

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

ENGL 235

English Literature: Middle Ages through the Eighteenth Century

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ENGL 235 English Literature: Middle Ages through the Eighteenth Century

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2017

D. Effective Term: Fall 2018

E. Sponsoring Department: English

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
 Laboratory: 0
 Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites: ENGL 111 English Composition I

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval: Susan Arvay susan.arvay@raritanval.edu; Patrice Marks patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I. A chronological study of English literature through the 18th century including authors such as Chaucer, Kempe, More, Shakespeare, Donne, Montagu, Swift and Behn. Students will examine the authors’ ideas and the development of literary forms in a historical context. Religion, politics, gender roles, science and philosophy are discussed in terms of their impact on these writers. The Honors Option is available for this course.

III. Statement of Course Need

A. English Literature: Middle Ages through the Eighteenth Century provides students with an opportunity to study an important literary period and serves as a foundation for students who choose to major in English or other areas of the Liberal Arts or Humanities. It is a course typically featured in college English departments and meets the requirements of the College’s general education goals as well as the English Department’s Associate of Arts degree in English.

- B. This course does not have a lab component.
- C. The course generally transfers to four-year programs as an English elective, a general education elective, or a free elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in the Humanities/English Literature.
- C. This course meets a A elective requirement in the English AA degree.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Anglo-Saxon literature
- B. Anglo-Norman influences on English literature
- C. Medieval English literature
- D. Early Modern literature
- E. Literature of the Restoration and the Eighteenth Century

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze English literary texts within their historical and social contexts, both orally and in writing (GE-NJ1, 6, 7, *)
2. Use textual evidence to support logical and persuasive claims in writing (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)
3. Demonstrate how writers' responses to historical events and social structures are influenced by their time, culture, and perspective (GE-NJ 7, *)

(*Embedded critical thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe key characteristics of the literature of early English historical periods.

C. Assessment Instruments

1. lecture/discussion
2. small-group work
3. guest speakers
4. student oral presentations
5. student collaboration
6. independent study
7. regular writing activities
8. research papers
9. essays
10. journals
11. response papers
12. discussion questions
13. exams

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. essays that communicate effectively in standard English with attention to grammar, mechanics, and the finer points of style
- B. projects
- C. exams
- D. presentations
- E. discussion questions
- F. reading quizzes
- G. class participation
- H. journals
- I. response papers

Primary format, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. student oral presentations
- D. student collaboration

VIII. Texts and Materials

Suggested texts:

- A. An anthology of early English literature (e.g. anthologies published by Norton, Longman, or Bedford/St. Martin's)
- B. *Beowulf*
- C. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
- D. Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*
- E. Christopher Marlowe, *The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus*
- F. William Shakespeare, plays and sonnets
- G. John Milton, *Paradise Lost*
- H. Aphra Benn, *Oroonoko*

- I. Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*
- J. Samuel Johnson, *The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssina*
- K. Films and videos, when appropriate, to enhance study of given work

Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

IX. Resources

Students will need to use library databases and other library resources for critical research assignments if the individual instructor chooses to assign a research project.

X. Honors Option

Definition: Prerequisites: Minimum GPA of 3.5 or permission of the instructor. According to the Honors Council, an Honors course is one that enriches and challenges students beyond a course's regular scope and curriculum. An Honors course will offer a sophisticated use of research, introduce intellectually stimulating readings and critical perspectives, promote a higher level of critical discussion and written work, and encourage independent study projects, at the option of the instructor.

A. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes:

In addition to the education goals and learning outcomes in Roman numeral VI, A and B listed above, a student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of how and why a particular text “defines” the period in which it was written.
2. Demonstrate an elevated ability to research independently, find critical theory, and apply critical theory to a period, text or author.
3. Demonstrate the ability to apply appropriate critical theory to a period, text, or author in order to create an original understanding of that period, text, or author.

B. Honors Option Content:

A student who participates in ENGL 235 Honors Option will fulfill the following requirements:

1. Lead at least one in-class discussion in presentation form, providing historical content, author background, and any other essential information leading us toward discussion during that class period.
2. In addition to writing a standard research paper for the course, the option student will modify one of the short essays assigned to the rest of class; this modification will involve the use of minimal secondary sources (for example, one or two researched sources).
3. Conduct a semester long research project on a chosen period, author, or work, or theme relevant to the course.
4. Work independently with the instructor to discuss progress of the research project.

C. Assessment Instruments for Honors Option Work:

Honors Option students will be assessed for their ability to deliver the additional requirements:

1. Completing additional research

2. Completing a semester long research project

D. Grade Determinants for Honors Option Work:

In addition to quizzes, exams, and other homework assigned to the rest of the class, the final grade for students in the Honors Option will be based upon the students completing the four additional requirements described above.

E. Extra Resource Materials for the Honors Option:

In addition to the suggested textbook above, Honors Option students will be expected to read scholarly books and journals relevant to their semester long research project as well as preparation for a lead discussion.