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%
1 short assignment (3-5 pages long, to be submitted by the end of the semester) 25%

Exams: Midterm quiz 15%
Final examination 50%


Required Reading:
1. The Middle Ages:
   Beowulf
   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, Doctor Faustus
   Shakespeare, The Tragedy of King Lear.
4. Poetic Traditions:
   Sidney, Sonnets 6 & 31, Arcadia
   Shakespeare, Sonnets 18 & 130
   Marlowe, “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”
   Raleigh, “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd”
   Lanyer, ”Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum”
   Donne, “To His Mistress Going to Bed”, Sonnets 13, 14, 17, 18; ”A Valediction: Of Weeping”
   Herrick, “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time”
   Marvel, “To His Coy Mistress”
5. The Interregnum:
   Hobbes, Leviathan
   Milton, Areopagitica