

Fall 8-15-2018

ENG 3800-001: Medieval British Literature

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Caldwell, Melissa, "ENG 3800-001: Medieval British Literature" (2018). *Fall 2018*. 60.
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Medieval British Literature

Magic, Visions, and Visionaries

English 3800 / Section 001 (3 credit hours)

CH 3150 / 4:30 – 5:45 p.m. / Fall 2018

Professor Melissa Caldwell

mcaldwell@eiu.edu

Office: CH 3050

Office Hours: M 11am-1pm, 2-430pm; W 1-430pm; or by appt.

Required Texts

Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*

Geoffrey Chaucer, *Dream Visions and Other Poems*

Marie de France, *The Lais of Marie de France*

Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe*

Norris Lacy, Ed. *The Lancelot-Grail Reader*

Pearl Poet, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Patience, Pearl*

Course Description, Goals, and Expectations

In this course, we will explore the discourses of mystery in medieval literature ranging from the nostalgia of Arthurian romance to the fantasy world of secular dream visions to religious texts and mystical visions. Towards the end of the course, we will also consider why representations of the medieval period continue to preoccupy our imagination. Note: English 1002G is a prerequisite for this course.

This course is designed to introduce you to several major British writers of the era known as the medieval period or Middle Ages. This semester, you will

- Develop your ability to read, analyze, and research medieval literature of various genres
- Hone your writing skills by developing papers and substantially revising them based on instructor feedback
- Develop your speaking and listening skills by engaging in lively and thought-provoking classroom discussion and debate and presenting your work to the class
- Develop your understanding of medieval history, culture, and science by learning about and researching historical and cultural context
- Familiarize yourself with the variety of electronic resources that scholars use to research medieval literature and culture
- Make connections between the literature and culture of the middle ages and our own contemporary world by reflecting on the value of this literature to both yourself personally and our society as a whole

While we will read many texts in translation, in some cases we will read texts in their original language (e.g., Chaucer). In either event, medieval literature is rarely easy for the twenty-first century reader. I advise you to

give yourself ample time to do the reading carefully and not to flinch when confronted by difficulty—and rest assured, you *will* be confronted by difficulty, as will we all. In order to rise above this challenge, you should be a proactive reader: when you don't understand something, re-read; consult textual notes, handbooks and the vast online resources at your fingertips such as the *Oxford English Dictionary* (available through Booth Library's webpage), luminarium.org, or the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (to name just a few); pose questions in class; talk to your classmates before and after class; and by all means come talk to me during office hours. Class time will be devoted to discussing the literary, political, religious, and intellectual context of our readings and to addressing both their inherent complexities and our own confusion.

Be advised that in order to succeed in this class, it is *absolutely essential* for you do the reading, attend class with your text in hand, be actively engaged in class discussion, and take notes. Much of the material on the exams will come from class lectures and class discussion. Please use my office hours whenever you would like to discuss your papers or the works we are reading in the course.

Attendance and Class Participation

My attendance policy is simple: I expect you to attend every class. By attend, I mean not merely showing up as a warm body, but being intellectually present in the class. Bring your book; take notes; come with something to say and/or be prepared to respond thoughtfully to the matters that we discuss in class. After your 3rd absence, I will lower your final grade by 1/3 a letter grade for each subsequent absence. If there is a reason why you must miss class for an extended period of time, you should consult with me early about your absences. I reserve the right to count you absent for behavior inappropriate and unbecoming a college classroom including, but not limited to, texting, chatting, or any irrelevant use of technology in class, reading materials irrelevant to class, repeated tardiness, sleeping, or any other behavior that is disrespectful to myself and your peers.

If you miss class on the day of the midterm or final exam, you will not be permitted to make up the exam unless you can document an excused absence.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). The English Department's policy on plagiarism states the following:

"Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments, of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Office of Student Standards."

To put this another way: plagiarism absolutely will not be tolerated in this class regardless of whether it is intentional or unintentional, or whether occurs in written, oral or electronic work (e.g., a PowerPoint). Plagiarists will be reported to the Office of Student Standards and will fail the course. If you are confused about plagiarism at any point in the semester, it is your responsibility to ask me about it before you turn in an assignment.

Information for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583.

Other Resources

The Student Success Center

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

The Writing Center

You are always welcome to meet with me during office hours to discuss any writing issues. However, I also encourage you to use EIU's Writing Center located at 3110 Coleman Hall. This free service provides one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support, documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. The writing center is open to help any student from any major at any stage of his or her writing process, and its system of one-to-one conferences demonstrates value and respect for individual writers, all of whom can benefit from feedback about their works in progress. To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can call 581-5929.

EIU Writing Portfolio

If you wish to do so, you may submit any essay longer than 750 words to your Electronic Writing Portfolio by the end of the semester. Please see me for advise on revising your essay before submitting it.

Teacher Certification Students

Students seeking Teacher Certification in English Language Arts should provide each of their English Department professors with a copy of the yellow "Application for English Department Approval to Student Teach" before the end of the semester. These forms are available in a rack outside the office of Dr. Melissa Ames (CH 3821).

Assignments, Grade Distribution and Scale

Assignment	Weight	Final Grading Scale	
Short Paper	10%	90-100	A
Presentations (2)	10%	80-89	B
Research paper (draft 1)	10%	70-79	C
Research paper final draft	25%	60-69	D
Midterm	10%	Below 60	F
Final Exam	15%		
Class participation and Quizzes (as needed)	20%		

****Enrollment in this course constitutes your agreement to the state of affairs outlined in this course policy and in the schedule of readings below. ****

Course Calendar*

*Course calendar is subject to revisions made at my discretion as needed throughout the semester.

8/20	Introduction: The Anglo Saxon and Medieval World: Caedmon's Hymn
8/22	"The Dream of the Rood" and "The Wanderer" (Links to texts on D2L)
8/27	<i>Lancelot-Grail Reader: Lancelot</i> (p. 94-141)
8/29	<i>Lancelot-Grail Reader: Lancelot</i> (p. 161-175; 180-190; 197-216)
9/3	Labor Day—No class
9/5	<i>Lancelot-Grail Reader: The Quest for the Holy Grail</i> (p. 306-363)
9/10	Marie de France, Prologue, <i>Guigemar</i> , <i>Bisclavret</i>
9/12	Marie de France, <i>Lanval</i> , <i>Yonec</i>
9/17	Pearl Poet, <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , Books 1 and 2
9/19	Pearl Poet, <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , Books 3 and 4
9/24	Chaucer, <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , <i>The General Prologue</i>
9/26	<i>The Knight's Tale</i> ; Paper 1 due via D2L Dropbox by midnight
10/1	<i>The Wife of Bath's Tale</i>
10/3	<i>The Franklin's Tale</i>
10/8	<i>The Squire's Tale</i>
10/10	<i>The Friar's Tale</i>
10/15	<i>The Nun's Priest's Tale</i> ; Midterm exam due via D2L by midnight
10/17	Chaucerian Dream Vision I: <i>Book of the Duchess</i>
10/22	Chaucerian Dream Vision II: <i>House of Fame</i>
10/24	<i>The Legend of Good Women</i> , prologue, Cleopatra
10/29	In class work on presentations
10/31	Presentations
11/5	Julian of Norwich, <i>A Book of Showings</i> , (1-10, 22-25); rough draft of final paper due via D2L
11/7	Julian of Norwich, <i>A Book of Showings</i> , (29-30, 51, 59-66)
11/12	Margery Kempe, <i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i> , (Chapters 1-16, 18)
11/14	Margery Kempe, <i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i> , (Chapters 46-54, 79-81)
11/19-11/23	Thanksgiving Break—no class
11/26	TBA
11/28	TBA; Final Paper due via D2L

12/3

Presentations

12/5

Presentations. Course Evaluations.

FINAL EXAM:

Monday, December 10, 5:15pm – 7:15pm