

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Literary & Cultural Texts: Pre-1700**

Course Number and Section

ENGLISH

2228F 550

Instructor Name(s): George Ramos

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Ancient to Early Modern Faith, Politics & Apocalypse: Explore how great texts including Homer's Iliad, Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, and Milton's Paradise Lost illuminate enduring questions of heroism, faith, politics & apocalypse—while speaking directly to today's debates about war, political polarization, religious conflict, and democratic resilience.

Develop the skills to write persuasive academic arguments grounded in careful close reading. Alongside analytical essays, creative and genre-based exercises in poetry, drama, and polemical prose invite you to engage with these works from the inside—exploring how their language, form, rhetoric, and ideas work by experimenting with their techniques yourself.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- Insightfully and persuasively analyze literary and cultural texts through careful close reading of language, form, imagery, rhetoric, and genre
- Develop clear, compelling academic arguments supported by close textual analysis, while critically engaging with secondary sources and situating their own interpretations within current scholarly debates.
- Understand pre-1700 literary works in relation to the historical, political, religious, and cultural contexts in which they were produced, while considering how their central questions and conflicts continue to resonate in the present.
- Experiment creatively with poetry, drama, and polemical prose through imitation and other genre-based exercises in order to better understand how literary forms work from the inside
- Engage with literature from both critical and creative perspectives, developing greater confidence and independence as readers, writers, and interpreters
- Use generative AI effectively, critically, and ethically as a tool to support reading, research, and the revision and editing of written work, while recognizing its limitations and maintaining responsibility for their own analysis, arguments, and writing.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Suggested Textbooks:

Black, Joseph, et al., editors. The Broadview Anthology of British Literature. Vol. 1: The Medieval Period. Broadview Press. \$100.65 two-book bundle price with Vol 2.

Black, Joseph, et al., editors. The Broadview Anthology of British Literature. Vol. 2: The Renaissance and the Early Seventeenth Century. Broadview Press. \$100.65 two-book bundle price with Vol 1.

Homer. The Iliad. Translated by Emily Wilson, W. W. Norton, 2023. \$28.00

Lewis, C. S. The Discarded Image: An Introduction to Medieval and Renaissance Literature. Cambridge UP, 1964. \$24.45

Tillyard, E. M. W. The Elizabethan World Picture. Vintage Books, 1959. \$15.25

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Class Participation		7.5%
Reading Quizzes (Biweekly MC)		7.5%
Group Creative or Imitation Project		12.5%
Poetry Scansion Assignment	11/23/2026	7.5%
Midterm	11/04/2026	10.0%
Research Essay Preparatory Assignment	11/15/2026	5%
Research Essay (2500–3000 words)	12/06/2026	25%
Final Exam		25%

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

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For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.

This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].

- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.