

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 501.01-01
COURSE TITLE: Medieval Drama

Winter 2013

Instructor: J. Jenkins
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Office hours: Tuesdays 11:00 am –12: 30 pm (or by appointment)

Course description:

This course will consider dramatic literature and questions of performance in the English Middle Ages, drawing on surviving dramatic texts, as well as records of, or references to, dramatic activity. Though a distressingly small number of Middle English play-scripts survive, the extant evidence nevertheless tells us that the medieval English theatre cut across, and frequently combined, many genres, including liturgical and biblical narrative, farce or fabliaux, saints' legends and miracle stories, and moral and political allegory. In this course, we will read both explicitly dramatic Middle English works *and* texts that challenge the categories of 'dramatic' and 'non-dramatic'. Through supplementary readings from both medieval records (accessible through the work of REED primarily) and contemporary critical work, we will be attentive to the ways questions of audience, venue and occasion complicate and enrich our understanding of medieval performance and performance texts. As part of our critical approach to the texts we discuss, students will have the opportunity to test ideas discussed in class in a series of informal performance workshops; in these workshops, students will work together in small groups, with performances to be presented during scheduled class time. Other assignments will include short oral reports on historical and cultural topics, and essay writing.

Required Texts:

- Fitzgerald, Christina M. and John T. Sebastian, eds. *The Broadview Anthology of Medieval Drama*. Broadview, 2012.
- Beadle, Richard and Alan J. Fletcher, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval English Theatre*. Second Edition. Cambridge UP, 2008.

Information on Course Readings: Weekly readings will consist of both primary medieval texts as well as regular critical readings, many of which will be drawn from the assigned *Cambridge Companion*. I will be supplementing these texts with items available online from our library holdings or made available in a course pack. More information and a schedule of readings will be provided at the first class. The Broadview edition we will be using is a student edition designed to present medieval texts to undergraduates, so no prior knowledge of Middle English is required for this course.

Assignments and Evaluation:

- Oral Report (15 mins) 10%
- Critical Review (approx. 1000 words) 20%
- Performance Workshop and Report 20%
- Research Essay Proposal and Bibliography 10%
- Research Essay (approx. 3000 words) 30%
- Seminar Participation 10%

Information about Class Requirements and Assignments:

- There is no Final Exam in this class.
- Each student will present **one oral report** on a historical and/or cultural topic (to be chosen from a list of topics). There is no written component to this assignment, though students are required to circulate a complete and accurate bibliography for the report (in MLA style) at the beginning of their presentation.
- **Seminar Participation** will be assessed based on regular participation in the class discussions on the readings and responses to other students' oral reports. Regular attendance is expected.
- Detailed information about **the Performance Workshop assignment** will be made available in the first week of classes. Students will work in small groups on a short section of one of the texts assigned in class. The exercise will be to use the "performance laboratory" as a vehicle for critical analysis. Each member of the group will submit a two-page report on the workshop experience, and the mark for the assignment will be based on a combination of the success of the performance workshop (not the success of the performance!) and the report. Members of the same group may receive different marks for the assignment, depending on the written report.
- **The research essay assignment** consists of two parts: the proposal and annotated bibliography (10%), and essay (30%). The proposal must be submitted before the research essay, and both are required for a passing grade in the class.
- You are required to use the textbook assigned, and to bring it to class each day; online editions are not an acceptable substitute.
- 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 the 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 the 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 turn computers off and return them to their bags. In the case of repeated misuse of computers by individuals in the class, I reserve the right to disallow the use of personal computers during class time.
- **Classroom activities are subject to copyright** and may not be recorded by any means without written agreement.

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 later than the beginning of the class on the day assigned 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 significantly reduced written comments. Late work will not be accepted later than one week past the deadline without documented medical reasons. □

Grading system: I assign marks in letter grades for written assignments, workshops, and participation/preparation; these letter grades are converted to the 4-point system according to the scale given below. If it is necessary to convert grades between letter grades and percentage ranges, I use the following conversions:

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

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 (see the University Calendar, F.1).

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-point system, I use 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/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>
Our email address is smrwc@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>.

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>

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>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

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 a student’s responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource

Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

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>

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.