

**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 (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)**

Examines major British texts from the Anglo-Saxon period to the 18th century. Involves critical reading and writing. The course emphasizes the critical ideas and traditions of the British literary tradition, and examines the literary texts within their social and historical context. ENG 243 has been designated as a "writing intensive" course according to standards developed by the English Department. Prerequisite: ENG 112 or approval by the English program head. ENG 243 and 244 may be taken out of order. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose**

ENG 243 develops skills in critical literacy, provides opportunities for self-expression, and promotes understanding of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. As a writing intensive course, ENG 243 will provide specific instruction in writing, especially literary analysis, substantial written and oral feedback on formal writing, with the opportunity to revise at least one formal paper. Upon successful completion of the course, students will have produced at least 12–15 pages of formal writing, including academic essays and essay exam responses, and 12–15 pages of informal writing, including reading responses or journal entries.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites** (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)  
ENG 112 or Divisional approval.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Analyze and interpret the critical British texts of the Anglo-Saxon period to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- b. Identify critical movements and developments in the English literature and art.
- c. Place the literary contributions of English writers within the larger social and political context of British history from the early Middle Ages to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- d. Write critically and analytically about literary texts.

**Major Topics to be Included**

- a. British literary tradition, including fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fiction, beginning with the Anglo-Saxon period and moving to the 18<sup>th</sup> 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.
- d. Development of critical thinking and writing skills.

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year):** February 13, 2009