

ENGL 2121 British Literature I  
Essay 1 Assignment

Purpose:

To analyze and explore one of the following concepts, based on the literature assigned in the first section of this course, British Literature of the Middle Ages:

- 1) The role of social customs, class, wealth, and/or politics in literature.
- 2) The role of religion and the Church in literature.
- 3) The role of women and gender in literature.

Scope:

In your analysis, address **all** of the following:

- 1) Select **at least two of the assigned readings** from different sections in the list below and **explore what they suggest about one of the concepts laid out above**. Use select quoted material from the works of literature to support your position. (No more than about 10-15% of the paper should come from the sources.) You may use readings with contrasting views of the concept or with mutually supporting views of the concept.
- 2) Using the material from the background reading in the text, your class notes, the class web page, and/or independent research **briefly explore the social and cultural impact** of the ideas reflected in the literature on the social, political, and/or religious elements of medieval England.
- 3) Briefly **compare the medieval ideas with 21<sup>st</sup> century ideas on the same concept** discussed in the works of literature that you selected.

Readings (select from the following):

Anglo-Saxon Literature

- *Beowulf*

Early Medieval Literature

- *Lanval*

- *Sir Gawain and Green Knight*

- *The Canterbury Tales*

Later Medieval Literature

- Julian of Norwich

- Margery Kempe

- Malory

Requirements:

- 1) The paper must be a minimum of 3 full pages long (within 1 ½ inches of the bottom of page 3) NOT including the Works Cited page.
- 2) You must cite and document all sources used (including readings from our text) with correct MLA formatting. (NOTE: List each reading separately – don't ONLY list the text book.)
- 3) The format of the paper must adhere to MLA document design requirements (see a grammar handbook or MLA.com for further guidance). Also refer to the course syllabus for details.
- 4) The final draft of the paper must be submitted electronically to Turnitin.com (details will be provided in class). **This paper is due no later than the beginning of class on Tuesday, March 23.** (Note the change from the syllabus.)