

Carleton University
Early Summer 2021
Department of English
ENGL 2301 A: Literatures and Cultures 500—1500 C.E.
 May 6, 2021 – June 18, 2021
Mondays & Wednesdays 11:35 am—2:25 pm (11:35 - 14:25 EDT)

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

Location: online [Zoom meetings & Brightspace]
Format: Blended course [live lectures will be recorded]
Instructor: Miles Tittle
Email: miles_tittle@carleton.ca
Office: NA **Phone:** NA
Office Hours: by appointment (via Zoom)

Course description: This course will examine the post-Roman rise of literature in the British Isles and Brittany from *Beowulf* and other surviving Old English texts, into and through the Middle English period (1200-1500), centering on the **Matter of Britain** (that evolving corpus of Arthurian legends and writings from Nennius to Malory), and the great narrative poetic cycle of Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (written c. 1380-1400, in the wake of the Black Death and during the Hundred Years' War). We will also look at Marie de France's Anglo-Norman *lais* from the late 12th century, shorter Middle English lyric poems of the 13th century, the late 13th-century narrative lai *Sir Orfeo*, the late 14th-century alliterative chivalric romance *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, and an excerpt from John Gower's late 14th-century poem *Confessio Amantis*. Outside of poesy, we will read from the *Revelations of Divine Love*, Julian of Norwich's 14th-century mystical devotions; the 15th-century *Book of Margery Kempe*, perhaps the first English autobiography; *Noah's Flood* from the early 15th-century Chester Mystery Plays; and readings from Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*, first published in the late 15th century, finish the course.

The breadth and variety of English High Medieval literature was a confluence of traditions, among them Christian, Latin, French, Germanic, Breton, Cornish, Welsh, Irish, and Provençal. The various interplays of religious, secular, chivalric, political, ribald, and dramatic elements give the period's texts their unique and vital complexity. Giving Chaucer a paternal role to such panoply, or even claiming that there exists a singular body of work for him to reign over, are later codifications that will bear examining.

Required textbook: *We will be using the following textbook in our class.*

Babington, Doug, et. al. The Broadview Anthology of British Literature Volume 1: The Medieval Period – Third Edition. Joseph Black et al., eds. Broadview Press, 2014. ISBN-13: 9781554812028 / 155481202X

You can buy a digital or paper copy at the Broadview Press link below:

<https://broadviewpress.com/product/the-broadview-anthology-of-british-literature-the-medieval-period-third-edition/#tab-description>

****All other readings and assignment sheets will be posted to our class Brightspace page****
The Zoom link information for our classes and recordings of lectures will be posted to Brightspace.

Class structure: The class will be a combination of lecture and discussion, divided as necessary for the day's topics. Lectures will cover assigned readings, further works not found in the textbooks, biographical information, and cultural and historical context.

Types of assignments, weighting and due dates:

1. Assignment 1: Epic Hero Essay	15%	May 19
2. Assignment 2: Noble Obligations Essay	20%	June 2
3. Assignment 3: Medieval Society Essay	30%	June 16
4. Exam Period: Final Exam	35%	TBA

Please note: *Students are expected to hand in paper copies of all assignments and outlines on time, through Brightspace. You are responsible for having backup copies of all submitted work. Late outlines will receive no grade or feedback. You must complete all required assignments in order to be eligible to pass this course.*

Assignment due dates: Assignments done out of class must be handed in through Brightspace by 11:59 pm EST (midnight) the scheduled due date. Marks will be deducted at a rate of **5% per day**, including weekends and holidays, for any late assignment submitted without a medical certificate or equivalent official excuse. After one week, I am under no obligation to accept late assignments. Late assignments must also be submitted through Brightspace (not email). Carleton requires that students use their Carleton email address for university correspondence.

Correspondence: Any emails to me should be in complete sentences, clearly identify the student and course number & section letter, and be clear and polite. Lazy quick “text messages” or files sent with no explanation at all will be ignored, and any attached assignments will not be accepted. Letters have a salutation and a closing. I am not required to answer poor emails or accept late submissions, so please don't try my patience. I teach multiple courses at two universities, and have no time to go hunting for your name or email address.

Attendance policy: Regular class attendance is valuable. Active, thoughtful participation in lectures and workshops helps ensure success in the course, and also helps your classmates. If your time zone or schedule does not permit you to attend lectures live, you are responsible for viewing them later that week and ensuring you keep up to date with all readings, assignments, classes and quizzes.

Outlines and essays: Specific instructions and topic suggestions will be distributed for each of our assignments. Submitted outlines should be in MS Word or PDF format provide a proposed thesis statement (not just a topic), several main points and related sub-points, and make note of where evidence from primary and secondary sources will be used. Submitted assignments should always be in MS Word or PDF format.

Assignment specifications: The Essays and Final Exam must follow these specifications:

- Times New Roman or Garamond, 12-point font; double spaced; one-inch margins (sides, top, and bottom); page numbers in the upper right corner; no extra spaces between paragraphs.
- A first page formatted according to MLA 8 style, including the following information: title of the essay (one that reflects the paper's contents/thesis, not just “Essay #1”), student name, course code, instructor's name, and date of submission. No title pages, please.
- Proper documentation of sources (MLA 8 style). Essays must be in MS Word or PDF format.
- Assignments must have all primary and secondary sources properly documented in a Works Cited page and must use in-text citations with source page numbers throughout.

I will automatically fail any assignment that is missing a Works Cited page or in-text citations. You are responsible for learning how to cite properly in MLA 8 format.

Reading: Because this summer course moves **very quickly** through difficult texts, it is imperative that you keep up with the readings. Read ahead at a comfortable pace when possible. You are responsible for all readings and lectures. The silence that replaces class discussion when students have failed to prepare is very sad for everyone involved.

Academic fraud (plagiarism): Students are strongly urged to familiarize themselves with the rules concerning academic fraud. It is always the student's responsibility to practice academic diligence and to properly cite all sources using correct MLA format. The consequences of academic fraud are extremely serious, and could jeopardize your academic future. If you have any concerns about what would be considered appropriate use of sources in this class, please ask me. <https://library.carleton.ca/help/avoid-plagiarism>

SCHEDULE

# (Date)	Topics	Readings to be done <i>before</i> each class
1A. Mon May 10	Course introduction	<i>Before the Norman Conquest</i> xxxvii - xlvi
Anglo-Saxons; Introduction to the Medieval Period.		

1B. Old English Poems:		<i>Elegies</i> 39-52
Exeter Book <i>Elegies</i> (<i>Codex Exoniensis</i> c. 975 A.D.): <i>The Wanderer</i> , <i>The Seafarer</i> , <i>The Dream of the Rood</i>		
2A. Wed May 12	Beowulf	<i>Beowulf</i> 65-116
<i>Nowell Codex</i> c. 1000 A.D. Grendel & his mother; monsters & heroes		

2B. Grendel & the Dragon; The Geatish-Swedish Wars		

3A. Mon May 17	Arthur & the Britons	Gildas 1-8; Bede 16-30
Gildas: On the Ruin & Conquest of Britain (<i>De excidio et conquest Britanniae</i>), 547 A.D.		
Bede: The Ecclesiastical History of the English People (<i>Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum</i>), c. 731 A.D.		
Nennius: The History of the Britons (<i>Historia Brittonum</i>), c. 800 A.D.		

3B. Celtic Warriors: <i>The Mabinogion</i>		<i>The Four Branches of the Mabinogi</i> 187-209
Pedair Cainc y Mabinogi The First Branch: Pwyll Pendueic Dyfed: Sage, Prince of Dyfed		
The Second Branch: Branwen uerch Llyr; Blanche Crowe, Daughter of Llyr; Culhwch ac Olwen (online)		
White Book of Rhydderch (<i>Llyfr Gwyn Rhydderch</i>) transcribed c. 1350 A.D. & Red Book of Hergest (<i>Llyfr Coch Hergest</i>) c. 1382 A.D. [collected & translated as <i>The Mabinogion</i> by Lady Charlotte Guest 1838-1849]:		
{“Culhwch and Olwen” composed c. 1100 A.D.}		
4A. Wed May 19	Marie de France	<i>Bisclavret</i> ; <i>Lanval</i> 210-233
Breton Lais and Courtly Love		
Marie de France: Bisclavret (<i>The Werewolf</i>) & Lanval c. 1170 A.D.		

4B. Marie de France: Laüstic (<i>The Nightingale</i>) & Chevrefoil (<i>The Honeysuckle</i>) c. 1170 A.D.		
ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE: Epic Hero Essay (15%)		

Monday May 24 is Victoria Day: No Classes		
5A. Wed May 26	Gawain and the Green Knight	<i>Fitt 1</i> & <i>2</i> 287-317
The Pearl-Poet & <i>Cotton Nero A.x.</i> , Courtly Love.		
“Pearl-poet”: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (<i>Cotton Nero A.x.</i>) c. 1400 A.D.		

5B. Gawain and the Green Knight (<i>Sir Gawain and þe Grene Knyȝt</i>)		
<i>Fitt 3</i> & <i>4</i> 317-354		
The Beheading Game; The Ricardian Poets.		

6A. Mon May 31 **Sir Orfeo** Orfeo 275-286
 Auchinleck MS. c. 1330 A.D.; Harley 3810 c. 1400 A.D.; Ashmole 61 [*Sir Orfeo* section c.1488].
 Orpheus & Eurydice, kingship, adaptation.

6B. Middle English Lyrics *After the Norman Conquest* xlvi – lxxi
 The Norman Conquest: 1066 and all that. *Middle English Lyrics* 248-60

7A. Wed June 2 **Gower & Chaucer**
Confessio Amantis Book 5: *The Tale of Jason and Medea* *Confessio Amantis* Book 355-367
 John Gower (c. 1330-1408). Context: (www.broadviewpress.com/babl)
 Andreas Capellanus: *The Rules of Courtly Love (De Amore, De arte honeste amandi)* c. 1185 A.D. *Love* 384-408

7B. *The Crisis of the Fourteenth Century & Geoffrey Chaucer* (c. 1343-1400) 261-272
Chaucer: Introduction & Prologue (& Retractions) 410-445
 Context: *The Canterbury Tales* (www.broadviewpress.com/babl)
 Character portraits, sources, poetics. 582-583

****ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE: Noble Obligations Essay (20%) ****

8A. Mon June 7 **Canterbury Tales**
The Knight's Tale 446-478
The Miller's Prologue & Tale 478-491

8B. *The Wife of Bath's Prologue & Tale* 492-513
The Franklin's Prologue & Tale 535-548
The Prioress's Prologue & Tale [optional] 562-568
The Pardoner's Prologue & Tale [optional] 549-561

9A. Wed June 9 **Christian Mystics**
 Julian of Norwich (c.1342-c.1416) *The Revelations of Divine Love* c. 1375 617-634
A Revelation of Love — in Sixteen Shewings. Anchorites and Anchoresses, Visions. *Ancrene Wisse*.
 Margery Kempe (c. 1373-1439) *The Book of Margery Kempe* c. 1438 A.D. 635-658
 Women's lives, the treatise genre. Spiritual autobiographies

9B. *Mystery Plays* *The Chester Play of Noah's Flood* 741-752
 Context: Medieval drama (www.broadviewpress.com/babl)

10A. Mon June 14 **The Round Table**
 Sir Thomas Malory (c.1415-1471) *Morte Darthur* 774- 829
 The transformation of Arthur from the Dark and Middle Ages. The Annals of Cambria (*Annales Cambriae*),
 Legend of St. Goznowius (*Legenda Sancti Goznowii*), & William of Malmesbury: *The Deeds of the English Kings (De rebus gestis regum Anglorum)*. The Alliterative *Morte Arthure (Lincoln Thornton Manuscript)* c. 1400 A.D.
 The Winchester Manuscript (*The boole booke of kyng Arthur & of his noble knyghtes of the rounde table*) c. 1470 A.D.
 William Caxton's first printing 1485 A.D. (editing & changes).

10B. *The Sangreal* *Hic jacet Arthurus, Rex quondam, Rexque futurus.*
 Chrétien de Troyes: *Perceval, the Story of the Grail (Perceval, le Conte du Graal)*.
 Wolfram von Eschenbach : *Parzival* & Richard Wagner : *Parsifal*.
 Philip III, Duke of Burgundy: *The Chivalric Virtues* c. 1430 A.D. & *The Order of the Golden Fleece*.

11A. Wed June 16***Le Morte d'Arthur***

Merlin's history: Geoffrey of Monmouth (Galfridus Monemutensis): **Prophecies of Merlin** (*Prophetiae Merlini*) c. 1130 A.D., **History of the Kings of Britain** (*Historia Regum Britanniae*) c. 1136 A.D., **Life of Merlin** (*Vita Merlini*) c. 1150 A.D. Avalon.

11B. LAST CLASS: Exam Review

Reflecting on the Middle Ages: from the fall of Rome to the beginning of the Renaissance.

****ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE: Medieval Society Essay (30%)****

EXAM PERIOD: June 21-27

NOTE: Our **FINAL EXAM** will be worth **35%** of your final grade, written through Brightspace.

Please remember to do the readings before class. During lectures we will introduce other secondary and critical works to give you a greater range of possible topics for your assignments. Any changes to the schedule will be announced ahead of time. Some screening of relevant movie scenes may occur.

- ❖ **Assignment 1:** *Epic Hero Essay (15% due May 19)* will require you to choose a relevant topic from provided options or through consultation with me, and to write a well-researched paper of 1000-1500 words. All academic and primary sources must be cited appropriately in MLA 8 to pass.
- ❖ **Assignment 2:** *Noble Obligations Essay (20% due June 2)* will require you to choose a relevant topic from provided options or through consultation with me, and to write a well-researched paper of 1500-2000 words.
- ❖ **Assignment 3:** *Medieval Society Essay (30%- due June 16)* will require you to choose a relevant topic from provided options or through consultation with me, and to write a well-researched paper of 2500-3000 words.
- ❖ **The Final Exam** is worth **35%** and will be mostly essay format with some quote identifications. It will be written during the exam period, and may cover the entire term's material.

Marking: Carleton University uses the following 12-point grading scale (*Percentage Grade/Letter Grade/Number Grade*): 0-49% **F** (0), 50-52% **D-** (1), 53-56% **D** (2), 57-59% **D+** (3), 60-62% **C-** (4), 63-66% **C** (5), 67-69% **C+** (6), 70-72% **B-** (7), 73-76% **B** (8), 77-79% **B+** (9), 80-84% **A-** (10), 85-89% **A** (11), 90-100% **A+** (12). Note that 50% is the pass mark, so an F is a failing grade. Essays are generally marked for Content (30%), Organization (30%), Language (30%), and Handling (10%).

Citation Basics: In the 8th Edition of MLA, you include the “core elements” of the sources. Core elements are those basic pieces of information that should be common to all sources, from books to articles, from lectures to tweets. These are the MLA core elements (with the punctuation that should follow each element):

1. *Author.* (Last Name, First Name; Online nicknames and handles acceptable if real name unknown)
 2. *Title of source.*
 3. *Title of container.*
 4. *Other contributors,* (State specific role, followed by the word “by” and then first and last name)
 5. *Version,* (Abbreviate ed. for Edition and rev. for Revised)
 6. *Number,* (Use vol. for Volume and no. for number, with commas in between)
 7. *Publisher,* (Include only name of publisher, not business words like LLC; use UP for University Press)
 8. *Publication Date,*
 9. *Location.* (Page Numbers (use p. for one page, pp. for page range), URL (Permalink, omit the http://) or DOI. For online journals, DOI is preferred over URL. Long messy “session” URLs are useless.
- A basic citation format should look like this (you would omit missing or unnecessary elements):
 Author. “Title.” *Title of Container.* Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher’s name, Date, Location.
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SUPPORT SERVICES & ACCOMMODATIONS [pandemic measures have affected these]

Writing Tutorial Service (WTS): The WTS offers students one-on-one, personalized assistance with academic writing, free of charge. To make an appointment for a 50-minute session, call 613-520-2600, ext. 1125, book online via Carleton Central, or visit in person at the Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS) on the 4th floor of the MacOdrum Library.

Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): The CSAS offers students a variety of free services, including academic skills workshops and information sessions. To learn more about these services, visit the Centre on the 4th floor of the MacOdrum library, phone at (613) 520-2600, x.1125, or visit online.

Requests for Academic Accommodation

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

Pregnancy 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.

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 must 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>

Academic Integrity

The University Senate defines **plagiarism** as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- 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;
- Submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- Using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- Using another’s data or research findings;
- Failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- Handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct 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 include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Students are strongly urged to familiarize themselves with the rules concerning academic fraud.

The Carleton Academic Integrity Policy is available on campus and also on the Web at:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

It is always the student's responsibility to practice academic diligence and to properly cite all sources. The consequences of academic fraud are extremely serious, and could jeopardize your academic future.

All in-text uses of sources (directly quoted or not) must have an in-text citation immediately after the borrowed information. Ex: (MacLeod 228). An assignment that is missing a Works Cited page or in-text citations will automatically fail. You are responsible for learning how to cite properly in MLA 8 format. Standing in a course is determined by the 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.

