



GUÍA DOCENTE / COURSE SYLLABUS

Medieval and Sixteenth Century English Literature (35338)

1. GENERAL INFORMATION / FICHA DE LA ASIGNATURA

Code:	35340
Subject :	Medieval and Sixteenth Century English Literature
Cycle:	First
ECTS Credits:	6
Academic Year:	2012-13

		Type	Module
Degree:	English Studies	Compulsory	English Literature
Centre:	<i>Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació</i>		
Year:	4		
Term:	1		

Lecturer:	Department:
Miguel Martínez López	<i>Departament de Filologia Anglesa i Alemanya</i>

2. SUMMARY / RESUMEN

In this course, students will develop a thorough knowledge of the historical, cultural, religious, literary and critical contexts of English literature from its origins until ca. 1600. Selected works of English and related literature from the Anglo-Saxon (Old English) period through the early Renaissance will be studied. Featured texts include *Beowulf*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, a selection of sonnets by Wyatt, Surrey, Sidney, Spenser and Shakespeare, Marlowe's *Dr. Faustus*, Thomas More's *Utopia*, and others.

This course seeks to familiarize students with the main movements, genres, authors and works of medieval and sixteenth-century English literature, and to guide them in the development of critical skills needed to understand and provide a reasoned response to literary texts in relation to a variety of issues such as politics, economy, gender relations, social stratification, censorship or religious and philosophical questions.

Within the context of social entrepreneurship education for the Humanities, creativity, originality, autonomy, professionalism, risk management and self esteem will be stimulated from the perspective of the critical reading and discussion of the selected texts.

3. PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE/ CONOCIMIENTOS PREVIOS

3.1. Restrictions

N.A.

3.2. Recommended previous knowledge

Competence in English at a CEF C1 level, or above, is strongly desired, since literary works will be read in the original (or in a contemporary English literary translation –in the case of O.E. texts- or in an annotated M.E. version–in the case of medieval texts). In addition, taking the following courses before registering for Medieval and Sixteenth Century English Literature-35338 is strongly recommended:

- English language 6-35328
- Introduction to English Literature-35333
- English literature practical criticism-35334
- History and culture of English-speaking countries-35319
- History of the English language-35349

4. COMPETENCES / COMPETENCIAS

The ability to assimilate knowledge in the field of linguistics and literary and cultural studies based on specialized textbooks and also comprising aspects of the most recent advances in the field. (C1)

The ability to apply knowledge acquired in the field of linguistics and literary and cultural studies within a variety of professional contexts using knowledge of the work environment and of the resources designed to facilitate the students' incorporation into the labour market. (C2)

The acquisition of autonomous learning skills that will enable students to go on successfully to further specialized study. (C6)

The acquisition of communicative and social competence in the English language (listening and reading comprehension and written and oral expression, communicative interaction and mediation, including grammatical and stylistic correction) approaching the C2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. (C14)

The ability to identify movements, periods, genres, authors and works in various English-language literatures and to recognize their aesthetic conventions, modes of production and reception and their place within the traditions of western and world literatures. (C15)

The acquisition of aptitudes and an awareness of useful resources for successful professional contacts in the English language. (C 24)

Knowledge of various techniques and methods of analysis of literary texts in English and the ability to apply them to a variety of texts. (C26)

The development of the critical ability to characterize, explain, interpret and assess literary texts in English and to relate them to their respective literary and historical contexts, and to apply this ability within a comparative perspective. (C27)

The ability to identify problems and research issues and evaluate their relevance in the area of English studies. (C34)

The development of social entrepreneurship: this includes creating an intellectually challenging arena for creativity, imagination, originality, autonomy, professional discipline and self-confidence.

5. LEARNING OUTCOMES/ RESULTADOS DEL APRENDIZAJE

By successfully completing the course students will be able to

- demonstrate a broad factual knowledge of English literary history from its origins until ca. 1600, of the major authors, works, genres and theoretical approaches;
- explain how language and literary works of the periods under consideration shape their perceptions of themselves and the world;
- identify authors and works in the contexts of the different periods under consideration;
- identify relevant passages from works they have read, and assess their meaning and significance;
- relate the authors, works and concepts studied to their historical contexts, to contemporary contexts and to other fields of knowledge;
- apply the concepts dealt with during the course to their critical response to literary texts;
- gather, evaluate and synthesize data from a variety of sources (printed, electronic, visual, etc.) value their critical relevance, and quote from them properly;
- present persuasive critical arguments in oral and written form;
- express and discuss their own reading experiences and critical responses in tests, essays, oral presentations or projects;
- translate texts from the period into Spanish;
- use library and electronic resources in literary research
- be more confident in their entrepreneur qualities, more aware of how the different historical periods have approached such issues, as portrayed in literature, and how these can help them in their future personal and professional lives. They will be more resilient, will increase their self-esteem, will have a better perception of the value of fulfilling deadlines, facing challenges, making commitments and compromising. They will better understand risk management and appropriate problem-solving techniques.

6. CONTENTS / DESCRIPCIÓN DE LOS CONTENIDOS

Unit 1: Introduction. The literature of ancient Britain.

Anglo-Saxon (Old English) Literature: epic, religious and elegiac poetry.
Beowulf, *The Dream of the Rood* and *The Wanderer*.

Unit 2: The literature of medieval England I

Cultural milieu. Literature in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth centuries. Middle English, Arthurian literature, chivalry and the alliterative revival. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. The beginnings of English drama: mystery and miracle plays. The moralities.

Unit 3: The literature of medieval England II

Later medieval pilgrimage, literary genres and the birth of the bourgeoisie: G. Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*. M.E. lyrics and ballads. W. Caxton and the printing press.

Unit 4: English Renaissance poetry

Neoplatonism, the Petrarchan tradition and the English sonnet. English sonneteers: Sir Thomas Wyatt; Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey; Philip Sidney; Edmund Spenser and William Shakespeare.

Unit 5: Sixteenth Century English prose

Narratives of the new worlds: Thomas More's *Utopia* and Francis Bacon's *New Atlantis*. Sixteenth-century literary theory: Ph. Sidney's *Defense of Poesy*.

Unit 6: Early modern English theatre to 1600

Renaissance drama at the turn of the century: complex protagonists, theatrical humanism, and the perfection of blank verse. Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus* and Thomas Kyd's *The Spanish Tragedy*.

7. WORKLOAD / VOLUMEN DE TRABAJO

ACTIVITIES	# Hours
FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING ACTIVITIES / Activitats presencials	60
Lectures	
Practical classes	
Seminars, classroom presentations and other activities	
Sitting examinations	
Attendance at tutorials	
TOTAL CONTACT HOURS	60
INDEPENDENT LEARNING ACTIVITIES / Activitats no presencials	
External activities and events / Assistència a actes i activitats externes	
Individual activities / Elaboració de treballs individuals	
Group activities / Elaboració de treballs en group	
Independent study / Estudi i treball autònom	
Reading of additional material / Lectura del material complementari	
Preparation for assessment activities / Preparació d'activitats d'avaluació	
Preparation for theory-based classes / Preparació de classes de teoria	
Preparation for practical and problem-based classes / Preparació de classes pràctiques i de problemes	
Problem-solving and case studies / Resolució de casos pràctics	
Online questionnaires / Resolució de qüestionaris en línia	
TOTAL NON-CONTACT HOURS	90
TOTAL WORKLOAD	150
Total crèdits ECTS	6

8. TEACHING METHODOLOGY / METODOLOGÍA DOCENTE

Theoretical classes (developing competences 1, 2, 14, 15, 24, 26, 27, 29) will be structured around lecture classes that aim to provide the necessary historical and cultural context for each period, author and text under consideration. Practical sessions (developing competences 2, 6, 14, 15, 26, 27, 34) will focus on the close reading and group discussion of representative excerpts included in the reading list. Lectures will focus on clarification and discussion of key concepts and techniques for students. Consequently, they are expected to work on assigned tasks (reading sections from course dossiers, answering questions set in advance, etc.) before attending class.

Other activities: Tutorials for individual orientation in preparing papers, content revision, etc.

9. LEARNING ASSESSMENT / EVALUACIÓN

The system for assessment of competences and learning outcomes in the subject will be detailed in the corresponding Course Syllabus for every academic year, but students may expect one or a combination of the following procedures:

- Written test or tests on the theoretical aspects of the course, to evaluate acquisition of concepts and ability to apply them to the selected texts.
- Written test or tests on the practical aspects of the course, to evaluate application of techniques and analysis methods as well as the students' response to the texts proposed.
- Papers or projects, to evaluate students' output —individually or in groups—as regards research for bibliography and information, organization of concepts, argumentation and writing skills, originality and relevance, as well as their management of delivery terms.
- Portfolio or dossier, to evaluate the variety of tasks and exercises proposed and resolved during the course.
- Oral presentations, individual or in group
- Interviews at tutorials or final assessment interview, to evaluate acquisition of competences, authorship of papers or projects submitted, and to feedback students as to the quality of their work.

IMPORTANT: Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be penalized.

The final mark will take very much into account the active involvement of students in the course, both in class and in tutorials, as well as their creativity.

10. REFERENCES / REFERÈNCIES

10.1 Basic references

Anthologies:

The Norton Anthology of English Literature. The Sixteenth Century, the Early Seventeenth Century. Volume B. (ed.) S Greenblatt et al. Revised 9th edition, 2012.

The Oxford Anthology of English Literature, (ed.) J.B. Trapp et al. Oxford University Press, 2002, Vols. I & II.

10.2 Complementary references

- Maurice Keen, *English Society in the Later Middle Ages 1348-1500* (Penguin, 1990)
- J.A. Burrow, *Medieval Writers and their Work*, 2nd edn. (Oxford, 2008)
- John Guy, *Tudor England* (1990)

Additional bibliography, updated references and electronic resources will be indicated in the corresponding Course Syllabus for every academic year.