VNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA

Course Guide
35340 Medieval and 16th century English literature

COURSE DATA

Data Subject	
Code	35340
Name	Medieval and 16th century English literature
Cycle	Grade
ECTS Credits	6.0
Academic year	2022 - 2023

Study (s)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1000 - Degree in English Studies	Faculty of Philology, Translation and Communication	4	First term

Subject-matter

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1000 - Degree in English Studies	7 - English literature	Obligatory

Coordination

Name	Department
MARTINEZ LOPEZ, MIGUEL	155 - English and German

SUMMARY

In this course, students will develop a thorough knowledge of the historical, cultural, religious, literary and critical contexts of English literature from its origins until ca. 1600. Selected works of English and related literature from the Anglo-Saxon (Old English) period through the early Renaissance will be studied. Featured texts include *Beowulf*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, a selection of sonnets by Wyatt, Surrey, Sidney, Spenser and Shakespeare, Marlowe's *Dr. Faustus*, Thomas More's *Utopia*, and others.

This course seeks to familiarize students with the main movements, genres, authors and works of medieval and sixteenth-century English literature, and to guide them in the development of critical skills needed to understand and provide a reasoned response to literary texts in relation to a variety of issues such as politics, economy, gender relations, social stratification, censorship or religious and philosophical questions.

Within the context of social entrepreneurship education for the Humanities, creativity, originality, autonomy, professionalism, risk management and self esteem will be estimulated from the perspective of the critical reading and discussion of the selected texts. They will have a better perception of the value of fulfilling deadlines, facing challenges, making committments and compromising. They will better understand the historical evolution of risk management and of different problem-solving techniques.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

Relationship to other subjects of the same degree

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

Other requirements

Competence in English at a CEF C1 level, or above, is strongly desired, since literary works will be read in the original (or in a contemporary English literary translation in the case of O.E. texts- or in an annotated M.E. version in the case of medieval texts). In addition, taking the following courses before registering for Medieval and Sixteenth Century English Literature-35338 is strongly recommended:
-English language 6-35328
-Introduction to English Literature (35333)
-Practical criticism applie

OUTCOMES

1000 - Degree in English Studies

- Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.
- Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.
- Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.
- Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.
- Demonstrate communicative and social competence in the English language (oral and written comprehension and expression, communicative interaction and mediation that includes correct grammar and style).

- Develop a critical ability to explain literary texts in English and to identify aesthetic conventions, movements, periods, genres, authors and works in English language and their modes of production.
- Know and apply the currents and methodologies of literary theory and criticism.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By succesfully completing the course, students will be able to

- write essays on topics assigned to by the lecturer or chosen by the student related to one or several literary works in medieval and 16th-century English literature
- identify and describe the aesthetic conventions, their evolution, modes of production and reception of works, genres and movements in medieval and 16th-century English literature
- explain and assess literary texts in English using different critical approaches and in relation to their respective literary and historical contexts
- identify excerpts from English literary works covered during the course and assess their significance
- translate a short literary text in English into the official languages of the Valencian Community
- describe the modes of production and distribution of literary texts in medieval and 16th-century English literature
- explain the processes of preparing a critical edition and compiling an anthology

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction. The literature of ancient Britain.

Anglo-Saxon (Old English) Literature: epic, religious and elegiac poetry.
Beowulf, The Dream of the Rood and The Wanderer.

2. The literature of medieval England I

Cultural milieu. Literature in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth centuries. Middle English, Arthurian literature, chivalry and the alliterative revival. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. The beginnings of English drama: mystery and miracle plays. The moralities.

3. The literature of medieval England II

Later medieval pilgrimage, literary genres and the birth of the bourgeoisie: G. Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales. M.E. lyrics and ballads. W. Caxton and the printing press.

4. English Renaissance poetry

Neoplatonism, the Petrarchan tradition and the English sonnet. English sonneteers: Sir Thomas Wyatt; Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey; Philip Sidney; Edmund Spenser and William Shakespeare.

5. Sixteenth Century English prose

Narratives of the new worlds: Thomas More's Utopia and Francis Bacon's New Atlantis. Sixteenth-century literary theory: Ph. Sidney's Defense of Poesy.

6. Early modern English theatre to 1600

Renaissance drama at the turn of the century: complex protagonists, theatrical humanism, and the perfection of blank verse. Christopher Marlowe's Doctor Faustus and Thomas Kyd's The Spanish Tragedy.

WORKLOAD

ACTIVITY	Hours	% To be attended
Theory classes	60,00	100
Study and independent work	60,00	0
Preparation of evaluation activities	30,00	0
TOTAL	**150,00**	

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Theoretical classes will be structured around lecture classes that aim to provide the necessary historical and cultural context for each period, author and text under consideration.

Practical sessions will focus on the close reading and group discussion of representative excerpts included in the reading list.

Lectures will focus on clarification and discussion of key concepts and techniques for students. Consequently, they are expected to work on assigned tasks (reading sections from course dossiers, answering questions set in advance, etc.) before attending class.

Other activities: Tutorials for individual orientation in preparing papers, content revision, etc.

EVALUATION

The assessment of competences and learning outcomes will consist of the following procedures:

1. A final written exam (50%): consisting of an essay on the set texts (40%) and a multiple choice test on the theoretical aspects of the course (10%)

2. A practical test (30%) consisting of the identification, translation and commentary on the significance of two quotes chosen from the set texts (15% each commentary)

3. A final assessment interview (15%) consisting of a five-minute oral presentation on a topic chosen by the student from a list, followed by a short question-and-answer session.

4. Class participation (5%).

In order to pass the subject, students must obtain a minimum of 5 points out of 10 in both the interview and in the written and practical tests.

Students attending the second call will have to sit for a written exam (essay 50% and multiple-choice test 10%) and a practical test (40%, two quotes). No marks obtained in the first call will be carried forward to the second call.

In order to pass the subject, students must obtain a minimum of 5 points out of 10 in both the theoretical and practical tests.

The ability to communicate at the C1+ (CEFR level) is required to pass the course as a whole. Students whose communication (written and/or oral) displays errors that are not consistent with the above level will fail the module regardless of their performance related to the course contents.

REFERENCES

Basic

- The Norton Anthology of English Literature. The Sixteenth Century, the Early Seventeenth Century. Volume 1 (A&B). S. Greenblatt et al. (eds.) revised 9th edition, 2012.
- The Oxford Anthology of English Literature, (ed.) J.B. Trapp et al. Oxford University Press, 2002, Vols. I & II

Additional

- Maurice Keen, English Society in the Later Middle Ages 1348-1500 (Penguin, 1990)
  J.A. Burrow, Medieval Writers and their Work, 2nd edn. (Oxford, 2008)
  John Guy, Tudor England (1990)

Additional bibliography, updated references and electronic resources will be indicated in the corresponding Course Syllabus for every academic year.