

## English 2001 (Fall) British Literature to 1800



### **M. Furrow**

MW 1:35 - 2:25

F tutorials 1:35-2:25 or 12:35-1:25

This course offers students an opportunity to explore some of the more striking literary texts from *Beowulf* (written probably before 800, but to be read in Seamus Heaney's splendid 1999 translation) to Boswell, whose *Life of Samuel Johnson* (1791) was printed about a thousand years later. Within this millennium of literary history there are plenty of highlights to choose from: canonical works by such as Chaucer, Shakespeare, Jonson, Milton, and Pope will be joined by newly canonical ones by such as Marie de France and Frances Burney. The variety of literary genres and styles written in English over this period is nothing short of dazzling: there are heartfelt love-songs here, and clever satires; epic battles and trivial pursuits; tragic deaths and parodic frivolities. Speakers of English are simply lucky to have a tradition so rich and various on which to plant the present and grow the future.

Instruction will be by a combination of lecture, discussion, and tutorials. A weekly lecture (we hope for a different member of the English Department each week) will highlight a particular text and provide a focus for the rest of the week's intellectual work. Evaluation will be based on reader responses, a final examination, and two papers.

English 2001 is one of a suite of required classes in the English Department. All of these classes are designed to prepare students for advanced work in English by orienting them in literary history and addressing disciplinary skills including good research and citation practices, essay writing, and formal literary analysis.

### **Textbook:**

*The Broadview Anthology of British Literature to 1800 Concise Edition, Volume A, Second Edition: The*

*Medieval Period, The Renaissance and the Early Seventeenth Century, and The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century.* This will come bundled with the Broadview edition of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. *The Concise Canadian Writer's Handbook*, William E. Messenger, Jan de Bruyn, Judy Brown and Ramona Montagnes (Oxford University Press). This text has been used in other English classes (at first and second year level) and may be available used.

