Course Description. This course will introduce students to the formative periods in the British literary tradition, beginning in the eighth century and running through to the middle of the eighteenth century. The course will survey the major authors and major works of the complex periods classified by literary historians as the Medieval, the Early Modern, and the Restoration and Eighteenth Century. We will examine the development of genres and themes over time and analyze their relationship to broader developments in British culture, including the shift from oral to written to print, the persistence of pagan values in a Christian state, the nature of heroism, the emergence of colonialism and notions of nationalism, the consumer revolution, the invention of a social, sexual, and political “self,” novelty and the rise of the “novel.” This section of ENGL 3210 will pay particular attention to works that are self-conscious about their own status as literature and that dramatize the process of creation and nature of response.