

Fall 8-15-2006

ENG 3800-002: Medieval English Literature

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3800-002

English 3800.002: Medieval English Literature
Fall 2006

Instructor: **David Raybin**
Office: **3761 Coleman Hall**
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Texts: *Beowulf* (Heaney, trans.)
Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*
Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love* (Wolters, trans.)
The Book of Margery Kempe (Windeatt, trans.)
The Lais of Marie de France (Hanning and Ferrante, trans.)
William Langland, *Piers Plowman* (Schmidt, ed.)
Thomas Malory, *Complete Works* (Vinaver, ed.)
Medieval English Lyrics, 1200-1400 (Duncan, ed.)
Middle English Romances (Shepherd, ed.)
The Complete Works of the Pearl Poet (Finch, trans.; Andrew and Waldron, eds.)

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

- August 23: **Old English**
A Caedmon's Hymn, @ A The Dream of the Rood, @ A The Wanderer, @ Riddles (handouts)
- 30: *Beowulf*
- Sept. 6: **1066-1300 or When They Wrote in French in England**
The Lais of Marie de France
- 13: Chrétien de Troyes, *The Knight of the Cart* and *The Knight with the Lion*
Paper #1
- 20: **Middle English: Romance**
Sir Orfeo, *The Wedding of Syr Gawen and Dame Ragnell* (in Shepherd)
Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Wife of Bath's Tale*
- 27: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
- October 4: *Medieval English Lyrics*, # 1, 5, 17, 25, 110, 113, 118, 122, 124, 125, 127, 132
- 11: **Middle English: Spirituality**
Margery Kempe, Chapters 1-16, 18, 46-54, 79-81
Julian of Norwich, Chapters 1-10, 22-25, 29-30, 51, 54, 59-66
- 18: Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Prioress's Tale*
Midterm Exam
- 25: *Pearl*
26-27: *Beowulf* Conference
- Nov. 1: *Piers Plowman*, Vision 1, pp. 1-41
Paper #2
- 8: Medieval Feast
Medieval English Lyrics, # 42, 52, 54, 63, 70, 73, 79

- 15: **Middle English: Thomas Malory, *Le Morte D'Arthur***
 Malory, *The Tale of King Arthur*, pp. 1-110
- 29: Malory, *Sir Launcelot du Lake* and *Sir Gareth of Orkney*, pp. 147-226
- Dec. 6: Malory, *Sir Launcelot and Queen Guinevere* and *Morte Arthur*, pp. 609-726
- 13: **Final Exam**

Course Requirements and Grading

Final grades will be determined on a 100-point scale:

Midterm Exam	20 points
Two Papers	40 points
Final Exam	30 points
Participation	10 points

Course Grade: A= 91-100; B= 82-90.99; C= 73-81.99; D = 65-72.99; F = below 65

Exams. The exams will combine essays and identifications. I will distribute study sheets in advance of each exam.

Course/University Policies

Honor Policy. Education is founded on trust. Should you cheat and I find out about it, you can expect to fail the course. The University may take additional action.

Plagiarism. If you use other people's words or ideas without citing your sources and indicating when you have quoted, you risk failing an assignment or even the course depending on how serious I deem the offense. If you are not sure what plagiarism is, or whether a particular use of language is plagiarism, ask me before you turn in an assignment.

Students with Disabilities. "If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible."

Medieval English Literature. Special thanks to Stephen Hopkins of Indiana University for writing this introduction! The earliest literary period which can meaningfully be called "English" can be divided into two major periods, each of which describes the state of development of the English language. Perhaps the most famous work of Old English literature is the long poem Beowulf. It tells Beowulf's life story, arranged as a binary of the hero's rising and setting, like the sun. Beowulf is a princeling of the Geats (from Southern Sweden) who wins renown by killing monsters. Medieval literature is all the written manifestation that took place in the Middle Ages, which begins after the fall of the Roman Empire until the beginning of the Renaissance. Within the history of universal literature, the contributions generated in the Middle Ages have served much to leave records of what the societies of this era were like, their culture, their moral and social patterns, as well as the literary styles used to tell real or fabulous stories of that moment in the history of humanity. The development of medieval literature takes place in Europe, starting with the fall of the Roman Empire and ending with the arrival of the Renaissance. Old English (Anglo-Saxon) Prose 49. 2. Medieval Literature 54. The Anglo-Norman Literature 57. Geoffrey Chaucer and His Epoch 73. Fifteenth-Century Literature 87. Recommended Course Syllabus 101. Suggestions for Further Reading 103. Index 106. 4. To the User. The present book is to be considered in a series of books dealing with the history of English literature. It should be useful to a more general. Chapter 1 Middle English Literature. PLEASE NOTE: This book is currently in draft form; material is not final. 1. Chapter 1 Middle English Literature. 1.1 Introduction to Middle English Literature: The Medieval World. PLEASE NOTE: This book is currently in draft form; material is not final. LEARNING OBJECTIVES. 1. Compare and contrast the comitatus organization of Old English society with medieval feudalism. 2. Identify the three estates of medieval society and appraise their function. 3. Assess the influence of the Church on the literature of the Middle Ages. 4. Understand the correlation bet