

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 406.01

Winter 2014

Middle English Literature: Selected Works

Instructor: J. Jenkins
Office: SS1036
Phone: 220-5476
E-mail: jenkinsj@ucalgary.ca
Class Time: Tuesday / Thursday 9:30—10:45 am, SH 157
Office hours: Tuesday 11:30 am – 1:00 pm; or by appointment

Course Description:

This course offers a survey of the social, cultural and historical contexts of later medieval literature through a study of selected works of Middle English poetry, prose and drama (excluding Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*). The readings are in Middle English (with some few exceptions), and students are expected to be able to read and understand the original texts (training in the language will occur in the early weeks of the course), as well as translate passages into Modern English. Throughout the term, students will be tested on Middle English language as well as on the literature itself. Assignments will include translation tests, critical reviews of secondary sources, and formal writing. This course may not be repeated for credit.

Prerequisites: English 302 and either 240 or 340

Required Texts:

- *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Trans. Simon Armitage. Norton, 2008. (ISBN: 978-0-393-33415-9)
- Geoffrey Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde*. Ed. by Stephan Barney. Norton Critical Edition, 2006.
- Broadview Custom Coursepack (wrapped with *A Writer's Handbook*, third edition)

Assignments and Evaluation:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Translation Tests (2 x 10%) | 20% |
| • Critical Review Assignment | 20% |
| • Research Essay (approx. 2500 words) | 30% |
| • Class Preparation/ Participation | 5% |
| • Final Exam to be Scheduled by Registrar | 25% |

Please note the following class requirements and information:

- There will be a Registrar scheduled exam in this class. Winter examination dates are April 17; 19-29, 2014. Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period. The final exam will not be open book.
- You must submit the research essay and write the final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course.
- Please make all efforts to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS1152 and put it in the dropbox, where your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss by any cause. Assignments **cannot be returned** by staff in the Department office.
- Do not submit an assignment electronically (i.e. via email) without making prior arrangements with instructor.
- **Computer Use in Class:** You are welcome to use computers for taking notes in class. However, it is not permissible to use your computer during class time for any other purpose, including the reading of online translations, or any form of electronic communication, including email or other social media. If at any point I have reason to suspect computers are being used in ways not appropriate for our class, I will require that users either relocate to the front of the class, or turn laptops off. In the case of repeated misuse of computers, I reserve the right to disallow the use of personal computers in class.
- You are required to use the textbook assigned, and to bring it to class each day; online editions are not an acceptable substitute.

Late assignment policy:

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day assigned. Extensions must be negotiated with me before the due date; all late work (i.e. work handed in late without an extension, or work handed in after the extended deadline) will be penalised one letter grade (for example, from B+ to C+) and may receive reduced written comments. Late work will not be accepted later than one week past the deadline without documented medical reasons.

Grading system:

University of Calgary's 4 point system:

A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

I assign marks in letter grades for written assignments, translations, and participation/preparation; these letter grades are converted to the four-point system according to the scale given above. If it is necessary to convert grades between letter grades and percentage ranges, I use the following system:

A+ [90-100%]; A [85-89%]; A- [80-84%]; B+ [77-79%]; B [74-76%]; B- [70-73%]; C+ [67-69%]; C [64-66%]; C- [60-63%]; D+ [55-59%]; D [50-54%]; F [0-49%].

When tabulating final grades in the four-point system, it occasionally happens that a final grade falls at the exact middle point between two grades, for example at 3.15 (precisely

half-way between 3.0 (B) and 3.3 (B+)). If a grade calculation requires that a final grade be rounded either up or down, such decisions are entirely at the instructor's discretion.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events <http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is smec@ucalgary.ca.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Library and Research Support:

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact:

maboym@ucalgary.ca

Find *The English Pages* research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:



Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic Accommodation:

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>) "The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.