

English 2120  
Overview of Literary Study I  
MW 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.  
Boylan 3113  
Spring Term 2011

Dr. Geoffrey Minter  
Office Hours: Mondays 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. and 5:00 to 6:15 p.m.;  
Wednesdays 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.  
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**Course website: <http://courses.sutropark.com>**

Click the link for “Overview of Literary Study I” in the left-hand column under “Spring 2011 Courses”

Course Description

Love, war, nation-building, and self-perfection. Each of our readings, which range in size from fourteen-line sonnets to a thousand-page novel, will address one or more of these themes. In addition to theme, however, the course will study differences in the expression of theme, considering how authors are able to craft a variety of works from similar materials. And while our chief focus will be on changes in epic, romantic, and novelistic approaches to storytelling over the space of a few centuries, we will also look at smaller works, and see how an important English poet adopted existing literary conventions while creating poems that were innovative and new.

Course Books

The following books have been ordered for purchase at Shakespeare and Co., 150 Campus Road. If you are getting books from another location, make sure that they are the same editions or translations.

Seamus Heaney, trans., *Beowulf* (Norton - ISBN 0393975800)  
Chrétien de Troyes, *Arthurian Romances*, trans. Carleton W. Carroll (Penguin - ISBN 0140445218)  
Ludovico Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso*, trans. Guido Waldman (Oxford - ISBN 0199540381)  
John Donne, *The Major Works* (Oxford - ISBN 0199537941)  
Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, trans. Edith Grossman (Harper Perennial - ISBN 0060934344)  
Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* (Oxford - ISBN 0199553971)

We will occasionally read literary definitions from M.H. Abrams, *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, which are linked to the course website. These definitions will form a part of class discussion, and will appear in class assignments. By the end of the term, you should be able to use these terms comfortably, and apply them to course readings.

Course Requirements and Assignments

- Graded work: (1) twelve weekly quizzes; (2) leading course discussion once during the term; (3) two 500-word (2 page) papers based on your own analysis of course readings, posted to the course website; (4) two paragraph-long replies to the response papers posted by two different students; (5) a 750-1000 word (3-4 page) midterm paper on an assigned topic, due on or by Friday, April 8 by email (papers@sutropark.com); (6) a 1250-1500 word (5-6 page) final paper on an assigned topic, due on or by Sunday, May 22 by email (papers@sutropark.com); (7) a final examination; and (8) citizenship, attendance and participation.
- You can earn up to 100 points for the course, which would equal an A grade. 90-100 is the A-range of grades, 80-89 is the B-range, and so on. The point distribution for assignments (with maximum possible points listed) is as follows: accumulated weekly quiz grades (25 points); leading discussion (5 points); 500-word response papers (5 points each, 10 points total); 750-1000 word midterm paper (10 points); 1250-1500 word final paper (20 points); final examination (20 points); citizenship, attendance and participation (including web responses not already counted) (10 points).
- Students are expected to complete the required reading for each course meeting before class begins, and to arrive on time ready to participate. Course readings should be brought to class on the days they are scheduled to be discussed.
- Students must use the editions/translations of works ordered for class. There will be a book check each week during the weekly quiz. Students who do not have the assigned book with them during the book check will lose 5 points. There will be a class-wide grace period that will expire the first time a member of the class does not bring the assigned book. If you are getting books from another source, make sure that you are

getting the correct editions/translations. Students who pass all book checks for the term will receive a 5-point bonus towards the final grade.

- Please attend class regularly and on time. More than three absences will jeopardize one's grade in the course. Three tardy attendances equal one absence. Leaving class early and leaving during the middle of class for an extended period of time also count as tardies. There will be a 10-point reduction for each absence beyond the allowed number of absences.
- All students in the course must register on the course website (the address is at the top of the first page). Registration will allow you to post in the course's online forums. There are two forums for the class: "General Discussion" and "Assignments and Responses." Posts made in the "Assignments and Responses" forum will only be viewable by other members of the class. Please select a username that is your complete name (Nathaniel Hawthorne), or a recognizable nickname that reflects your real name (Nate Hawthorne); spaces between first and last name are fine. Once you have registered, you will be added to the website's course forum list; you will not be able to read or post in restricted areas of the website until you have been added, so please register as soon as possible. Please speak with me during office hours or after class if you need assistance registering on the website.
  - o After you have registered, please login and reply to the "First Week Question" that will be added to the course website on the morning of Thursday, February 3.
- Early in the term, each student will be placed added to one of 10 groups (groups A through J). Starting with "The Knight of the Cart (Lancelot)," students from one of these 10 groups will have special responsibility for a day's discussion, on a rotating schedule (for full schedule, see page 4). The groups are for organizational purposes only; each student will do his or her own work for this assignment.
  - o Each member of the group will prepare a question related to the day's assigned reading. For example, on Wednesday, March 9, students in Group D should prepare a question related to Cantos 25-32 of *Orlando Furioso*.
  - o The question can cover broad topics or themes from the day's reading (or a theme from the entire work, if we are reading it over more than one day). However, the question should also be focused around a specific passage from the day's reading. If we are reading chapters 10-15 of a novel, for example, the passage needs to come from those chapters, not earlier or later ones. Students will be asked to recite both the passage and the question during class, and to lead discussion of their questions. Questions should allow for open-ended responses, but should also be specific. A broad question along the lines of "What does everyone think about this passage?" will not get very far. Please email me the question and page number of the passage you are going to use by 3:00 p.m. on class day.
  - o Within a week of this discussion presentation, each member of the group should post a 500 word response to the "Assignments and Responses" part of the course website that discusses his/her original question and passage. The response can include a summary of points raised in the discussion that followed, or can include reactions to the other responses that people have submitted for that day's discussion. Please use a descriptive subject heading – for example, "Nathaniel's 'Orlando Furioso' Response (March 9)" – and, even though the assignment is being submitted online, make sure that the response is properly edited for grammar, etc.
  - o Each student must also post another 500-word paper that analyzes the work of a different course author. So, for instance, if you are assigned to ask a question about Chrétien de Troyes, your other 500-word paper will need to be about another author. This second paper can be posted online no later than one week after we have finished discussing the author in class. So, for instance, papers on *Orlando Furioso* must be posted by March 25th.
  - o You must respond to the online papers of other students at least two times during the term. Each response should be at least one-paragraph long, and should discuss an issue or issues raised in the other student's post. You should respond to two different students during the course of the entire term, and should avoid commenting on the author of your assigned response paper. Everyone is encouraged to make additional replies, but these are the minimum requirements for the term.
  - o In addition to the online responses, all students will be asked to comment on the assigned material on a regular basis during class time. Whether online or in class, please treat the views of other students with respect, even if you disagree with the points that another is making.
  - o Summary: you must post two response papers and at least two comments over the entire term.

- Weekly quizzes. Starting the second week of class, there will be a quiz given at the beginning of each Wednesday class (with two exceptions). The questions will be based on the assigned reading for each given week. There will be 6 questions per quiz, and you will choose 5 for response. There will be 12 weekly quizzes for the term; your lowest 2 grades will be dropped from the final calculation. (As there are no make-up quizzes, these dropped quiz grades may include quizzes missed because of absence.) The questions will mostly be in short response format. You cannot refer to course books during the quizzes, but will be asked to place each week's assigned book on your desk for the weekly book check.
- Use the following email address for the midterm paper and the final paper: [papers@sutropark.com](mailto:papers@sutropark.com). Papers should be written in a 12-point font, with standard margins and spacing, and should include page numbers. Papers should be submitted to me as email attachments formatted for Microsoft Word. When you are sending a paper, please use a descriptive subject header (e.g., "Nate Hawthorne's Midterm Paper, English 2120"). Papers copied directly into the email message, or formatted for other programs like Word Perfect or Open Office, will not be accepted; other word processing programs, however, usually have an option to convert documents to the Microsoft Word format. Please make sure you edit and proofread your papers; grammatical errors and other writing problems may be considered during evaluation. Please keep your own copies of all assignments submitted for course credit. In the event that a copy of an assignment is lost, you will need to provide another copy in order to receive credit. Topics for the midterm paper and the final paper will be given at least two weeks before they are due.
- All assignments for the course should represent your own work. Do not consult Google, Spark Notes, Wikipedia, or other online sources as you formulate your ideas or discussion questions. An important part of the learning experience of the course is enhancing your understanding of literary texts and contexts from the insights gleaned from your own reading of course material. Don't cheat yourself of that experience, and don't be afraid to take intellectual risks, by having your insights substituted by those that can be found online. If you do make use of online material (and doing so is neither a requirement nor an expectation), make sure that you cite the sources used. Plagiarism is a serious offense, and can result in a failing grade.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices (Blackberries, iPhones, iPads, etc.) should not be used during class time, either for voice or text communication. Please alert me before class begins if you are expecting an important call during class. Cell phones and devices that are otherwise observed being used for conversation or text messaging will count against a student's grade for the course, with a 3-point deduction for each observed use, unless in the case of verifiable family emergency. Approval to use laptops in class must be requested, and can be revoked. Smart phones cannot be used for taking class notes.

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Please note the following information from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies:

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation.

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Please familiarize yourself with the 2007-2010 Brooklyn College Bulletin, especially pp. 35-51, pp. 52-59, and pp. 74-83, for a complete listing of academic regulations of the College, and p. 53, for a discussion of non-attendance because of religious beliefs. The bulletin can be viewed online at the following URL: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/bulletins.htm>.

## Course Reading Schedule

Quiz dates are indicated by an asterisk (\*). The definitions from M.H. Abrams, *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, are linked to the course website. Also linked are copies of the February 2 John Donne poems and Seamus Heaney's introductory essay to *Beowulf*, for those unable to get Donne, *The Major Works* and the Norton Critical Edition of *Beowulf* by then. Specific works from Donne, *The Major Works* to be read in March will be listed on the course website by March 7.

DATE	Group	Discussion Subject
Mon Jan 31		Course Introduction
Wed Feb 2		- Abrams, "Periods of English Literature," "Epic," and "Myth" [web] - Heaney, "Translator's Introduction" [web] - Donne, Four Poems from <i>The Major Works</i> : the Holy Sonnet "I am a little world" (p. 179); "Satire 3" (p. 29); "To the Countess Huntingdon" ['That unripe side of earth'] (p. 67); and "An Anatomy of the World" (p. 207) – the poems are also linked to course website
Mon Feb 7		- Abrams, "Oral Formulaic Poetry" - <i>Beowulf</i> , lines 1-2199
* Wed Feb 9		- <i>Beowulf</i> , lines 2200-end
Mon Feb 14		- Abrams, "Chivalric Romance" and "Courtly Love" - <i>Arthurian Romances</i> , "Erec and Enide"
* Wed Feb 16	A	- <i>Arthurian Romances</i> , "The Knight of the Cart (Lancelot)"
Mon Feb 21		<b>PRESIDENTS' DAY – NO CLASS</b>
Wed Feb 23	B	- <i>Arthurian Romances</i> , "The Story of the Grail (Perceval)" and "The Story of the Grail Continuation"
Mon Feb 28		- Abrams, "Renaissance" - <i>Orlando Furioso</i> , Cantos 1-8
* Wed Mar 2	C	- <i>Orlando Furioso</i> , Cantos 9-16
Mon Mar 7		- <i>Orlando Furioso</i> , Cantos 17-24
* Wed Mar 9	D	- <i>Orlando Furioso</i> , Cantos 25-32
Mon Mar 14		- <i>Orlando Furioso</i> , Cantos 33-40
* Wed Mar 16	E	- <i>Orlando Furioso</i> , Cantos 40-46
Mon Mar 21		- Abrams, "Metaphysical Poets" and "Conceit" - John Donne
* Wed Mar 23		- John Donne
Mon Mar 28		- John Donne
* Wed Mar 30		- John Donne
Mon Apr 4		- Abrams, "Novel" - <i>Don Quixote</i> , prologues, and chs. 1-14 (I-XIV), pp. 3-102
* Wed Apr 6	F	- <i>Don Quixote</i> , chs. 15-27 (XV-XXVII), pp. 102-212
Mon Apr 11		- <i>Don Quixote</i> , chs. 28-37 (XXVIII-XXXVII), pp. 212-330
* Wed Apr 13	G	- <i>Don Quixote</i> , chs. 38-52 (XXVIII-LII), pp. 330-449
		<b>SPRING BREAK</b> – No class on Monday, April 18, Wednesday April 20, and Monday April 25
Wed Apr 27		- <i>Don Quixote</i> , prologues, and chs. 1-15 (I-XV), pp. 453-550
Mon May 2		- <i>Don Quixote</i> , chs. 16-30 (XVI-XXX), pp. 550-657
* Wed May 4	H	- <i>Don Quixote</i> , chs. 31-45 (XXXI-XLV), pp. 657-752
Mon May 9		- <i>Don Quixote</i> , chs. 46-60 (XLVI-LX), pp. 753-861
* Wed May 11	I	- <i>Don Quixote</i> , chs. 61-74 (LXI-LXXIV), pp. 861-940
Mon May 16		- <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> , pp. 1-130
* Wed May 18	J	- <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> , pp. 130-258
Mon May 23		- <b>FINAL EXAM, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</b>