Survey of English Literature from the Middle Ages to the Interregnum
Dr. Aaron Landau
Course number: 132-1-2351
Office hours: Monday 16-17

Short course description:
The course gives a historical overview of English literature from the Middle Ages to the Interregnum. Its purpose is to familiarize students with key authors and texts as well as themes and genres predominant during each period.

Course requirements and grade distribution:
Attendance required  yes
Reading
Participation 5%
Papers: Bibliographical assignment (to be submitted by the end of the semester) 5%
  2 short assignments (to be submitted in the course of and by the end of the semester) 30%
Exams: Final examination 60%

Required Reading:
1. The Middle Ages:
"Caedmon's Hymn", from Bede's An Ecclesiastical History of the English People
Beowulf
Julian of Norwich, A Book of Showings
Margery Kempe, The Book of Margery Kempe
Langland, Piers Plowman
Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales
Everyman
2. Literary Modes of the Sixteenth Century:
More, Utopia
Elizabeth I, "Speech to the Troops at Tilbury"
Sidney, The Defense of Poesy
3. The Early Modern Stage:
Marlowe, The Tragedy of Doctor Faustus
Shakespeare, The Tragedy of King Lear.
4. Poetic Traditions:
Sidney, Sonnet 6
Shakespeare, Sonnets 130 & 138
Marlowe, “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”
Raleigh, “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd”
Donne Sonnets 13, 14
Herrick, “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time”
Marvel, “To His Coy Mistress”
Milton, “On the Morning of Christ’s Nativity”, Areopagitica,
Paradise Lost