

Carleton University
Winter 2023
Department of English Language and Literature

ENGL 2301B: Literatures and Cultures, 500–1500

Prerequisites: second-year standing or permission of the department
Preclusions: precludes additional credit for ENGL 2300 (no longer offered)

Monday/Wednesday 1:00–2:30

Location: Online

Format: Synchronous

Instructor: Robin Norris

Email: robin.norris@carleton.ca

Office: DT 1919

Phone: (613)520-2600 x4195

Office Hours: online by appointment

Important note:

For information on deadlines for withdrawal from courses, please consult the Academic Year section of the Undergraduate Calendar (<https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>).

Course description

A study of the period between 500 and 1500, with attention to cultural, historical, geographical, and literary contexts. This is the 1000 years we call the Middle Ages. Today, when we look to the medieval world, we are tempted, both by scenes we identify with and scenes we wish to reject, to reconstruct the Middle Ages in the image of (post)modern whiteness. In this class, we will aspire to undermine monolithic reconstructions of the period in favour of situating particular texts within in their historical, linguistic, and cultural contexts. The medieval world was rich in cultural diversity and exchange. On the island of Britain, authors and speakers of multiple language families exchanged texts in Latin, Celtic languages such as Irish and Welsh, the Germanic languages Old English and Old Norse, as well as Anglo-Norman French. These languages were brought into contact through processes of migration and diaspora, invasion and colonization. It is no surprise then that medieval literatures often explore themes of violence and nobility, exile and return, heroism and monstrosity, and relationships between human and Other – whether animal, supernatural, otherworldly, or divine.

Learning outcomes

Appreciation of themes, genres, and conventions reflected in a range of medieval texts
Practice with pronouncing Old English and reading Middle English
Awareness of lexical continuity and change as a result of the external history of the language
Awareness of the roles of author, poet, scribe, editor, translator, and interpreter
Awareness of how terminology, periodization, and narrative impact our understanding of history
Analysis of how medieval influences live on in contemporary culture
Rejection of monolithic stereotyping of medieval culture

Required Texts

The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: The Medieval Period, 3rd ed. (Repr. 2020). On order at Haven Books and available as an eBook through broadviewpress.com.

Students are also responsible for accessing the film *The Green Knight*, dir. D. Lowery (2021).

Evaluation (Note: this section of the course outline may be revised until January 20)

90% Portfolio of weekly assignments

Over the course of the term, students will assemble a portfolio of ten graded assignments. Approximately once per week, an assignment will be submitted via CUPortfolio/Brightspace. Deadlines are listed on the calendar.

Assignments may include activities completed and submitted in class, or written reflections on activities completed during classtime, as well as written work and recordings completed outside of classtime.

Portfolio entries will be graded with a check, check-plus, or check-minus (equating to 75, 85, and 65 respectively). *D*-quality work will be assigned a zero. No late work will be accepted.

With twelve weeks of class and ten entries required, some flexibility is possible. I'll give the blue assignments as soon as possible so that you can work ahead on those if you wish. Students who are absent will not be able to do the work for the activities conducted and submitted in class, or to submit written reflections on activities completed during classtime, noted in yellow on the calendar. It is mandatory to include the assignments noted in red on the calendar below.

10% Contributions to class

The remainder of the course mark is derived from student contributions to our class conversations. This includes comments, questions, and answers that reflect careful reading of the assigned texts and thoughtful responses to them, as well as reading aloud in class and serving as a notetaker (on the lecture, the discussion, and student contributions). Notetakers will earn points, as well as the readers and contributors whom they flag for positive feedback. At the end of the term, at the professor's discretion, these points will be awarded toward the course mark for students who have earned them.

Calendar

Mon. Jan. 9	Please read the course outline before our first class and review these web resources on Brightspace: Riddle 57, Letters for Titles, Franks Casket.
Weds. Jan. 11	Guest presentation in class today. Old English Metrical Charms (pp. 60–64).
Fri. Jan. 13	CUPortfolio cover statement due
Mon. Jan. 16	Hild and Cædmon (pp. 26–30), Pangur Ban (pp. 34–35), The Dream of the Rood (pp. 49–52)
Weds. Jan. 18	Wanderer, Wulf and Eadwacer, Wife's Lament (pp. 39–48)
Fri. Jan. 20	Cultural artifact description due
Mon. Jan. 23	Insular miniscule transcription activity – reflection due Friday, Jan. 27.
Weds. Jan. 25	<i>Beowulf</i>
Fri. Jan. 27	Trancription reflection due
Mon. Jan. 30	<i>Beowulf</i>
Weds. Feb. 1	Translation activity – reflection due Friday, Feb. 3.
Fri. Feb. 3	Translation reflection due
Mon. Feb. 6	<i>Beowulf</i>
Weds. Feb. 8	Old English aloud
Fri. Feb. 10	OE recitation due
Mon. Feb. 13	Mabinogi (pp. 187–209)
Weds. Feb. 15	Marie de France (pp. 210–40)
Fri. Feb. 17	Medieval website assignment due
Feb. 20 and 22	READING WEEK <i>Tip: Read Gawain and the Green Knight over break</i>
Mon. Feb. 27	Read the Middle English lyrics (pp. 248–60) and choose a favourite
Weds. Mar. 1	Sir Orfeo (pp. 275–85)
Fri. Mar. 3	Medieval book assignment due
Mon. Mar. 6	GGK Fitts 1 and 2 (pp. 286–317)
Weds. Mar. 8	GGK Fitts 3 and 4 (pp. 317–54)
Fri. Mar. 10	Medieval news reflection due
Mar. 13 and 15	<i>Green Knight</i> screenings and group meetings
Mon. Mar. 20	Green Knight roundtable – reflection due Friday, Mar. 24.
Weds. Mar. 22	Franklin's Tale (pp. 532–48)
Fri. Mar. 24	<i>Green Knight</i> roundtable reflection due
Mon. Mar. 27	Wife of Bath's Tale (pp. 508–13)
Weds. Mar. 29	OED activity due at end of class today
Fri. Mar. 31	MidE recitation due
Mon. Apr. 3	Read excerpts from Judith, Mary of Egypt, Julian of Norwich, Pardoner's Prologue and Tale for medieval Christianity roundtable – reflection due Friday, Apr. 7.
Weds. Apr. 5	Last class meeting
Fri. Apr. 7	Medieval Christianity roundtable reflection due
Weds. Apr. 12	Cultural artifact analysis due

Note: 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.

Statement on Plagiarism

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;
- 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; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of 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 conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

Statement on Student Mental Health

As a University 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. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

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: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Statement on Pandemic Measures

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

Masks: Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

Requests for Academic Accommodations

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>