

**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE**

**ENGLISH 609.56-01**

**Winter 2016**

**Instructor:** J. Jenkins  
**Office:** SS 1152A  
**Phone:** 220-6572  
**E-mail:** jenkinsj@ucalgary.ca  
**Class Time:** Tuesday 10:00 – 12:45  
**Office hours:** Monday 11:00 am – 12:30 pm; or by appointment

**Drama in the English Middle Ages**

**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, supported by readings and discussions of practice-based research, students will work together in small groups, with presentations on the performances in the last quarter of the term. Other assignments will include the seminar papers, responses and final research essay.

**Texts and readings:**

- Fitzgerald, Christine 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. [ONLINE resource TDFL]

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

Preliminary Assignment (3 – 5 d.s. pp; due Feb 9)	10%
Seminar paper (10 d.s. pp)	25%
[note: completed seminar papers are to be submitted to the entire class electronically by noon on the Friday before your presentation is scheduled]	
Seminar Response	10%
Performance Workshop	15%
Research Essay (approx 18 d.s. pages)	40%

**Please note the following class requirements and information:**

- **There will be no final exam in this class.**
- Students must submit a final research paper in order to pass 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 me.

**Preliminary Assignment (3 – 5 d.s. pp plus bibliography; 10%):** The preliminary assignment is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, February 9. With this assignment, students are expected to research and present information on a material feature of the medieval performing environment. Students can choose freely from the list of material and/or physical elements below; though you are welcome to work collaboratively as you research and/or discuss the topics, each student is required to submit an individual assignment. If any students choose to submit work that has been written collaboratively, please indicate clearly who contributed, how the work was shared, and how the writing was divided. Short discussions of the assignments will be scheduled for the second and third classes (Feb 23 and March 1). Students will have the opportunity to briefly report (no more than 5 minutes) on the information they discovered in their research. The oral report will not be graded, but will contribute to the overall discussion in the class. Please include a bibliography in MLA style.

You are welcome to research in both traditional and non-traditional sources, but do not make use of unreliable sources such as Wikipedia. I encourage you to contact Melanie Boyd, the subject librarian for English [maboyd@ucalgary.ca] if you need advice finding sources. Our library has extensive print and online resources that support research on topics in the medieval period; as well, of course, you can find a vast number of internet resources. I encourage you to look at the websites of medieval performance groups such as the PLS at U of Toronto (Poculi Ludique Societas), or EDOX (Early Drama at Oxford), or the website for the York Mystery Plays as produced by the city of York [<http://www.yorkmysteryplays.co.uk>], or REED (Records of Early English Drama). You might also look at living history groups, such as the Society for Creative Anachronism [[www.sca.org](http://www.sca.org)] for information about the material history of the period.

**Topics for the Preliminary Assignment (for each of the following topics, please think specifically about late medieval England, i.e., 1200-1550):**

- Medieval costumes
- Medieval props
- Medieval staging
- Mumming and/or puppetry in medieval performance
- Pageant wagons
- Special Effects (such as pyrotechnics) in medieval performance
- Medieval performers (gender? Class? Status?)
- Audiences of medieval performance
- Records of medieval performance (what / where are they? What do they tell us?)

**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 will receive reduced written comments. Late work will not be accepted later than one week past the deadline without documented medical reasons.

**Grading system:**

Grades are calculated according to the 4 point scale used in the *Graduate Calendar*:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-g-1.html>

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted towards Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	
F	0.00	

Please note: A B- is considered a minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

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.

In the case of Instructors using numerical marks in the grading of term work, the departmental conversion chart applies.

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

**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>

**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/graduate>. 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](mailto: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 Department of English’s graduate website for courses, departmental deadlines, and other related program information at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/node/245>. Consult the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar for university and faculty regulations, dates, deadline, fees, and

schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar is <http://grad.ucalgary.ca>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact the Graduate Office at 403 220 5484 or visit us in Social Sciences Tower 1148 in the first instance.

For program planning and advice, contact the Graduate Program Administrator at [enggrad@ucalgary.ca](mailto:enggrad@ucalgary.ca) to make an appointment with Dr. Aruna Srivastava, Graduate Program Director.

### **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>.

### **Student Accommodations:**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

### **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/>

**Contact for the Graduate Student Association:** <http://gsa.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.