

**Early English Literature**

Code: 100245  
 ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500245 English Studies	OB	3	1
2501902 English and Catalan	OT	3	0
2501902 English and Catalan	OT	4	0
2501907 English and Classics	OT	3	0
2501907 English and Classics	OT	4	0
2501910 English and Spanish	OT	3	0
2501910 English and Spanish	OT	4	0
2501913 English and French	OT	3	0
2501913 English and French	OT	4	0

**Contact**

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**Use of languages**

Principal working language: english (eng)  
 Some groups entirely in English: Yes  
 Some groups entirely in Catalan: No  
 Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

**Prerequisites**

Taking this subject requires having mastered the contents of the first-year subject "Història i Cultura de les Illes Britàniques". There is a further pre-requirement: having the C1 level of English (advanced) of the Common European framework of the Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, and Assessment, on the basis of which the student can express him or herself with fluidity and spontaneity, and use the language in a practical and flexible way for social, academic and professional purposes.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

This subject offers a comprehensive introduction to the main genres of English literature from the thirteenth to the seventeenth centuries. As such, it is based on detailed critical and textual analysis of some key texts written in the period. It also seeks to familiarize students with current trends in the critical reception of this literary corpus. In successfully completing the course, students will acquire the following skills:

Read and write about English medieval literature in a sufficiently sophisticated way to do justice to its complexities and subtleties.

Enrich their conception of the main literary genres and their uses in medieval and early modern England.

Improve their understanding of the intersection between literary text, historical context, and cultural values.

Learn how to take advantage of the resources of a modern university library to interpret and write about pre- and early-modern literary texts.

## Skills

### English Studies

- Critically assessing the scientific, literary and cultural production in the English language.
- Demonstrate a comprehension of the relationship between factors, processes and phenomena of linguistics, literature, history and culture, and explaining it.
- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Distinguish and contrast the various theoretical and methodological models applied to the study of the English language, its literature and its culture.
- Identify the main literary, cultural and historical currents in the English language.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Rewrite and organize information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.
- Utilising new technologies in order to capture and organise information in English and other languages, and applying it to the personal continued training and to the problem-solving in the professional or research activity.
- Working in an autonomous and responsible way in a professional or research environment in English or other languages, in order to accomplish the previously set objectives.

### English and Catalan

- Critically assessing the scientific, literary and cultural production in the English language.
- Demonstrate a comprehension of the relationship between factors, processes and phenomena of linguistics, literature, history and culture, and explaining it.
- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Distinguish and contrast the various theoretical and methodological models applied to the study of the English language, its literature and its culture.
- Identify the main literary, cultural and historical currents in the English language.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Rewrite and organize information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.

### English and Classics

- Demonstrate a comprehension of the relationship between factors, processes and phenomena of linguistics, literature, history and culture, and explaining it.
- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Distinguish and contrast the various theoretical and methodological models applied to the study of the English language, its literature and its culture.
- Identify the main literary, cultural and historical currents in the English language.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Rewrite and organize information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.

### English and Spanish

- Critically assessing the scientific, literary and cultural production in the English language.
- Demonstrate a comprehension of the relationship between factors, processes and phenomena of linguistics, literature, history and culture, and explaining it.
- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.

- Distinguish and contrast the various theoretical and methodological models applied to the study of the English language, its literature and its culture.
- Identify the main literary, cultural and historical currents in the English language.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Rewrite and organize information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.

### **English and French**

- Critically assessing the scientific, literary and cultural production in the English language.
- Demonstrate a comprehension of the relationship between factors, processes and phenomena of linguistics, literature, history and culture, and explaining it.
- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Distinguish and contrast the various theoretical and methodological models applied to the study of the English language, its literature and its culture.
- Identify the main literary, cultural and historical currents in the English language.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Rewrite and organize information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.

## **Learning outcomes**

1. Analysing and interpreting in a basic level literary texts in English of periods preceding the contemporary era.
2. Analysing and interpreting texts in a medium level about the literary genres and literary criticism in English.
3. Applying the acquired methodologies of work planning to work in an environment in the English language.
4. Applying the acquired scientific and work planning methodologies to the research in English.
5. Applying the information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc. to the work and/or research environments.
6. Appropriately placing literary texts in English of periods preceding the contemporary era in their corresponding historical and cultural context.
7. Appropriately placing literary texts in English of periods preceding the contemporary era in their corresponding linguistic context.
8. Carrying out oral presentations in English about topics related to literary texts in English of periods preceding the contemporary era.
9. Comparing in a medium level the methodologies of literary criticism in English.
10. Describing the historical and thematic evolution of the literary text in English of periods preceding the contemporary era.
11. Distinguishing the main ideas from the secondary ones and summarising the contents of literary texts of periods preceding the contemporary era.
12. Distinguishing the main ideas from the secondary ones and summarising the contents of primary and secondary texts related to the English literature of periods preceding the contemporary era.
13. Drawing up brief argumentative essays or text comments in English about topics related to literary texts in English of periods preceding the contemporary era.
14. Identifying the main currents, authors, genres and texts of the main literary texts in English of periods preceding the contemporary era.
15. Localising secondary academic sources in the library or on the Internet related to the English literature of periods preceding the contemporary era.
16. Locating and organising relevant information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc.
17. Making judgements of value in relation to the literary criticism in English associated with the English literature of periods preceding the contemporary era.
18. Participating in face-to-face and virtual debates in English about topics related to literary texts in English of periods preceding the contemporary era.

- Summarising the content of primary and secondary academic sources related to the English literature of periods preceding the contemporary era.

## Content

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

- Orígens de la Literatura Anglesa provides an introduction to the most significant literary genres of the Middle Ages and early modern period in England. It focusses on a reading of literary texts in historical context which takes into account the complex interaction between literature, culture and society.
- This subject is indispensable to complete the undergraduate curriculum in the history of English literature.
- On successfully completing Orígens de la Literatura Anglesa, students will be able to:
  - show good reading comprehension skills in both poetry and prose of the late Middle Ages and the Early Modern period;
  - develop basic literary criticism skills through essays and class presentations;
  - be able to use the library resources as applied to this subject matter.

### SYLLABUS

Unit 1: The origins and development of the Arthurian Romance: a reading of Perceval and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.

Unit 2: Geoffrey Chaucer and narrative poetry: the Canterbury Tales.

Unit 3: Humanism and Reformation: Thomas More's Utopia and selected religious writing.

Unit 4: Renaissance Poetry: sonnet sequences (Wyatt, Howard, Sidney and Spenser)

### Methodology

This subject seeks to combine conventional methodologies associated with the theoretical dimension of the course (lectures) with more dynamic approaches to the literary text that encourage students to get actively involved with class activities (group discussion and debate). Thus, the principal learning strategies will be as follows:

- Introducing the background to each of the main units covered in class (lectures)
- Critical and textual analysis involving the active participation of the students
- Class debates which reflect and stimulate diverging interpretations of the text
- Critical writing that synthesises the acquired knowledge and demonstrates the acquired skills

### Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
<b>Type: Directed</b>			
lectures	30	1.2	2, 9, 10, 12, 17, 14
practical classes, text analysis and class debates	35	1.4	1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 17

<b>Type: Supervised</b>			
class discussion and debates	20	0.8	2, 9, 17, 8, 18
<b>Type: Autonomous</b>			
reading	25	1	1, 11, 14, 19
revising for exams	15	0.6	10, 14, 15, 16, 19

## Evaluation

Assessment of this course is based on the following percentages:

- Exam 1 = 45%
- Exam 2 = 45%
- Participation in class discussion and debates = 10%

NB: Group discussion will be normal practice in this subject and students will be expected actively to contribute to class discussions.

### PLEASE NOTE:

- The minimum pass mark is 5 for all exams and activities. Students who have failed one of the two exams but passed the other will have the opportunity of a resit examination. In this case, the maximum final grade will be 5. Students who fail one of the two exams will have to retake it in order to pass the subject, even if their provisional average grade were 5 or higher.
- All the subjects in this degree follow continuous assessment.
- All the exercises are compulsory.
- Students who take only one of the exams will fail the subject ('Suspens') and an 'NA' ('no available' or 'no evidence') final grade will not be an option for them.
- The minimum mark for an exercise or exam to be considered for the average final mark is 4, although the minimum pass mark for the whole subject is 5.
- The student's command of English will be taken into account when marking all exercises and for the final mark. It will count as 25% of this mark for all the exercises and will be assessed as follows:
  - Grammar (morphology and syntax): 30%
  - Vocabulary (accuracy and variety): 15%
  - Cohesion (among sentences and paragraphs): 15%
  - Organization (sound argumentation of ideas): 20%
  - Style (expression and register): 15%
  - Spelling: 5%
- Reviewing procedure: Students have a right to review their exercises with the teacher in a personal tutorial, on the set dates, never later than 2 weeks after the exercise/exam is marked, including re-assessment. The student loses this right if s/he fails to collect the exercise/exam within the period announced by the teacher.
- Re-assessment conditions:
  - Only students who pass 70% of the exercises/exams for continuous assessment may take re-assessment for the remaining 30%, provided they have done all the exercises or taken all the exams.
  - A re-assessment exam is always programmed by the 'Facultat' but the teacher may offer other forms of re-assessment for the exercises.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Partial or total plagiarising will immediately result in a FAIL (0) for the WHOLE SUBJECT. PLAGIARISING consists of copying text from unacknowledged sources -whether this is part of a sentence or a whole text- with the intention of passing it off as the student's own production. It includes cutting

and pasting from internet sources, presented unmodified in the student's own text. Plagiarising is a **SERIOUS OFFENCE**. Students must respect authors' intellectual property, always identifying the sources they may use; they must also be responsible for the originality and authenticity of their own texts.

## Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Exam 1	45%	2	0.08	1, 2, 9, 6, 7, 10, 11, 17, 14
Exam 2	45%	2	0.08	3, 4, 5, 12, 17, 15, 16, 13, 19
Participation in debates	10%	21	0.84	8, 18

## Bibliography

UNIT 1 Chivalric romance: la Literatura Artúrica Lectura de The Story of the Grail (segle XII, trad. anglesa al segle XIII) i de Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (segle XIV) Llibre: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight: Paperback, 2008, Oxford Classics. Optional further reading: Lancelot du Lac, Queste du Graal, La Morte D'Arthur by Thomas Malory (1485).

UNIT 2 The poetry of Geoffrey Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales (in particular, General Prologue, The Miller's Tales, The Pardoner's Tale. Llibre: The Canterbury Tales); paperback, 2009, Oxford Classics. Optional further reading: Troilus and Criseyde, The Parlyament of Fowles.

UNIT 3 Humanism and the Reformation. Utopia by Thomas More (1516); Selected texts from "Faith in Conflict", Norton Anthology I. (Thomas More, Utopia, 2003, Penguin Classics). Optional further reading: A Dialogue of Comfort by Thomas More (1534).

UNIT 4 Renaissance poetry. Selected sonnets by Thomas Wyatt, Isabella Whitney, Philip Sidney i Edmund Spenser. Optional further reading: A Defence of Poetry by Sir Philip Sidney (1595); Amoretti and Epithalamion by Edmund Spenser (1595)

## Websites

The Internet Medieval Sourcebook: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html>

English Literature on the Web:

<http://www.lang.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/EngLit.html> - The Norton Online:

<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/>

## Other recommended texts:

Aers, David, ed, Medieval Literature: Criticism, Ideology and History, ed. David Aers, (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986).

Boitani, Piero, and Jill Mann, eds. The Cambridge Chaucer Companion, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986).

Glasscoe, Marion, English Medieval Mystics, (London: Longman, 1993).

Jost, Jean A., Middle English Arthurian Romances: A Reference Guide, (Boston, 1986).

Krueger, Roberta L. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Romance*, (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000).

Easting, Robert, *Visions of the Other World in Middle English*, (Rochester, NY, 1997).

Levi, Anthony. *Renaissance and Reformation: Intellectual Genesis*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002).

Mahoney, Dhira, ed., *The Grail: A Casebook*, ed. Dhira Mahoney (New York and London: Garland, 2000).

Mann, Jill. *Feminizing Chaucer*, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell and Brewer, 2002).

Norbrook, David (ed.) *The Penguin Book of Renaissance Verse*, (London: Penguin, 2005).

Wallace, David, *The Cambridge History of Medieval English Literature*, (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1999).