A. **Course Description:** English 2316 is the first course in a three-course sequence that covers the history of English literature from its beginnings to present. English 2316 covers the Middle Ages (from Anglo-Saxon Literature to 1500) and the Renaissance (1500 to 1660 or so).

B. **Course Objective:** The most important objectives of this class are:
   1. to develop an understanding and appreciation of some of the most important writers and literary works of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance,
   2. to develop an understanding of the cultural and historical backgrounds necessary to the serious study of early English literature,
   3. to develop an understanding and appreciation of English literary history as it relates to the Middle Ages and the Renaissance,
   4. to develop further the reading, writing, and research skills necessary to the serious study of literature,
   5. to develop further the critical skills and aesthetic responsiveness necessary to the serious study of literature,
   6. to develop a sense of the relationships between the history of the English language and the history of English literature.

C. **Course Requirements:**
   1. Students are expected to attend class faithfully.
   2. Students are expected to read the assigned works carefully and on time.
   3. Students are expected to behave with that civilized decorum that is appropriate to an academic class and setting.

D. **Required Texts:**

E. **Grading Policies:** All assignments will be carefully evaluated by the instructor. The “weight” given to each written assignment will be as follows:
   1. The two short papers = 40%
   2. Research paper = 20%
   3. Final Examination = 40%

G. **Attendance and Drop Policy:** Regular attendance is essential in this class. Any student who misses more than three classes may be dropped with WF.

H. **Academic Dishonesty Policy:** (Student Handbook 36-41) According to the Handbook, “The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university’s
Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student’s acceptance of this university policy” (37). Any form of academic dishonesty on an assignment will result in an F for that assignment.

I. University Policies on Disabilities and Sexual Harassment: If you need accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act contact the Office of Disability Support Services. For the university’s policies concerning Sexual Harassment see the current Student Handbook.

J. Readings:
A. Anglo-Saxon literature
   1. Bede and Shorter Anglo-Saxon Poetry, pp 24-29, 111-114
   2. Beowulf, pp. 34-100

B. The High Middle Ages
   1. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, pp. 160-213
   2. Middle English lyrics, pp. 368-370, 436-437
   3. Geoffrey Chaucer, pp. 218-238, 284-298
   4. John Gower, pp. 320-331
   5. Robert Henryson, pp. 457-463
   6. Sir Thomas Malory, pp. 439-456

C. The Earlier Renaissance
   1. Sir Thomas Wyatt, pp. 594-601
   2. Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, pp. 608-610
   3. Sir Philip Sidney, pp. 975-987
   4. Edmund Spenser, pp. 902-907
   5. William Shakespeare, pp. 1062-1077

D. The Later Renaissance
   1. John Donne, pp. 1263-1268
   2. Ben Jonson, pp. 1430-1437
   3. George Herbert, pp. 1619-1620
   4. Henry Vaughan, pp. 1632-1635
   5. Robert Herrick, pp. 1658-1659
   6. Andrew Marvell, pp. 1703-1704
   7. John Milton, pp. 1831-1871

K. Schedule for Written Assignments:
   1. Short Paper 1 – Due after Beowulf
   2. Short Paper 2 – Due after Malory
   3. Research Paper – Due last regular day of class
   4. Final Examination – Examination Week