

Literature in English I

Literature in English Prior to 1800

Exam One (10%, 100 points)

DUE: February 16, 2019 (11:59pm, EST)

DIRECTIONS for Part I—Language and Literature: Respond to **one** of the below topics. Compose a 300-500 word essay. Be sure to cite (quote and/or paraphrase) the texts assigned for the Introductory Lesson and Lesson One. There is no required number of citations. There is no required number of works to be cited. *This exam will focus upon everything covered in class since the start of the semester. It will be a series of short essay questions. **This exam must be submitted via KSU Google Docs**; failure to submit it via **KSU Google Docs** will result in a 2% point reduction of your exam grade.*

1. Describe the history of the English language, up to the end of the Middle Ages (e.g., don't go past 1500). As you describe this history, defend your position on this question: does a language form a culture or does a culture form a language? (Note: this is a tricky question for which there is no truly acceptable answer; your response will be evaluated for the knowledge demonstrated in its support, not for the answer itself.)
2. Discuss the evolution of the English literature poetics as we have covered it thus far. How has the standard poetic structure changed? What has become more important? What has become less important? Be sure to use at least two works of literature—one from the Old English Period and one from the early Middle English Period—that we have studied in this class, to illustrate your points.
3. What is the Old English Period? What is the Anglo-Norman Period? What defines the Middle English Period? Discuss both language and poetics, drawing upon the works thus far studied.

DIRECTIONS for Part II—Culture and Literature: Respond to **one** of the below topics. Compose a 300-500 word essay. Be sure to cite (quote and/or paraphrase) the texts assigned for the Introductory Lesson and Lesson One. There is no required number of citations. There is no required number of works to be cited. *This exam will focus upon everything covered in class since the start of the semester. It will be a series of short essay questions. **This exam must be submitted via KSU Google Docs**; failure to submit it via **KSU Google Docs** will result in a 2% point reduction of your exam grade.*

1. Several of the works we have read illustrate the powerful influence that personal and/or institutionalized belief systems have upon the art of storytelling, in either its oral or literary form. Choose two works that have been assigned for reading in this class and discuss the blending of beliefs within each work.
2. Gender roles and identity are very specific and clear in several of the works we have read, even if their importance has been minimized and/or marginalized. Discuss the differences between male and female lead characters—in terms of importance, role, appearance, sexuality, and power—in at least four of the works we have thus far read.
3. What are the fundamental differences between an Anglo-Saxon hero (warrior) and a late medieval hero (chivalric knight)? Consider, in your discussion, the differences between Beowulf and Lanval; also consider the two characterizations of Jesus Christ portrayed in "Dream of the Rood" and the part of *The Ancrene Riwe* that you read.