

Carleton University
Fall 2026 / Winter 2027 Syllabus
College of the Humanities

HUMS 3200A: European Literature

Prerequisite(s): HUMS 2000 and third-year standing in the Bachelor of Humanities program for Humanities Students. English students should have third year standing with a CGPA of 8.0 or higher.

This course is crosslisted as ENGL 3201A

Time: 8:35-10:25 am, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Instructor: Professor A. Wallace
Email: andrew.wallace@carleton.ca
Office Hour: Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30

PLEASE NOTE: THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO REVISION UNTIL SEPTEMBER 10.

Course description: This course studies major European writers and genres from the rise of European vernaculars during the Middle Ages until the nineteenth century. We will read, in translation, works originally written in Old English, Old Occitan, Old / Middle Irish, Old French / Anglo-Norman, Old Norse, Italian, Spanish, German, and Russian. Special effort will be taken to situate these works in their cultural and linguistic contexts and to track complications and innovations in literary genres through history and across multiple linguistic traditions.

Topics for discussion will include the development of European vernacular literatures; the traditions of lyric poetry and poetic analysis; close reading; chivalric romance and epic poetry; prose narratives and the rise of the modern novel; the relationship between literary texts and the cultural contexts in which they are embedded.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Hard copies of the following editions have been ordered via the university bookstore.

- **FALL TERM**

Beowulf: Facing Page Translation, ed. and trans. R.M. Liuzza, second edition (Broadview). [9781554811137]

The Táin [*Táin Bó Cúailnge*], ed. and trans. Thomas Kinsella (Oxford). [9780192803733]

Chrétien de Troyes, *Perceval: The Story of the Grail*, ed. and trans. Burton Raffel (Yale). [9780300075861]

The Lais of Marie de France, ed. and trans. Claire M. Waters (Broadview). [9781554810826]

Egil's Saga, ed. and trans. Bernard Scudder (Penguin Classics) [9780140447705]

Ludovico Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso*, ed. and trans Guido Waldman. [9780199540389]

• WINTER TERM

Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, ed. E.C. Riley, trans. Charles Jarvis (Oxford). [9780199537891]
 John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, ed. Abraham Stoll (Broadview). [9781554813506]
 Voltaire, *Candide and Other Stories*, trans. Roger Pearson (Oxford). [9780199535613]
 Goethe, *Faust: Part One*, ed. and trans. David Luke (Oxford). [9780199536214]
 Austen, *Persuasion*, ed. Linda Bree (Broadview). [9781551111315]
 Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*, trans. Michael R. Katz (Norton Critical)
 [9781324084273]

COSTS OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

The **approximate** cost for these books runs as follows if they are purchased new:

- Fall term: **\$137.93**
- Winter Term: **\$103.44**

Please note, however, that second-hand copies of these editions should be readily available. Also, in almost all cases (with the exception of the Broadview edition of *Beowulf*, which is required), students are welcome to use other editions / translations of these texts.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. demonstrate your familiarity with the transnational, multilingual, generic, and historical traditions of European literature in poetry and prose
2. read, analyze, and interpret poetry and literary prose texts accurately, contextually, and critically
3. develop and support an interpretive argument that engages closely with the language of the literary text(s) under examination

Evaluation:

- 10% In-class Test: Passage Analysis and Essay (*Beowulf*: Thursday 24 September)
- 15% In-class Test: Passage Analysis Essay (Marie de France: Thursday 12 November)
- 25% December Exam (in-person, formally scheduled)
- 20% In-class Test: Passage Analysis and Essay (*Paradise Lost*: 3 Thursday 4 February)
- 30% Final Exam (in-person, formally scheduled)

***Please note that you must complete all assignments in order to be eligible to pass the course.**

**** Standing in the course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Dean of FASS. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.**

Evaluation Rationale

Your grade in this course will be based on a combination of three in-class tests on specific works and two in-person, formally scheduled examinations of three hours each. This combination is based on a few related considerations.

- An in-class test / essay on *Beowulf* will combine at least one close analysis of a passage and an essay question in which you will construct and support **an interpretive argument** about the poem. [10%]
- An in-class test on the lais of Marie de France (80 minutes) will enable you **to continue to develop your ability to create and sustain an interpretive argument while analyzing and interpreting medieval poetry**. [15%]
- An in-class test on Milton's *Paradise Lost* will enable you **to continue to develop your ability to perform close readings of poetry and to construct interpretive arguments about literary texts**. [20%]
- Two (one in December, one in April) formally scheduled, three-hour, in-person exams will enable you to demonstrate your command of the full range of course readings. For the purposes of this course, command will be measured by your ability to write at length on lecture material and course texts, and by your ability to move from specific passages and thematic prompts to larger arguments about the texts, traditions, and historical periods under examination. **You will have to write on every text studied in the course. In addition to course texts, each exam will feature one "sight passage." See below.** Your grade on the final exam will be made available via Brightspace. [December Exam 25%; April Exam 30%]

N.B. regarding passages on tests and exams: These are unlikely to be passages that we spent time on in class; however, the combination of your careful attention to readings and class lectures will equip you to deal in a thoughtful and intelligent manner with any passage you encounter on tests. In addition to questions on texts from our reading list, one question on each exam (but not on term tests) will be a genuine "sight passage"—i.e., a text that you will not have studied as part of the course's reading list but that you will be able to interpret because of skills you have developed during the course.

Members of the class are expected to attend all meetings and participating fully in discussion. I do not grade attendance or participation in class discussion. You will find, however, that your engagement in the course will be reflected in your ability to meet expectations for term assignments and the final exam. A copy of the day's main text should be with you at every meeting. I will direct you to individual passages of the texts we are studying, and I will frequently offer close commentary on those passages, but I will not necessarily display these passages onscreen as I lecture. Following along in your own copy while taking notes will help you a good deal.

One-on-One Meetings

Please note that I require a one-on-one meeting of roughly 10 minutes each with you during scheduled appointments. Meeting times will be conducted in person during the first two weeks of class.

ADVICE FOR PREPARING READINGS

Because all assignments consist of in-class writing, you will not be spending extra days and nights outside the class composing and revising essays for submission. I recommend that you use the time that would traditionally have been spent writing essays to prepare your readings in a more systematic way than you are perhaps accustomed to doing. I suggest the following:

- Always look up words that you do not understand; do the same with historical and mythological references you do not recognize, etc.
- Be sure to read the introductions to your course texts; you would also benefit from exploring criticism on these books. This is especially true whenever an in-class test will be devoted to a specific text.
- Recognize that different books require different reading strategies and will make different demands on your abilities as a reader. For example, understanding *Beowulf* will require understanding how the poem's monster narratives relate to the narrator's historical perspective and, in turn, how these two topics relate to the historical and legendary narratives that are woven into the poem; understanding Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* will require understanding how the novel's sordid melodramas relate to its religious and philosophical inquiries. *As you read, try to understand what kind of attention the book demands from you.*
- Take notes as you read in such a way as to give you a strong and confident command of the book's structure and organization, central themes, character names and relationships, locations, etc.

FALL TERM:

R10 September: Introduction: course business, European vernacular literatures, etc.

T15 September: *Beowulf* (pages 53-113; Prologue + Fitts I-XIV)

R17 September: *Beowulf* (pages 114-167; Fitts XV-XXVI)

T22 September: *Beowulf* (pages 167-245; Fitts XXVII-XLIII)

R24 September: **IN-CLASS TEST ON BEOWULF**

T29 September: Troubadour poetry (texts in Brightspace)

R01 October: Troubadour poetry (texts in Brightspace)

T06 October: *Táin Bó Cúailnge* (pages 1-92)

R08 October: *Táin Bó Cúailnge* (pages 92-167)

T13 October: *Táin Bó Cúailnge* (pages 168-253)

R15 October: Chrétien de Troyes, *Perceval, ou Le conte du graal*

T20 October: Chrétien de Troyes, *Perceval, ou Le conte du graal*

R22 October: Chrétien de Troyes, *Perceval, ou Le conte du graal*

*****FALL BREAK: 26-30 OCTOBER*****

T03 November: Marie de France, *Prologue*, "Guigemar," "Equitan," "Le Fresne"

R05 November: Marie de France, "Bisclavret," "Lanval"

T10 November: Marie de France, "Yonec," "Laüstic," "Milun," "Chevrefoil"

R12 November: **IN-CLASS TEST ON MARIE DE FRANCE**

T17 November: *Egil's Saga*
 R19 November: *Egil's Saga*
 T24 November: *Egil's Saga*
 R26 November: Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso* (Cantos 1-10)
 T01 December: Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso* (Cantos 11-20)
 R03 December: Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso* (Cantos 21-30)
 T08 December: Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso* (Cantos 31-40)
 R10 December: Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso* (Cantos 40-46)

WINTER TERM:

R07 January: Cervantes, *Don Quixote* (read to page 125: end of Part 1, chapter 17)
 T12 January: Cervantes, *Don Quixote* (read to page 214: end of Part 1, chapter 26)
 R14 January: Cervantes, *Don Quixote* (read to page 321: end of Part 1, chapter 36)
 T19 January: Cervantes, *Don Quixote* (read to page 468: end of Part 1); Introduction to Milton
 R21 January: Milton, *Paradise Lost* (Books 1-3)
 T26 January: Milton, *Paradise Lost* (Books 4-7)
 R28 January: Milton, *Paradise Lost* (Book 8-9)
 T02 February: Milton, *Paradise Lost* (Books 10-12)
 R04 February: **IN-CLASS TEST ON PARADISE LOST**
 T09 February: Voltaire, *Candide* (Chapters 1-15)
 R11 February: Voltaire, *Candide* (Chapters 16-30)

*****WINTER BREAK: 15-19 FEBRUARY*****

T23 February: Goethe, *Faust: Part One* (Scenes 1-9)
 R25 February: Goethe, *Faust: Part One* (Scenes 10-19)
 T02 March: Goethe, *Faust: Part One* (Scenes 20-28)
 R04 March: Goethe, *Faust: Part One* / Austen, *Persuasion* (Chapters 1-6)
 T09 March: Austen, *Persuasion* (Chapters 7-12)
 R11 March: Austen, *Persuasion* (Chapters 13-18)
 T16 March: Austen, *Persuasion* (Chapters 19-24)
 R18 March: Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov* (PART ONE: Books 1-3)
 T23 March: Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov* (PART TWO: Books 4-6; esp. Ivan, Alyosha, and "The Grand Inquisitor")
 R25 March: Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov* (PART TWO: Books 4-6; esp. "The Russian Monk")
 T30 March: Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov* (PART THREE: Books 7-9)
 R01 March: Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov* (PART THREE: Books 7-9)
 T06 March: Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov* (PART FOUR: Books 10-12 + Epilogue)
 R08 March: Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov* (PART FOUR: Books 10-12 + Epilogue)

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses (Updated Aug 12,2026)

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

Copies of Written Work Submitted

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

Online Learning Resources

[On this page](#), you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses; Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

Academic Integrity Policy

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own
- failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor.

The Associate Dean of the Faculty follows a rigorous [process for academic integrity allegations](#), including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of “F” for the course.

Co-operation or Collaboration

An important and valuable component of the learning process is the progress a student can make as a result of interacting with other students. In struggling together to master similar concepts and problems

and in being exposed to each other's views and approaches, a group of students can enhance and speed up the learning process. Carleton University encourages students to benefit from these activities which will not generally be viewed as a violation of the Policy. With the exception of tests and examinations, instructors will not normally limit these interactions.

Students shall not co-operate or collaborate on academic work when the instructor has indicated that the work is to be completed on an individual basis. Failure to follow the instructor's directions in this regard is a violation of the standards of academic integrity. Unless otherwise indicated, students shall not co-operate or collaborate in the completion of a test or examination.

Group Work: There are many cases where students are expected or required to work in groups to complete a course requirement. Normally, students are not responsible for violations of this policy committed by other members of a group in which they participate.

More information on the process [here](#).

Academic Accommodations

Academic accommodation refers to educational practices, systems and support mechanisms designed to accommodate diversity and difference. The purpose of accommodation is to enable students to perform the essential requirements of their academic programs. At no time does academic accommodation undermine or compromise the learning objectives that are established by the academic authorities of the University.

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the [Academic Accommodations website](#).

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes can be [found here](#).

Addressing Human Rights Concerns

The University and all members of the University community share responsibility for ensuring that the University's educational, work and living environments are free from discrimination and harassment. Should you have concerns about harassment or discrimination relating to your age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, place of origin, race, sex (including pregnancy), or sexual orientation, please contact the [Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities](#) at equity@carleton.ca.

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion can be found [here](#).

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own

educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).
[More information](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of extenuating circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work. Requests for academic consideration are made in accordance with the [Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical or Other Extenuating Circumstances](#).

Students who claim short-term extenuating circumstances (normally lasting up to five days) as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor. If the instructor requires supporting documentation, the instructor may only request submission of the University's self-declaration form, which is available on the [Registrar's Office website](#). The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule.

1. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.
2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to extenuating circumstances lasting for a significant period of time/ long-term (normally more than five days), the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.
3. If a student is concerned the instructor did not respond to the request for academic consideration or did not provide reasonable accommodation, the student should follow the appeals process described in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#).
4. If academic consideration is granted, but the student is unable to complete the accommodation according to the terms set out by the instructor as a result of further illness, injury, or extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses). Please note, however, that the course instructor will be required to submit an earned final grade and further consideration will only be reviewed according to established precedents and deadlines. (More information: [Undergraduate](#) | [Graduate](#)).

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of extenuating circumstances, as defined in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In

specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than three (3) working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation. In cases of short-term extenuating circumstances normally lasting no more than five (5) days, students must include the University's self-declaration form, which can be found on [the Registrar's Office website](#). Additional documentation is required in cases of extenuating circumstances lasting longer than five (5) days and must be supported by a medical note specifying the date of onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [here](#).

Academic Consideration Policy

As per the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), if students encounter extenuating circumstances that temporarily hinder their capacity to fulfil in-class academic requirements, they can request academic consideration. The Academic Consideration for Coursework is only available for accommodations regarding course work. Requests for accommodations during the formal exam period must follow the [official deferral process](#).

NOTE: As per the Policy, students are to speak with/contact their instructor before submitting a request for Academic Consideration. Requests are not automatically approved. Approving and determining the accommodation remains at the discretion of the instructor. Students should consult the course syllabus about the instructor's policy or procedures for requesting academic consideration. [More information here](#).

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend, you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load. A course dropped after the deadline for financial withdrawal will receive a grade of Withdrawn (WDN), which appears on your official transcript.

Even if you miss the deadline for financial withdrawal, you might decide to drop a course to avoid a failure or a poor grade showing up on your student record and bringing down your CGPA. It is your responsibility to drop the course via Carleton Central within the published [deadlines](#) (see Academic Withdrawal).

If you are considering withdrawing from a course, you may want to talk to an advisor first. Course withdrawal may affect your student status, as well as your eligibility for student funding, immigration status, residence accommodation and participation in varsity sports, etc. Additionally, remember that once you choose your courses, you must use the "Calculate amount to pay" button to determine the correct amount of fees to pay.

Carleton Central is your one-stop shop for registration activities. If you are interested in taking a course, make sure to complete your registration. Simply attending a course does not mean you are registered in it, nor is it grounds for petition or appeal.

Mental Health and Wellness at Carleton

As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

Emergency Resources ([on and off campus](#))

- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

Carleton Resources

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me Counselling Service: call 1-844-741-6389
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service <https://walkincounselling.com>

The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement

The Centre for Indigenous Initiatives is proud to offer culturally centered individual counselling to students who self-identify as First Nation, Metis or Inuk. Through this service, Indigenous students [can access confidential, individual sessions for support with personal, mental health or academic challenges.](#)

Department Contact Information

Bachelor of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

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