A survey course covering the fifth through the seventeenth centuries, 302A examines the Medieval and Renaissance periods of British literary history. Through lecture and discussion, the course introduces representative writers and key developments of these two eras. This is an exciting course because it covers the three giants of English literature – Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton – while also allowing us to explore works that don’t have as much star power (including some written over several decades, by people whose names we don’t know), but that have survived because they are beautiful and express powerful ideas.

Students are expected to purchase the required textbooks in print form and to bring the appropriate volume to each class for reference during discussion.

Assignments:

Three 3-5-page papers; midterm and final exams; 15 quizzes and/or brief writing assignments.

Required texts:

The following 2 volumes of the Norton Anthology of English Literature (9th edition; paperback):


I do not need desk copies.

Attention bookstore staff: It is OK to order these two volumes shrink-wrapped (which may involve using a different ISBN). But please do not substitute another title or edition for this one.