

PLAN DOCENTE
Plan experimental ECTS
FACULTAD DE LETRAS
UCLM
CURSO 2009-2010

I. DATA

Subject: ENGLISH LITERATURE I	
Code: 65864	
Characteristics: COMPULSORY	
Year: 2º	
Group: ONLY ONE	
Time: FIRST SEMESTER	
Department: MODERN PHILOLOGY	
Degree: ENGLISH PHILOLOGY	
Professor: RICARDO MIGUEL ALFONSO	
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II. CREDITS

ECTS credits: 4'5
Hours: 114

III. SCHEDULE

Lectures: Wednesdays through Fridays 8:30-9:30
Tutorials: Wednesdays, 10:30-13:30; Thursdays 10:30-11:30. Afternoons are available by appointment.

IV. PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course. However, since lectures will be conducted in English, students should have a proficient level of the language.

V. AIMS

The aim of this course is to explore the formation and development of the earliest forms of English literature, from the Anglo-Saxon period through Renaissance prose and drama. Attention will be paid to both secular and religious literature. In this sense, English Literature I will work as both a specific, self-contained subject and as an introduction to the literature of later centuries.

VI. COMPETENCE

Much like other subjects in the same area, English Literature I will be helpful in order to prepare and produce coherently any topic or presentation related to its contents. It will also provide the student with the necessary materials to elaborate didactic units related to its contents.

VII. CONTENTS

A) CONCEPTS. At the end of the course, the student must:

- ❑ Know and understand the most relevant aspects of Medieval and Early Modern English culture and literature in their historical context.
- ❑ Be acquainted with different approaches to those traditions as developed and practiced today.
- ❑ Have a reasonable knowledge of the emergence and establishment of the very idea of “literature” in the period under consideration.

B) PROCEDURES. At the end of the course, the student must:

- ❑ Recognise and write a commentary on any of the texts studied in the classroom and in the seminars. This applies to both the form and the historical significance of those texts.
- ❑ Employ in a coherent way the critical vocabulary of the subject.
- ❑ Be able to write an essay—or make a presentation—which proves a critical point and using bibliographical materials in a consistent and ethical way.
- ❑ Know how to study literature from an interdisciplinary standpoint.

C) ATTITUDES. At the end of the course, the student must:

- ❑ Develop an open and tolerant view of other cultures and literary traditions.
- ❑ Understand, assimilate and eventually criticize other opinions and value judgments entailed by other cultures.
- ❑ Use bibliographical materials in a coherent and ethical way.

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Set readings

English Medieval religious poetry: *The Dream of the Rood*, *The Wanderer* and *The Seafarer*.

Beowulf. Translated by Seamus Heaney. London: Faber & Faber, 1999.

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. Translated by Keith Harrison. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Oxford World’s Classics), 1998.

Geoffrey Chaucer, “General Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales*.”

Thomas More, *Utopia*. Book II.

Highly Recommended

In addition to the prefaces to the editions recommended, the following books are also of great interest:

Alexander, Michael. *Old English Literature*. London: Macmillan, 1986.

- Beadle, Richard, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval English Theatre*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
- Braunmuller, A. R., and Michael Hattaway, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to English Renaissance Drama*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Daiches, David. *A Critical History of English Literature*, vol. 1: *From the Beginnings to the Sixteenth Century*. London: Secker & Warburg, 1992.
- Galván Reula, Fernando. *Literatura inglesa medieval*. Madrid: Alianza, 2001. (This one and the next cannot be the subject of a report)
- Galván Reula, Fernando, ed. *Estudios literarios ingleses: Edad Media*. Madrid: Cátedra, 1985.
- Godden, Malcolm, and Michael Lapidge, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Old English Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.
- Grenfield, Stanley B. *A New Critical History of Old English Literature*. New York: New York University Press, 1986.
- Quirk, Randolph. *Old English Literature: A Practical Introduction*. London: Edward Arnold, 1982.

In-class activities:

- Lectures: presentation and analysis of topics and units.
- Practical commentaries: discussion of specific questions and problems related to the set readings.

Teacher-guided activities:

- Advise concerning written essays and oral presentations
- Problem-solving sessions related to both the contents and the evaluation process
- Seminars (optional)

Students' work:

Students are required to read the texts before in-class lectures. Please remember that this is a *requisite*, not a suggestion, since class participation accounts for a part of the final mark. Students should also discuss the texts among them, especially before making presentations, whether in class or in seminars. They are also encouraged to use both reference materials (whether in paper or multimedia) and some basic bibliography.

Methodological description

Activities	In-class (A)	Teacher-guided (B)	Student's work (C)	Total (A+B+C)	Percentage ECTS
Lectures	20	–	15	35	30'7%
Practical Exercises	5	10	30	45	39'5%
Students' work	0	0	15	15	13'15%
Tutorials	0	10	9	19	16'6%

TOTAL	25	20	69	114	100%
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X. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

English Literature I involves the following responsibilities on the student's part:

- ❖ **Final Exam:** A compulsory final examination that will include two text commentaries from any of the set readings.
- ❖ **Class Participation:** Regular and active class participation—including, of course, doing the readings—is essential, and amounts to a relevant part of your grade. Class participation obviously includes class attendance (if you're not there, you're not participating).

Grading. Final grades will be based on the following:

Final exam (75%)

Tutorials and class participation (25%)