

**AP Literature & Composition – Assignment Outline**  
**Unit I: Later Middle Ages (1050-1300) and the Renaissance (1300-1650)**

Dates and assignments are subject to change and the discretion of the instructor. You will be notified of any changes; otherwise, stay the course.

**Tuesday, Aug 13:** Introduction to the course and AP Exam. We will conduct a close reading of Marvell's "To His Coy Mistress" with an emphasis on analyzing context and time period. In addition, we will read two critical interpretations of the poem.

Assignment: Read from *The Art of Courtly Love* and from the Romance of *Tristan and Iseult*.

**Journal** about the kind of love that seems to be represented in each of these works (one non-fiction, the other fiction)

**Thurs, Aug 15:** Begin discussion of etiquette and chivalric behavior and discuss *The Art of Courtly Love* and *Tristan and Iseult*. Analyze the **devices** Bedier uses in T & I to generate suspense and sympathy for the lovers.

Assignment: Read pages 9-56 in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

**Journal** Admirers of President John F. Kennedy sometimes referred to his administration as "Camelot" after the legendary court of King Arthur. His detractors sometimes used the same name, but in an ironic way. What do you think was the reason for this designation? Was it appropriate? Why or why not?

**Mon., Aug 19:** Discuss *Sir Gawain* and analyze the poem in terms of tone.

Assignment: Finish *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

**Journal:** Bertilak, who is also the Green Knight, remains a mysterious figure even at the end of the poem. Do you think he is basically good, evil or fundamentally ambiguous?

**Wed., Aug 21:** Read a critical essay of *Sir Gawain* and discuss the poem.

Assignment: Read the "The Prologue" of the *Canterbury Tales*.

**Journal:** What general impressions about religion does the General Prologue leave?

**Fri., Aug 23:** Discussion of readings. Research life of Chaucer, Thomas Beckett and Middle English (choose one) & discuss (time permitting; otherwise to be completed in class on Wednesday).

**Tues., Aug 27:** Discuss reading and share research.

Assignment: Read "Knight's Tale" from *The Canterbury Tales*.

**Journal** about the function of the prologue and what key information we are presented with. What are your observations about the Knight and the tale he's telling? (Analyze tone, setting and theme)

**Thurs., Aug 29:** Discuss "The Knight's Tale". In-class timed writing and practice multiple choice questions.

Assignment: Read "The Miller's Tale".

**Journal:** Contrast “The Knight's Tale” with “The Miller's Tale”.

**Tues., Sept 3:** Discuss “The Miller’s Tale”.

Assignment: Read “Wife of Bath”.

**Journal:** What clerical attitudes about women are attacked by the Wife of Bath, and what is ironic about her anger against these attitudes?

**Thurs., Sept 5:** Discuss “The Wife of Bath”.

Assignment: Read “the Pardoner’s Tale”.

**Journal:** Explain in detail the moral lesson conveyed in The Pardoner's Tale and give a full character description of the pilgrim Pardoner.

**Mon., Sept 9:** Discuss the Pardoner. In-class timed writing. Term quiz over literary devices and stylistic devices.

Assignment: Write a formal essay of about 2-3 pages in length that ties Chaucer’s and Marvell’s themes into their social and cultural context and how they are the forerunners of 20<sup>th</sup>-century modern literature – due Friday, Sept. 13 uploaded to turnitin.com.

You should also be spending your time reading your independent novel.