

English 368: Medieval Literature (c. 400-1500) Spring 2017
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Course Description:

This course is a survey of literature from the medieval period (roughly 400-1400). Content may vary, but the emphasis will be on texts in translation that have had a significant cultural and literary impact beyond the time period.

Prerequisite: ENG 112

Research question:

How can we use manuscripts and texts in translation that form the literary basis of the medieval period to inform how we study and understand literacy, culture and life in that era so that we might have a deeper understanding of how literary foundations affect us today?

Course Goals:

- 1) To gain a perspective of literary history and chronology, demonstrating knowledge of key authors, works, periods, terms and themes of Medieval world literature from about 500-1500.
- 2) To develop skills in critiquing literary texts, providing informed interpretations of a variety of genres, persuasively defending analyses orally and in writing, and performing in depth research to support a lengthy literary analysis written in MLA style.
- 3) To recognize patterns in literary texts, thereby making intertextual connections while taking into account world writers, historical events, and interdisciplinary approaches.
- 4) To find value in varied critical approaches, including lenses of other cultures and eras, as well as in connections between literature and life.
- 5) To recognize literary quality and the power of literary expression as an agent of change while enjoying reading and recognizing the beauty of language.
- 6) To learn methods of problem-solving for literary texts while writing with precision, grammar and academic integrity.
- 7) To understand the limitations of texts-in-translation and develop an awareness of the means scholars use to overcome these limitations.

Structure:

The course is divided into four parts. The first part focuses on the book, libraries, literacy and life in the medieval period. The second focuses on nobility, knights and chivalry. The third

focuses on the clergy, including prayers and thinkers. The fourth focuses on the oral tradition, poetry, art, architecture and music.

Evaluation:

- Attendance and participation in weekly meetings (15%)
- Mid-term essay (10%)
- Response papers (4) (35%)
- Research paper (40%)

Undergraduates: 8-10 page, Honors/Graduate: 12-15 pages

Required Texts:

Jones, Charles. *Medieval Literature in Translation*. New York: Dover, 2001. Print.
ISBN 0486415813

Skinner, Patricia and Elisabeth Van Houts. *Medieval Writings on Secular Women*. New York: Penguin Books, 2011. Print.
ISBN 9780141439914

Bibliography:

Bagnall, Roger S. *Egypt in the Byzantine World, 300-700*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007. Print.

Clemens, Raymond and Timothy Graham. *Introduction to Manuscript Studies*. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2007.

De Hamel, Christopher. *A History of Illuminated Manuscripts*. NY: Phaidon, 1994.

Gamble, Harry Y. *Books and Readers in the Early Church: a History of Early Christian Texts*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1995.

Gantz, Jeffrey. *The Mabinogion*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1976. Print.

Kerby-Fulton, Kathryn and Maidie Hilmo, eds. *Medieval Professional Reader at Work: Evidence from Manuscripts of Chaucer, Langland, Kempe and Gower*. Victoria, B.C.: UP of Victoria, 2001.

Leclercq, Jean. *Love of Learning and the Desire for God: A Study of Monastic Culture*. Place of publication not identified: Fordham, 1974. Print.

Lewis, C.S. *The Discarded Image: An Introduction to Medieval and Renaissance Literature*. NY: Cambridge UP, 1971.

Rouse, Mary A. and Richard H. *Authentic Witnesses: Approaches to Medieval Texts and Manuscripts*. Notre Dame, IN: UP Notre Dame, 1991.

Stock, Brian. *Implications of Literacy: Written Language and Models of Interpretation in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1983.

Statement on Plagiarism

Plagiarized work is unacceptable, unethical and fraudulent. It results in automatic failure of the course. It may also result in expulsion from the University.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend every meeting of ENG. For illness, unavoidable personal emergencies and participation in university-sponsored events, the equivalent of two weeks of class (6 sessions in MWF classes; 4 sessions in TTh classes) may be missed without penalty. Work missed during an unapproved absence may **not** be made up. The equivalent of four weeks of missed classes will result in automatic withdrawal from the course.

Academic Support

The Writing Center and Learning Commons, both located in the Badgett Academic Support Center, provide tutors and general support for reading, writing, research, and learning on all topics. Consult the CU webpage for Learning Commons and Writing Center hours as well as posted announcements. Ask for tutoring in any subject with which you need help. Students may also use the Center and Commons in self-guided learning, employing the study rooms or computers and checking out video cameras.

The Writing Center

I strongly recommend that everyone visit the Tutorial Program or Writing Center at least once before turning in a paper. The Writing Center provides an experienced reader to review your paper drafts and make suggestions for improvement. Although this is not the same as feedback from your professor, a fresh pair of eyes and good advice will always help you make some improvements, provided you apply that advice.

Disability Statement

Campbellsville University is committed to reasonable accommodations for students who have documented learning and physical disabilities, as well as medical and emotional conditions. If you have a documented disability or condition of this nature, you may be eligible for disability services. Documentation must be from a licensed professional and current in terms of assessment. Please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services at 270-789-5192 to inquire about services.

Title IX Statement

Campbellsville University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment and to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and guidance from the Office of Civil Rights, the University requires all responsible employees, which includes faculty members, to report incidents of sexual misconduct shared by students to the University's Title IX Coordinator: Terry VanMeter, 1 University DR, UPO Box 944, Admin Office 8A, 270-789-5016, twvanmeter@campbellsville.edu

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence is set forth at: www.campbellsville.edu/titleIX

Campus Security Phone Numbers (270) 789-5555 (office) (270) 403-3611 (mobile)

Course Schedule

Part I: The book, libraries, literacy and life in the medieval period

Week 1: Introduction & Historical Context

The book marked the change in culture from the period in which literacy was reserved only for the select few to the period of nearly worldwide literacy. The course begins with the book, in order to set up the specific question: what was the purpose of the book during the Medieval period and how did its creation herald a new era of research, technology and life?

-Lewis – “The Medieval Situation” pp. 1-12

Week 2: Scribes, manuscripts & patronage

-Christine de Pizan – Excerpts from *Ouevres Poetiques, Treasure of the City of Ladies, Book of the City of Ladies*

-Derolez - Chapter 1 "The Manuscript Book in the Late Middle Ages" p. 28-46

-Lewis - “Reservations” pp.13-21

-Gamble - Chapter 5 "The Uses of Early Christian Books" p 203-241

Week 3: Education - Influence of Classical Education on Medieval Students

-LeClercq - Chapter 5 "Sacred Learning" p. 71-88

-LeClercq - Chapter 7 "Liberal Studies" p. 112-152

-“Higher Education in Early Byzantine Egypt: Rhetoric, Latin and the law” by Rafaella Cribiore, Chapter 3 in *Egypt in the Byzantine World 300-700*, ed. Roger S. Bagnall

Part II: Politics, nobility, knights and chivalry

Week 4: Chronicles

-*Chronicles* – Froissart, excerpts

-*Chronicles of the Age of Chivalry*, excerpts

-Christine de Pizan, *Book of the Body Politic*, excerpts

Week 5: Quests

-*Quest of the Holy Grail*, excerpts

-Song of Roland, selections

Week 6: Fights & Knights

Week 7: Life for the Peasants and Burghers

*Field Trip to Louisville – Speed Art Museum & UofL’s Special Collections

We will visit the Rare Books Department in Special Collections in Ekstrom Library at the University of Louisville to view the collection of manuscript leaves and codex facsimiles of Books of Hours, the Book of Kells, the Lindisfarne Gospels and other relevant titles. The class will also visit the Speed Art Museum and take a tour of the Medieval art.

Part III: Clergy, prayers and thinkers

Week 8: Libraries, from Alexandria to the Sorbonne

-*Fourteen Byzantine Rulers: Chronographia*, Constantine, Theodora, Eudocia – Michael Psellus

-Leclercq - Introduction p. 1-7

-Rouse - "The Early Library of the Sorbonne" p. 341-408

Week 9: Sacred Texts

-Rouse - "*Statim inventire*: Schools, Preachers and New Attitudes to the Page" p. 191-219

-LeClercq - Chapter 1 "Conversion of St. Benedict" p. 11-22

-Gamble - Chapter 1 "Literacy and Literacy Culture in Early Christianity" p. 1-41

Week 10: Female Spirituality

-*Medieval Writings on Female Spirituality*

-LeClercq - Chapter 3 "Cult and Culture" p. 37-52

Part IV: Oral tradition, poetry, art, architecture and music

Week 11: Tell me a Story: Oral vs. Written Tradition

-*Canterbury Tales* – Chaucer – excerpts

-*The Mabinogion*. excerpts

-Stock - Chapter 1 "Oral and Written" p.12-87

Week 12: Poetry

-Hymn for Good Friday – Peter Abelard

-David's Lament for Johnathan – Peter Abelard

-On the Fame of Abelard – Heloise

-Heloise and Abelard: The Later Years – Peter the Venerable

-The Love of Tristan and Iseult – Gottfried von Strassburg

-Gather Ye Rosebuds – Romance of the Rose

-The Canticle of the Sun – Saint Francis of Assisi

-My Lady Looks so Gentle – Dante Alighieri

-Beauty in Women – Guido Cavalcanti

Week 13: Eastern texts

Chinese Poetry

-Peach Blossom Spring – Tao Qian (365-427)

-While I was Imprisoned in Puti Monastery – Wang Wei (699-761)

-Farewell – Wang Wei

-The Sun Rises and Sets – Li Bo (701-762)

-Painted Hawk – Du Fu (712-770)

- Autumn Meditations IV – Du Fu
- The Song of Lasting Regret – Bo Juyi (772-846)
- Lyrics to “Southern Song” – Li Qingzhao (1084-1151)

Japanese Literature

- Selections from the Man'yōshū
- Selections from the Kokinshū

Indian Poetry

- Bhartrhari, selections
- Dharmakīrti, selections

Week 14: Poetry & Music

- Marie de France – Lais
- A Crying Mystic – Margery Kempe
- An Orchestra of the Fourteenth Century – Guillaume de Machaut
- Eustache Deschamps, selected poetry

Week 15: Painters and Builders

Final Exam Week – Research paper due