

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 609 T74

WINTER 2018

COURSE TITLE: Imagining the Other in the Literature of the Later Middle Ages, T 10:00

Instructor: Dr. M. McGillivray

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Office hours: Thursday, 1:00 -2:00 p.m.

Homepage/course website: See D2L.

**Course description:**

Examining depictions both of some "Others" that still are Othered in factions of our modern discourse or in more recent historical literary texts (women, Muslims, Jews, people of colour, gay men) and of further "Others" that are all but unrecognizable to us in the 21st century (members of fraternal orders, heretics, monks and nuns, the aristocracy, the peasants), this course has in its view both canonical and non-canonical Middle English texts. Texts are taught in translation or in modernized form except when the Middle English is particularly easy to grapple with, and no linguistic knowledge is presupposed.

England was almost entirely without resident Jews during the later Middle Ages because of a tyrannical expulsion that followed centuries of cruelties in 1290 c.e., and Muslims were almost exclusively known through legend and through stories of the Crusades, yet both Jews and Muslims were (in absentia) objects of fear and loathing as enemies of Christianity and as presumed idolators. The existence of dark-skinned people was also known primarily remotely, and associated with hysterical ethnographies involving nakedness, cannibalism, and non-species-conformant physical characteristics. Women were also Othered in male-authored medieval texts, daughters of Eve and therefore associated with the material as opposed to the spiritual, with sin as opposed to virtue, with passion as opposed to reason, with the body as opposed to the mind; gay men were lapsed males who participated in the horror of the feminine. For particular medieval authors, suspicion and loathing hard for us to fathom as modern readers was also directed at other categories of people for reasons of religious or class anxiety.

To explore these matters, we will read selections from the *Canterbury Tales*, from *Piers Plowman*, from *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, from *Cleanness*, and from *Mandeville's Travels*, in addition to non-canonical texts such as the Croxton *Play of the Sacrament* and the *Book of Margery Kempe*.

## **Texts and readings:**

The principal readings are:

Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

*Cleanness*

William Langland, *Piers Plowman*

Margery Kempe et al., *The Book of Margery Kempe*

The Croxton *Play of the Sacrament*.

*Mandeville's Travels*.

Additional primary or secondary texts may be assigned.

## **Assignments and Evaluation:**

Seminar presentation            30%

Each student will present a text to the class, leading seminar discussion after the presentation. A process for assignment of texts will be explained and refined at the first class. Respect for the views and subject positions of others must be demonstrated. Presentation assignments will be settled the second week of class and will occur from the fourth week to the thirteenth.

Two book reviews @ 10%:    20%

Each student will review two recent books for the class and also hand in a printed-out copy of the reviews. Further details and a list of suggested books will be provided during the first two classes.

Seminar participation:        10%

Active participation in seminar discussions is required. Your grade will be determined based on the frequency, relevance, acumen, coherence, thoughtfulness, and intellectual daring of your oral contributions. Respect for the views and subject positions of others must be demonstrated.

Research paper:              40%

A formal paper of approximately 5000 words must be submitted on the final day of class. Topics are selected by each participant but may overlap with (not constitute) the seminar presentation, and must in any case be approved by the instructor.

Please note that there is no final examination in this class.

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+ and so on) for each day (not class) that the assignment is overdue.

There are no extra-credit assignments.

Students do not need to complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade on the course.

Assignments may be given directly to the instructor in hard copy on the due date or submitted via the D2L Dropbox that will be provided. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause.

**Grading system:**

In this course, the review and the final exam will be marked on the University of Calgary's four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar:

Graduate: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-h-1.html>

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)

Please note that a grade of B- is the minimum pass mark for courses for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and that grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level.

Final grade calculations will be done using the letter grades and corresponding four-point scale.

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-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.

**Electronic devices:** Electronic devices are allowed in class for note-taking etc..

**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	
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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-5.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: maboyd@ucalgary.ca.

Find The English Pages research guide here: [https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52619](https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619)

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. Suzette Mayr, 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:**

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](https://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course 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>

**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](http://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.