



COURSE DESCRIPTION

## 2016 Winter Session (2016-2017 Academic Year)

### ENGL 220-004: Literature in English to the 18th Century - Jonathan Newell

#### Literature in English to the 18th Century

##### Term 1

TTh, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

This survey will consider various forms of disorder in the literature of the medieval and early modern periods, including social, political, theological, and ontological disorder and tropes of monstrosity, misrule, anarchy, and subversion. From the violent, monster-haunted world of *Beowulf* to the carnivalesque disruptions of the social order in William Shakespeare's Saturnalian comedy *Twelfth Night* to the Satanic rebellion in John Milton's epic *Paradise Lost*, we'll think about the ways that literature contests, critiques, and reflects the conventions of the periods in question. Our discussions will also focus on examples of transgression and transformation in literary form in genres like the epic poem, chivalric romance, drama, and prose satire, while assignments will help refine close-reading, research, and argumentation skills.