

Literature in English I

Literature in English Prior to 1800

Final Exam (Exam Three) (20%, 200 points)

DUE: May 8, 2019 (11:59pm, EST)

GENERAL DIRECTIONS:

*This exam will focus upon everything covered in class since the start of the semester. **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. You may combine your answer to Part One with your answer to Part Two, but it must be made clear to which topics you are responding, and the answer should be 1000-3000 words long.*

PART ONE DIRECTIONS (100 POINTS):

Respond to **one** of the below topics. Compose a single 500-1500 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! Be sure to use at least six works of literature to illustrate your points, representing each period studied in this class: one from the Old English Period, one from the Middle English Period, one from the Renaissance, one from the Neoclassical Period, and two additional works from any of these periods.

1. 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? Note: plays may be included in this discussion.
2. Describe the history of the English language. 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.)
3. In the history of English language literature prior to 1800, psychological and sociological factors have both broadened and deepened in character and plot development. How has humor developed? Trace discuss types of humor in literature studied in this course, from the Old English Period to the Neoclassical Period.

PART TWO DIRECTIONS (100 POINTS):

Respond to **one** of the below topics. Compose a single 500-1500 word essay. Be sure to cite (quote and/or paraphrase) the texts under study. There is no required number of citations. There is no

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1. Consider the archetypal hero types as described by Carol S. Pearson (Lesson 2). Review all of the works thus far assigned for this class. Find a character for each hero type and explain how that character holds those qualities. In addition, be sure to discuss heroic qualities unique to the period (such as the code of Chivalry or the Anglo-Saxon Heroic Code).
2. In what ways have gender identity and power changed in English literature? In what ways have they stayed the same? Consider both women and men writers as well as female and male characters. Are there any hints of gender identity moving beyond this binary set-up (male/female)? How has patriarchal dominance in the literature (not the politics) we have studied been portrayed—has it changed over the centuries?
3. In this class, we have covered over 1000 years worth of English literature. The view of the universe has changed dramatically over those centuries. Pick one particular part of that world view and discuss how it has changed (suggestions: religion, technology, medicine, psychology, or politics (class, gender, race, religious, or something else)).