

ENG 220: Introduction to the English Major
Discussion Section
Fall 2015, CRN 12089
Section Meets Thursdays 3-3:50pm in 192 ANS

Instructor:	Ryleigh Nucilli	Office Location:	PLC 223
Email:	rnucilli@uoregon.edu	Office Hours:	R: 12-2pm & by appointment
Phone:	(541) 346-3977		

This syllabus covers information you will need to succeed in the overall course, but more specifically in the Discussion Section and that portion of your grade for English 220 (20%).

Required Course Work

Reading: It should go without saying that reading will be essential to the English major. In order to succeed in this course, you will need to fully engage yourself in the readings and complete them prior to each lecture. Since our discussion section occurs each Friday just prior to the lecture, I will expect that you have completed Friday’s reading by the time our lecture begins. Quizzes will most likely include material from Friday’s readings.

Reading Quizzes (15%): Almost every class meeting will begin with a quiz. The quiz will review readings you did for Mondays and Wednesdays, and will ask about the reading you are to have done for the lecture after Friday’s discussion section. This means that quizzes will cover the readings for the entire week of readings prior to and including the Friday on which you take your quiz.

Discussion Participation (25%): While the lecture is extremely valuable because Professor Laskaya presents you with essential information on the period and readings in the course, the discussion section provides you a chance to learn these concepts in an alternate way by participating in “active” learning. We will discuss the readings and the historical context, you will have a chance to ask questions and clarify ideas, and we will talk through strategies for thinking about the texts and contexts in your writing assignments and exams. Engaged participation in the discussion section is, therefore, essential to your success—and the success of your classmates—in the course. Your participation in discussion will be evaluated each week as part of your discussion section grade. Points for participation amount to about 6 points per week, totaling 60 points for the term. I reserve the right to adjust participation points as I think is appropriate. See Canvas for further details.

Formal Note Taking Assignment (10%): More information to be given on the assignment sheet.

Creative Assignment (15%): For this assignment, you will create a lament for Grendel’s mother in alliterative verse to supplement our reading of *Beowulf*. More information about this will be given on the assignment sheet.

In-Class Presentations (25%): Beginning with our Week 2 meeting, you will take turns helping lead the

course from the week's lectures into the week's discussion of them. This will involve working in groups of 2-3 students, plucking a question or a provocative area of exploration from Professor Laskaya's lectures from the week and providing an answer to your classmates in the form of a five-minute in-class presentation. **Presentation plans must be submitted to me by 12pm on the day of the presentation.** More information about the details of this assignment will be given on the assignment sheet.

Weekly Tweet (10%): We will be bringing our conversations from the Middle Ages to the Digital Age this term through a weekly Twitter conversation in which everyone will participate. More information on this assignment will be given on the assignment sheet.

Policies:

Attendance: Attendance is required. We only have nine meetings this term, and every one will be crucial to your success in the course. You will be allowed one "excused" absence; subsequent absences will result in a lower section grade (each day absent will drop the grade by one whole letter). Note that I do not otherwise distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. Please see me if you feel you have an extenuating circumstance. Excessive tardiness will count as an absence.

Late Work: Because this section meets only once per week, late work will not be accepted.

Cell Phone Use

This is a small, discussion-based class. As such, cell phones are highly disruptive. The ringer must be turned off *before* the start of class. You may not text, answer, or make calls in class. Any use of cell phone during class time will result in an automatic absence for the day.

Your continued enrollment in this course signifies your acceptance of the terms of this syllabus and on Canvas.

Tentative Schedule

- 10/1: Syllabus; Introductions; Presentation Sign-up and Details; Weekly Tweet Details
 Weekly Tweet Due by 5pm 10/2
 Formal Note-taking Assignment due **Monday 10/5:** Emailed to me BEFORE the start of lecture.
- 10/8: Quiz; In-Class Presentation; Close-reading Practice; Creative Assignment Details
Creative Assignment Due Monday 10/12: Turned into me in person BEFORE the start of lecture.
 Weekly Tweet Due by 5pm 10/9
Formal Paper 1.1 Assignment Details on Canvas.
- 10/15: Quiz; In-Class Presentation; Close-reading Practice
 Weekly Tweet Due by 5pm 10/16
Formal Paper 1.1 Due on Canvas BEFORE lecture 10/16.
- 10/22: In-Class Presentation; MIDTERM Prep.
 No Weekly Tweet Due

10/29: Quiz; In-Class Presentation; Review of Bayeux Tapestry and questions from Midterm
Weekly Tweet Due by 5pm 10/30
Formal Paper 1.2 Due on Canvas BEFORE lecture 10/30.

11/5: Quiz, In-Class-Presentation; Discuss SGGK
Weekly Tweet Due by 5pm 11/6

11/12: Quiz; In-Class Presentation; Close-reading practice
Weekly Tweet Due by 5pm 11/13
Formal Paper 2.1 Due on Canvas by 4:00pm Monday, 11/16.

11/19: Quiz; In-Class Presentation; Discuss Chaucer, *Miller's Tale*
Weekly Tweet Due by 5pm 11/20

11/26: Thanksgiving Break—No Class
Formal Paper 2.2 Due on Canvas by 4:00pm on Monday, 11/30.

12/3: In-Class Presentation; FINAL EXAM Prep
Weekly Tweet Due by 5pm 12/4

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 9th, 10:15-12:15 in our Lecture Classroom