

FALL 2020

ENGLISH LIT TO 1660

ENGLISH 255

Dr. Sarah
Higinbotham

Oxford College
of Emory University

WHY IN GOD'S NAME MAY NOT WE, AS
ELSE THE GREEKS,

have a kingdom of our own
language?

Edmund Spenser, 1580

In a sense, this course is about how English writers built a kingdom of their own language. We will read British literary works from about 900 to 1660, with an emphasis on questioning the texts and each other, and by exploring the critical lenses through which medieval and early modern literary scholars make sense of the periods' art.

Our primary literary texts will be *Beowulf*, Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Thomas More's *Utopia*, Edmund Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, and the sonnets, sermons, speeches, and lyric poems of the medieval and early modern periods.

[SARAH.HIGINBOTHAM@EMORY.EDU](mailto:Sarah.Higinbotham@emory.edu)

OFFICE HOURS

CANDLER HALL 209

TUTH 1:30-2:30

Class meets

TuTh 6:00-7:15 p.m.

On Zoom

Canvas

Dr. H website

Oxford Library

Classroom Policies

In the Zoom Classroom

One of the ways we can foster proximity -- like we have in the physical classroom -- is to all be engaged in Zoom. So I'm making your participation in our Tuesday/Thursday Zoom meetings worth 40% of your overall grade.

For every class day:

25 points: camera on entire class (one 5 minute break allowed)

50 points: each point or question you make, 25 points each (up to two)

25 points: interacting with another person, by building on or pushing back against their earlier point. You must name them, i.e. "*I want to push back against Catherine's suggestion that King Lear is helpless against his daughters.*" or "*I agree with what Shreya said about the humor in Henry V, and want to add that...*"

Keep track of your comments and submit them within each class day's Participation/quiz assignment. I

'll keep track of your camera.

So the quiz submission will look like this:

I asked why the history plays were so popular
I read out loud from Much Ado About Nothing
I pushed back on Jack's claim that Shakespeare is too existential

If you are sick and cannot attend class, you may 1) watch the recorded Zoom video, 2) write a 500-word reflection on the day's reading and discussion, quoting the day's text at least twice and citing it in ML format.

[See Zoom Engagement Policies Here](#)

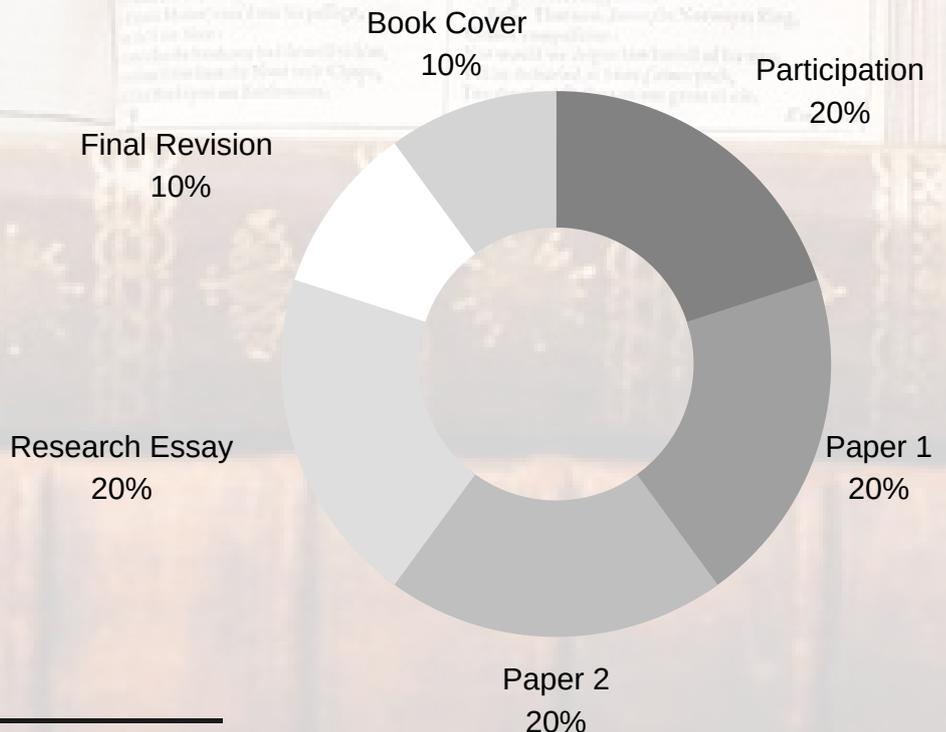


Important Note on Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism, from the Latin word for "kidnapping," is presenting another person's work as your own.

When you use someone else's language, ideas, images, or other original material without fully acknowledging its source, you will be in violation of [Emory Oxford's Honor Code](#).

Every assignment will have specific, clear guidelines. While the work itself will be challenging, you should never be confused about what is expected or how it will be evaluated. If you do, please ask questions in class, email, or come see me.



We Should Disagree

I think most of what I have learned that is of any consequence has come through disagreement and further exploration. I welcome your respectful disagreements with me. If we all interpret the articles we are reading in the same way, we have a problem, because no true thinking will be occurring.

Learn to relish when someone disagrees with you! Disagreements make the classroom environment more interesting, productive, generative, and challenging.

Our classroom is not Plato's Cave.

Please note, though, that the college classroom is a place where ideas are exchanged respectfully. I look forward to an environment where this will occur, but I don't have much tolerance for distracting behavior, such as rudeness, texting, sleeping, or side communications during class. If your participation is disruptive to the classroom discussion, if it creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive environment, you are subject to removal from the classroom at my discretion.

See [Emory Oxford's Code of Conduct](#)

You may revise any of your projects in this Discovery Seminar.

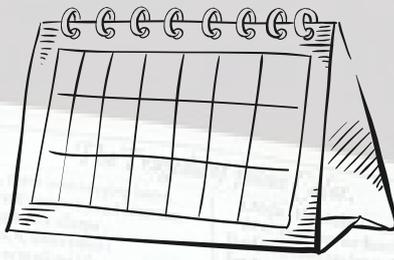
The ability to **accept and act on criticism** is one of the most valuable abilities you can develop. Can you hear constructive criticism with an open mind, build on lessons learned, and make revisions in response to suggestions?

Then I will assess your revised project a second time.

A revision isn't just a quick fix of the obvious errors, but a **"re-vision,"** or **another look** at your project, in which you address feedback. If you choose to revise, it can only help, not hurt your grade. The revision must be emailed to me within one week and include a cover letter, in which you explain to me what and why you revised what you did.

YOU CAN
ALWAYS
Revise

REVISING IS HOW YOU
LEARN



Weekly Schedule

COMPLETE READING BEFORE
YOU COME TO CLASS

Thursday, August 20 Introductions & Orientation

Tuesday, August 25 Beowulf, Introduction pp. i - xxii, lines 1-661

Thursday, August 27 Beowulf, 662-1061

Tuesday, September 1 Finish Beowulf

Thursday, September 3 Canterbury Tales, General Prologue

Tuesday, September 8 Chaucer, "Nun's Priest Tale," "Squire's Tale"

Thursday, September 10 In-Class Essay

Tuesday, September 15 Sir Thomas Wyatt, "The Long Love," "Whoso List to Hunt," "What Vaileth Truth?" "They Flee from Me"

Thursday, September 17 Continue Wyatt

Tuesday, September 22 Thomas More, Utopia, Map of Utopia, Letter to P. Giles, part 1

Thursday, September 24 Thomas More, Utopia, part 2

Tuesday, September 29 Edmund Spenser, Faerie Queene book 1, canto 1

Thursday, October 1 Faerie Queene, continue

Tuesday, October 6 Elizabeth I, "The Doubt of Future Foes" "On Monsieur's Departure," Speech to Troops at Tilbury

Thursday, October 8 Second Essay (interdisciplinary)

Tuesday, October 13 Sidney's sonnets 1, 28, 45

Thursday, October 15 Dr. Higinbotham participating in seminar (no class)

Tuesday, October 20 Christopher Marlowe, Doctor Faustus (all)

Thursday, October 22 Christopher Marlowe, Doctor Faustus

Tuesday, October 27 William Shakespeare, Twelfth Night act 1

Thursday, October 29 William Shakespeare, Twelfth Night acts 2-3

Tuesday, November 3 William Shakespeare, Twelfth Night acts 4-5

Thursday, November 5 John Donne, "The Flea," "A Valediction, Forbidding Mourning"

Tuesday, November 10 George Herbert, "Prayer," "Jordan (1) and (2)," "The Collar"

Thursday, November 12 John Milton, "Lycidas"

Tuesday, November 17 Bibliography due (Use OWL Purdue for format)

Thursday, November 19 TBA

Tuesday, November 24 Reflect & Celebrate