

ENGL 220.001: Foundations: Literature in Historical Context.

Instructor: Robert Eggleston

Course Description:

This course examines selected examples of canonical English literature (prose, poetry, and drama) written from the Middle Ages through until the early eighteenth century. Students will study the primary texts in relation to their literary, cultural, and historical contexts. They can expect to develop a knowledge of developments in literary form and aesthetic concerns, the changing nature of literary production, and the evolving relationships between literature and its audiences.

Tentative Reading List:

“Dream of the Rood” (poem)

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (poem)

Geoffrey Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales* (General Prologue, The Miller’s Tale—poems)

16th-century poets (e.g. Thomas Wyatt, Elizabeth I, Edmund Spenser, Phillip Sydney, William Shakespeare)

17th-century poets (e.g. John Donne, Ben Jonson, Robert Herrick, Andrew Marvell)

John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (selections—poem)

Aphra Behn, *The Rover* (play)

Alexander Pope, *The Rape of the Lock* (poem)

Students must also read introductory material on each assigned historical period, reading, and author.