

LIT 302: The Literary Tradition: Renaissance, Reformation, Restoration  
Spring 2026 (MWF 10:30-11:20; RM 300)  
Clarendon  
Email: [aclarendon@smac.edu](mailto:aclarendon@smac.edu)  
Office hours: by appointment

Course Description and Purpose Statement:

Beginning with Chaucer and later 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century English verse, the course centers on Milton's *Paradise Lost* and then moves through representative texts of the Restoration / Eighteenth century. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the literature in class discussion and will augment their reading and critical skills through research of literary scholarship, presenting their findings in essays of increasing scope and length.

Grading:

Essays:	40%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	30%
Class Participation:	10%

Late assignments will be accepted but will be assessed a penalty.

Jan 12:	Introduction, Chaucer	
Jan 19:	Chaucer	
Jan 26:	Chaucer	
Feb 02:	Chaucer / English Renaissance Verse	
Feb 09:	Donne	
Feb 16:	Marvell, Milton	Feb 18: Ash Wednesday; <b>Essay 1 Due</b>
Feb 23-Feb 27:	<b>College Retreat</b>	
Mar 02:	Milton	
Mar 09:	Milton	
Mar 16:	Milton	
Mar 23:	Milton	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
Mar 30-Apr 06:	<b>Easter Break</b>	
Apr 13:	Restoration, Dryden	<b>Essay 2 Due</b>
Apr 20:	Dryden	
Apr 27:	Swift, Pope	
May 04:	Pope	
May 11:	Pope	May 13-14: No classes
May 15-May 19:	Final Examinations	
May 23:	Commencement	