

ENGL 2223

English Literature to 1680

General Information

Instructor: Noel Currie ncurrie@langara.ca (Office: A202b)

Course Times: Monday/Wednesday 10:30-12:20

Credits: 3 (for information about transfer credit, visit bctransferguide.ca)

Course Description

ENGL 2223 explores the wealth of English Literature from its beginnings through the 17th century, emphasising major works by major authors. We'll begin with a brief overview of the development of the English language to prepare for Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* – a Middle English master class in characterization. We'll sandwich Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and its exploration of duty, freedom, identity, and desire between a look at other short 16th and 17th-century poems (sonnet, pastoral, lyric, etc.). And we'll end with the bizarre majesty of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, which – if it doesn't *quite* manage to “justify the ways of God to men” – still “pursues things unattempted yet in prose or rhyme.” We'll spend a lot of time with iambic pentameter as we seek to understand, appreciate, and challenge these texts.

Course Texts

- Greenblatt et al, eds., *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 10th ed
- Shakespeare, *As You Like It* (Signet classics)
- Beidler, Hieatt & Hieatt, eds, *The Canterbury Tales* (bilingual ed.) – optional
- *The Canterbury Tales* app (includes an audio version of “The General Prologue”) – optional

***course texts are subject to change before the semester begins**