leave the room and may, according to college policy, be suspended.*

**Academic Integrity:** Cheating, academic dishonesty, and plagiarism are violations of academic integrity, and serious violations will be reported. MJC defines plagiarism as “the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words or statements of another person as one’s own, without acknowledgement” (*MJC Catalog* 349). The consequences of plagiarism, as outlined in the school catalog, are as follows:

The grading of a student’s work rests on the fundamental idea that an instructor is evaluating a student’s own work, so cheating or plagiarism demonstrates a failure to complete this most basic requirement of any course. Thus a faculty member may administer academic consequences for violating the Academic Integrity Policy ranging from partial credit to an F on the assignment or exam.

The instructor may also consider that a student’s violation of academic integrity should be a consideration for disciplinary measures. (349)

To prevent plagiarism, you will be instructed to upload essays to Turnitin.com. For information on avoiding plagiarism, see me or this site: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/plagiarism/>

**Getting Help:** I’m happy to help during office hours and over e-mail, but the two are very different!

- Office hours are great for questions that call for a conversation (such as discussing a draft).
- E-mail is great for questions expecting a reply that’s very brief (like the length of a text).

There’s time for detailed discussion during office hours, and I enjoy using that time for that purpose. Please come with specific questions. Over e-mail, however, time does not permit me to answer broad, open-ended questions such as “did we do anything in class today?” or “what do you think of my draft?” Over e-mail, time constraints allow me only to offer very brief replies to focused questions.

You can also take advantage of the support services that MJC offers. In particular, the school provides Writing Centers on both campuses. Helpful tutors there will assist you, but they will not “fix” your work for you. The school catalog provides the following information on MJC’s Writing Centers:

**EAST CAMPUS:** Library

**WEST CAMPUS:** Integrated Learning Center, Yosemite 235

“At the Writing Center, students get the support they need to improve their writing skills. Tutors will help with any writing-related task for any subject. They help students understand their assignment, gather ideas, focus on the topic, and organize the paper” (88).

**MJC also offers accommodations for students with special needs.** If you need accommodations, please let me know within the first couple weeks of class. The MJC Disabilities Services Center is located at room 160 of the Journalism Building on the East Campus (phone: 575-6225).

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## Class Policies on E-mail, Absences, and Late Assignments (Additional Details)

- E-mail at your own risk. If you want to be sure information or work gets to me, provide it in person, or call as well as e-mail. If you choose to e-mail, send your work *both* as a Microsoft Word or PDF file attachment *and* as a message pasted into the body of your e-mail. Also, ask for a receipt (example: "please respond letting me know you received this message"). In short, the following excuse is not acceptable: "Did you get the work I sent? I swear I e-mailed that to you."
- With a *legitimate* excuse, written class work may be accepted and evaluated without a grade deduction. Only a documented illness or emergency will be regarded as a legitimate excuse. Such documentation must include a phone number and address of a professional who can testify to the authenticity of the document. Do not forge or falsify documents; such violations will be reported.
- If you have a legitimate, documented excuse and want your work evaluated without a grade deduction, it's your responsibility to take the initiative in letting me know and in providing me with documentation in a timely manner. In other words, I will not ask you for documentation; you need to furnish it as soon as possible—without me asking you for it.
- If you can't come to class for some reason, consider having a friend or classmate submit your work to me for you.
- I will accept some assignments late, but quizzes, the midterm and the final cannot be taken late. However, if, for some *legitimate reason*, you cannot be in class on the day of a quiz, in-class essay, or exam, and you let me know of this conflict days in advance, then we *might* be able to accommodate you. There are no "make-up quizzes," but sometimes accommodations are allowed.
- **Grades on unexcused late assignments will reflect the fact that they were submitted late:**
  - **Grades will be reduced by a full letter when essays are turned in one class meeting late.** For example, a paper due Monday can be submitted as late on Wednesday, or a paper due Wednesday can be submitted as late on Monday.
  - After being more than one class meeting late, "extra-late" essays may still receive credit but will automatically receive a failing mark—59 points or less, depending on quality.
- If you plan to submit an assignment late, please let me know early or when the assignment is due.
- If you ever submit work one class meeting late (with a grade reduction), you do not need to let me know why. I do not need to know an excuse; I just need to know that I should expect the work late. However, if there is something significant that you would like me to know about your circumstances, always feel free to communicate that with me.
- **All assignments are always due at the beginning of class, as stated in the syllabus.** This means that an assignment due on Monday at 12:45 that is submitted at 12:55 will be considered late. This strict policy helps to make the classroom a better learning environment because it discourages many people from disrupting the class by arriving late on days when assignments are due.
- Be sure that your computer and printer are working—and that you have extra ink, and be sure you have a backup plan if you run into technical difficulties. Students often tell me that they had a problem with their printer, and I always believe them because I've experienced such problems so often myself. Even so, despite my sympathy for students hampered by such situations, those *technical difficulties will not be regarded as legitimate excuses for late work.*