**English 215: HONORS English Literature I**
Instructor: Dr. Kelly Mayhew
Fall 2013; MW 11:10-12:35; T315

**Office:** C204  
**Office Hours:** MTW 12:45-1:45 or by appointment  
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**PREREQUISITE:** English 101 with a grade of “C” or better, or equivalent.

**COURSE MATERIALS:**
- *Joseph Andrews* by Henry Fielding
- A good writing handbook such as the most current *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, by Joseph Gibaldi or *The Little Seagull Handbook* published by W.W. Norton

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**
This course is a survey of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period (roughly beginning in 650) to the pre-Romantic period (1799). Through lectures, readings, films, and class discussions, we will investigate the ways authors, in their tales, verses, poetry, plays, and fiction reflect on, respond to and create art about their historical, social, and cultural milieus. While some of the literature we study may seem incredibly remote and difficult, it can still speak to us in contemporary America. We will begin with a selection of the very first stories to be written in some form of the English language and move to forms of writing more familiar to the modern reader. Throughout the course, however, we will address a few central questions: Why do people write or tell stories? How can their art speak to us? What can we discover about ourselves in the course of studying such artistic endeavors? As we progress through the semester, we will hopefully discover some answers to these questions at the same time we will explore an astonishingly rich diversity of literary forms.

**HONORS STUDENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE MORE TO CLASS DISCUSSIONS, TO ENGAGE IN HIGHER LEVEL RESEARCH PROJECTS, AND TO ASSUME A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE CLASS. YOU WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO MEET WITH ME AT LEAST TWICE DURING THE SEMESTER TO DISCUSS YOUR EXTRA READINGS AND YOUR FINAL RESEARCH PROJECT.**
**FINALLY, I HIGHLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO FORM A STUDY GROUP WITH YOUR FELLOW HONORS STUDENTS IN THE CLASS TO GO OVER THE EXTRA READINGS AND COLLABORATE ON YOUR WRITING PROJECTS.**

**COURSE OBJECTIVE**
- Learn how to read and critically analyze in writing and orally a variety of literary genres and authors from the British diaspora from roughly 700 CE to 1799

**COURSE WORK:**
- **Reading Response Journal:** You will write at least two 1-page entries a week (2 pages a week, that is) in which you respond to some or all of the assigned readings for that week. **You will also be required to read and write about TWO extra texts of your choice that we do not cover in *The Norton Anthology***. Consult the handout for more details. The complete Reading Response Journal is due the day of the final, December 16th.
HONORS STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO DO EXTRA JOURNAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR YOUR EXTRA READINGS. IN ADDITION, YOU'LL WRITE A 2-PAGE TYPED, FORMAL INTRODUCTION TO YOUR JOURNAL TO BE TURNED IN WITH IT AT THE END OF THE CLASS.

- **Tests**: You will take tests on September 23rd, which will cover the first section of the course, and on November 18th, which will cover the third section of the course (please see Course Calendar). These will include both short answer and essay questions.

- **Shakespeare Paper**: You will write a short 3-page paper on one or more of the works by William Shakespeare we will study. There will be a handout with more details. This paper is due on October 30th.

HONORS STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO TURN IN A 5-7 PAGE SHAKESPEARE PAPER THAT USES AT LEAST 2 OUTSIDE SOURCES OF LITERARY SCHOLARSHIP.

- **Long Paper**: You will write a 5-7 page paper on a topic of your choice (as long as it is related to the course) with my approval which will be due on the day of the final exam, December 16th. You will be required to use some outside research in this paper. If you choose to, you may work collaboratively with another person on this assignment. There will be a handout with more details.

HONORS STUDENTS WILL WRITE AN 8-10 PAGE FINAL RESEARCH PROJECT THAT USES AT LEAST 5 OUTSIDE SOURCES.

- **Final Exam**: You will have a final exam that covers material from the entire course. The final exam is scheduled for Monday, December 16th from 11:10-12:35. The final exam must be taken to pass the class.

- **Presentation**: Each person will be expected to do a short presentation (5-10 minutes) to introduce one of the readings on a given day. Consult the handout for more details.

- **Participation**: In order for this class to be successful and interesting, each person must do her or his part. This means coming to class on time, doing your reading, having some thoughtful comments to contribute to class discussion, remaining alert, asking questions, offering opinions. Not participating or participating in a disruptive, unproductive fashion will hurt your grade. Questions and arguments are welcome as long as they stay on an intellectual level worthy of a college classroom. Name-calling, unexamined bigotry, and superficial dismissals of the material are not worthy of a college classroom. Participating a great deal and/or productively will raise your grade. Specifically, I expect serious respectful discussion. Be honest, critical, but kind to each other.

**GRADES:**
On a standard grading scale:
- Reading response journal is worth 20%
- Short paper is worth 10%
- Research paper is worth 20%
- Each test is worth 15% (30% total)
- Final exam is worth 10% (and must be taken to pass the class)
- Presentation is worth 10%
All other work is not graded but must be turned in if you expect to pass. Poor work will not get credit.

COURSE POLICIES:

- **Absences**: You are allowed three unquestioned absences. With the fourth, your grade will drop by one full letter. If you have five consecutive absences, you will be dropped from the class. If you are having problems with attendance, please come talk to me.

- **Tardiness**: Excessive tardiness (later than 10 minutes) will count as an absence. If you are frequently late to class, I will start counting those days as absences. It is very important that you come to class on time.

- **Late work**: NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED. TESTS CANNOT BE RE-SCHEDULED.

- **Formatting**: Each of your two essays must be printed or typed on 8 1/2” x 11” paper, double-spaced with 1” margins all the way around, and in MLA format—consult either a handbook or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. I encourage you use a computer for ALL of your work—not just the essays.

- **Plagiarism**: Using another writer's ideas or language without acknowledging these sources is plagiarism. **It is your responsibility to document all outside sources even if you paraphrase another's writing—if you are confused about what this means, come see me.** If you plagiarize, you will fail the assignment and thus risk not only failing this class, but you will be reported to the Dean of Student Services.

- **Cell Phones, iPods, etc**: No personal electronic equipment such as cell phones, iPods, or tape recorders may be operated during class time unless approved by me. You will be asked to leave the classroom if you answer your cell phone or engage in text messaging during class time.

- **Accommodation of Disability**: Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with the professor during the first two weeks of class.
Course Calendar

All readings are from The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Macbeth or Joseph Andres unless otherwise noted. The volume from which the reading comes is noted next to the page numbers. Readings are due on the days they are listed on the calendar.

**HONORS STUDENTS MUST INCLUDE JOURNAL ENTRIES FOR ALL EXTRA READINGS ALONG WITH A 2-PAGE FORMAL INTRODUCTION TO YOUR READING JOURNAL DUE ON THE DAY OF THE FINAL**

A 19: Introduction; The History of Britain (video); Readings for the first part of the course will come from Volume A

A 21: “The Middle Ages” 5-28 A; “The Dream of the Rood” 32-36 A; historical context of the first section of the course

A 26: Beowulf 36-88 A


S 2: No Class—Labor Day!


S 9: “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight” 183-238 A

S 11: Chaucer The Canterbury Tales 238-45 A; “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale” 282-310 A; (handout of translation will be provided)

S 16: Malory, Morte D’Arthur 480-500 A; Monty Python and the Holy Grail

S 18: Everyman 507-29 A; review for test #1

S 23: TEST #1 (covering The Middle Ages)

S 25: “The Sixteenth Century (1485-1603)” 531-63 B; Readings from the second part of the course will come from Volume B

*** 9/30-10/4: The 8th Annual San Diego City College International Book Fair! Attend events and write a page in your journal, and earn extra credit! ***

S 30: More Utopia Intro and Book II 569-75; 597-645 B; In-class assignment

**HONORS STUDENTS WILL READ THE ENTIRETY OF UTOPIA

O 2: Finish in-class assignment; “Women in Power” 721-22 B; Elizabeth I 749-66 B

O 7: Spenser 766-69 B; Canto 1 from The Faerie Queene 775-95 B

**HONORS STUDENTS WILL READ ALL OF BOOK ONE FROM THE FAERIE QUEENE

O 9: Shakespeare Sonnets 1166-86 B
O 14: Shakespeare *Twelfth Night* 1595 B; film

O 16: Finish *Twelfth Night*

O 21: Shakespeare *Macbeth*, Acts 1 & 2


O 28: Finish film

O 30: “The Early Seventeenth Century (1603-1660)” 1541-70 B; **SHAKESPEARE PAPER DUE**


**HONORS STUDENTS WILL READ TWO ADDITIONAL POEMS FROM DONNE AND MARVELL OF YOUR CHOICE


N 11: Veteran’s Day—No Class

N 13: Milton 1697-1901 B, *Paradise Lost* 1945-64 B (introduction & Book 1); 2091-2116 B (Book 9)

**HONORS STUDENTS MUST ALSO READ BOOKS 2 & 3 OF PARADISE LOST

N 18: TEST #2 (covering The 17th Century)

N 20: “The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century (1660-1785)” 2177-2208 C; Locke 2279-83; Swift 2464-66 C, “A Modest Proposal” 2633-39 C; Readings from the third part of the course will come from Volume C

N 25 & 27: No Classes—Thanksgiving break

D 2: Astell from “Some Reflections upon Marriage” 2420-24 C; Finch 2431-35 C; Montagu 2759-66 C; Burney 2992-3012 C; look over “Debating Women: Arguments in Verse” 2766-86 C

D 4: “Low People and High People” 2435-63

**HONORS STUDENTS MUST ALSO READ THE NOVEL, *JOSEPH ANDREWS* BY HENRY FIELDING. COME SEE ME IF YOU NEED A COPY.

D 9: “Liberty” 3012-45 C (including Olaudah Equiano)

D 11: Gray 3047 C, “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” 3051-53 C; course review

D 16: FINAL EXAM; Research paper due; Reading response journal due; Revisions due

**NOTE: there is A LOT of reading in this course. Please keep up so you can participate fully in class discussions and so you don’t fall behind in your reading response journals.**