



## Early Literature – Part II

### Syllabus

**Course Description:** An excerpt-based class, students continue a study through early historical literature including an introduction to Shakespeare (1600s), *Don Quixote* (1605), *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678), *Robinson Crusoe* (1719), *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* (1791), and poems by Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784) and William Blake (1757-1827). All texts are included as part of the class; no materials are required for purchase.

**Prerequisite:** *Essay Basics* or equivalent experience writing five-paragraph essays.

### Course Outline:

#### **Week One:** Intro to Shakespeare

- Review of the Renaissance
- Shakespeare's England
- Shakespeare's Stage
- Understanding Shakespeare's Language

#### **Week Two:** *Don Quixote*

- A Brief History of Spain & The Story
- The Value of Cervantes' Novel

#### **Week Three:** *The Pilgrim's Progress*

- More of England's History
- Allegory in Writing
- Making Connections

#### **Week Four:** *Robinson Crusoe*

- The Life of Daniel Defoe
- Confessional, Epistolary, and Realistic Fiction
- Intro to The Age of Enlightenment

**Week Five:** *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

- A Brief Background
- More About The Age of Enlightenment

**Week Six:** Poems by Phillis Wheatley

- Wheatley's Historical Significance in Literature
- Why Poetry?
- How Do We Read Poetry?
- Close Reading & Rhyme Schemes

**Week Seven:** Poems by William Blake

- Intro to the Romantic era
- Blake's Influence in Art and Poetry
- More Poetry Analysis

**Week Eight:** Final Response – Five-Paragraph Essay

**Grading Information:** All assignments will be graded using *The Growing Writer Rubric* and averaged to receive a final course grade.