

# Literature in English I

## Literature in English Prior to 1800

### Exam Two (15%, 150 points)

**DUE: March 23, 2019 (11:59pm, EST)**

*This exam will focus upon everything covered in class since the start of the semester.*

**DIRECTIONS:** Respond to **one** of the below topics. Compose a single 900-1500 word essay. Be sure to cite (quote and/or paraphrase) the texts under study. There is no required number of citations. There is no required number of works to be cited. However, you must demonstrate that you have read *and* studied both the lessons *and* the texts associated with each lesson! You may pull from the answers you provided in Exam One; however, you must build extensively on those answers! ***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. In your response, make extensive use of four works that have been assigned for reading in this class: one from the early Middle Ages (the Old English Period), one from the Anglo-Norman Period, one from the Middle English Period, and one from either Lesson Nine or Lesson Ten. Discuss the blending of beliefs within each work.
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? In your response, make extensive use of four works that have been assigned for reading in this class: one from the early Middle Ages (the Old English Period), one from the Anglo-Norman Period, one from the Middle English Period, and one from either Lesson Nine or Lesson Ten.
3. What is love? Several of the works you have read portray qualities of love: with sex, without sex, within marriage, outside of marriage, as a form of loyalty, as a form of lust/passion. In your response, make extensive use of four works that have been assigned for reading in this class: one from the early Middle Ages (the Old English Period), one from the Anglo-Norman Period, one from the Middle English Period, and one from either Lesson Nine or Lesson Ten. Discuss the types of love portrayed, as well as each type's qualities.
4. As we move forward in time through literature in English, one literary element that develops is characterization. We know, for example, very little about Cædmon or Beowulf, but we have a strong idea about who and what type of people are Geoffrey Chaucer's Miller, Wife of Bath and Pardoner. What do we know about these latter characters that we do not know about the former? What has changed in the values of storytelling, in terms of characterization? In your response, make extensive use of four works that have been assigned for reading in this class: one from the early Middle Ages (the Old English Period), one from the Anglo-Norman Period, one from the Middle English Period, and one from either Lesson Nine or Lesson Ten.