Spring 2018 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Robert Griffin
Course: 231.200 & 501
Title: Survey of English Literature I

Description: This course surveys writing in England from the Anglo-Saxon period up to the late Eighteenth Century. It understands the values embedded in literature as a part of cultural history that can be charted as England moves from feudalism into modernity.

Students should leave this course with an appreciation of the diversity of literature over several centuries, and with an understanding of each text's position within the larger coordinates of the culture. Moreover, the student should understand the literature of Britain in relation to the political and cultural changes that shaped its developing history.

Proposed Readings: We will read some of the most influential works in the English tradition, possibly including Beowulf, Spenser's Faerie Queene, Milton's Paradise Lost, Shakespeare's Henry IV, Part One, and Swift's Gulliver's Travels. We will also give attention to writings that have only recently been recovered and valued anew.