

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** ENG 243

**Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** Survey of English Literature I

**Course Description:** Studies major English texts from the Anglo-Saxon period to the 18th century, emphasizing the ideas and characteristics of the British literary tradition. Involves critical reading and writing. ENG 243 has been designated as a "writing intensive" course according to standards developed by the English department. Prerequisite: ENG 112 or equivalent. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** ENG 243 develops skills in critical literacy, provides opportunities for humanistic study, and promotes an understanding of selected American literature from the pre-colonial period through the mid-nineteenth century. As a writing intensive course, ENG 243 will provide specific instruction in writing, especially literary analysis, and substantial written and oral feedback on formal writing, with the opportunity to revise at least one formal paper. Students will produce at least 12 pages (3000 words) of formal writing, including academic essays and essay exam responses, and at least 12 pages (3000 words) of informal writing, including reading responses or journal entries.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

Prerequisite: ENG 112 or equivalent

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completing this course, the student will be able to

- a. Describe, analyze, and interpret themes and features of literary texts from a variety of genres, using appropriate literary terminology;
- b. Demonstrate knowledge of the literary movements covered in the survey, including literary techniques, innovations, major writers, and major texts;
- c. Explain the relationship between literature and the historical and cultural contexts in which it is produced, with particular attention to the shaping of cultural identities as reflected in the literature;
- d. Compose writing about literature that includes clear and concise argumentation and organization, valid textual evidence for support, and correct documentation; and
- e. Use literary study as a means for engaging in meaningful and enduring questions across human cultures.

**Major Topics to Be Included:**

Students may expect to study the following:

- a. British literary tradition, including fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fiction, beginning with the Anglo-Saxon period and moving to the 18th century
- b. Social, political, and cultural movements from which the literature emerges
- c. Issues relevant to the development of English drama and poetry, the development of the English language, the context of political and social texts, and the growth of fiction writing

**Date Created/Updated (Month, Day, Year):** July 23, 2018