

**Carleton University  
Fall 2021  
Department of English**

**ENGL 2301A: Literatures and Cultures 500-1500**

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

**Format:** Online Blended (see below for details)

Days: Monday and Wednesday  
Time: 11:35 am – 12:55 pm

Professor Wallace  
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Office: 1922 Dunton Tower  
Phone: 520-2600 ext. 1039

Office Hour: **Please contact me via email for an online appointment.**

ENGL 2301 introduces students to the richness (and, frequently, the sheer strangeness) of the literatures of the Middle Ages. This section of 2301 emphasizes the linguistic “hybridity” of the period within which what we call English literature was born. Our reading list will range from works by internationally influential writers to anonymous texts whose origins and earliest reception histories are murky and, ultimately, unknowable. Charting a path up through the middle of this range, we will place increasing emphasis on texts that make visible some of the processes by which the multifaceted traditions of “English” literature are formed.

During the early weeks of the course, we will be reliant on modern English translations of works originally written in Latin, Old English, Middle Irish, Anglo-Norman (i.e., a dialect of Old Northern French), and Medieval Welsh. By the end of the term we will be working directly with at least two dialects of “Middle English”: that is, reading texts written in a language that is beginning, but only beginning, to be recognizably ours.

Topics for discussion will include (without being limited to) the nature and boundaries of literature, manuscript culture, the uses and limitations of a “canon,” the relationship between the hero and his or her community, free will, gender, love, agency, authority, violence, and the relationship between the past and the present.

**Format:** This will be a “blended” ONLINE COURSE with asynchronous and synchronous elements. Twice a week, live lectures delivered via Zoom will be recorded and posted on Brightspace for the benefit of those who are unable to attend live sessions. These live sessions will be held at the officially scheduled time and date for the course. Should scheduling conflicts or exceptional circumstances arise, I may have to record one

or more asynchronous Zoom lectures in place of the usual synchronous sessions. In such cases, the asynchronous Zoom recordings will still be posted on Brightspace.

### Required Texts

1. *Beowulf*, ed. and trans. R.M. Liuzza, second edition (Broadview). [9781554811137]
2. *The Táin [Táin Bó Cúailgne]*, trans. Thomas Kinsella (Oxford) [9780192803733]
3. *The Mabinogion*, ed. and trans. Sioned Davies (Oxford) [9780199218783].
4. *The Lais of Marie de France*, ed. and trans. Claire M. Waters (Broadview) [9781554810826]
5. Geoffrey Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde*, ed. J. Dean and H. Spiegel (Broadview). [9781554810055]
6. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, ed. James Winny (Broadview). [9780921149927]

\*Books are available at Haven Books 43 Seneca Street, Ottawa, ON, K1S 4X2, (613) 730-9888: [www.havenbooks.ca](http://www.havenbooks.ca). These required books are also available at the university bookstore.

**Other editions of these texts are perfectly acceptable, but it is essential for you to be using the Middle English texts of *Beowulf* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.**

Please note that all these texts are available in free online editions. If you prefer, however, to have a hard copy or Kindle edition of any or all of these texts you can order them by entering the ISBN (i.e., the number in square brackets) into the “search” field of your preferred online bookstore.

### Required Evaluations

- 5% Early feedback quiz (online via Brightspace)
- 30% Commentary assignment (submitted via Brightspace)
- 30% Online Test (via Brightspace)
- 35% Final Exam (3 hours: it will be completed in Brightspace during the formally scheduled exam period)

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

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.

### Evaluation Rationale

Your grade in this course will be based on a combination of an early feedback assignment, one commentary exercise, an online test, and one formally scheduled examinations of three hours. This combination is based on three related considerations.

- The early feedback assignment will give you a clear sense of your standing in the course before the larger assignments are due.
- The commentary assignment will give you a pair of opportunities to hone your interpretive skills and develop your ability to write persuasive, analytical prose.
- The online test will gauge your command of course texts and your ability to offer close readings of passages from those texts.
- A three-hour final examination will enable you to demonstrate your command of the full range of course readings. For the purposes of this course, command is 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.

Members of the class will benefit from attending all meetings and participating fully in discussion. I recognize, however, that the 2021 Fall Term is taking place under extraordinary circumstances, and that you may find yourself overwhelmed and unable to attend scheduled classes. Because of this, recordings of classes will always be stored on the course page in Brightspace. I do not grade attendance or participation in 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 online 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 all of these passages onscreen as I lecture. Following along in your own copy will help you a good deal.

**One early feedback assignment** will give you an opportunity to gauge your standing in the course. This is a requirement of Carleton University's teaching regulations. [5%]

**One commentary assignment** will be submitted via Brightspace on the assigned deadline. This assignment will give you an opportunity to familiarize yourself with some of the more sophisticated and nuanced aspects of the circumstances in which early modern readers encountered certain kinds of literary texts. **Further details regarding this assignment will be given during the third meeting of the class.** Deadlines are firm. I recognize, however, that this term is unrolling under very complex circumstances, and I generally make exceptions for a variety of circumstances: bereavement, serious illness, heartbreak, etc. Late submissions will not receive extended comments. Late submissions will be penalized 2% per day. Assignments will be graded and returned to students via Brightspace. [30%]

**One test** will be written in Brightspace on the assigned deadline. Details will be supplied in advance of the test. [30%]

**A final exam of three hours** will take place during the formally scheduled exam period. **Expect to write on every text on the reading list.** The exam will emphasize, without being restricted to, material covered during lectures. Grades on the final exam will be made available via Brightspace. [35%]

## One-on-One Meetings

Please note that I require a one-on-one meeting of roughly 10 minutes each with you during scheduled appointments via. Meeting times will be arranged via the “Scheduler” function in Brightspace.

## Plagiarism and Academic Offences

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” According to the Department examples of plagiarism include the following:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- 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;
- 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 form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that 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 can include failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, or suspension from a program. For more information, please go to: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

## Special Information Regarding Fall 2021 Pandemic Measures

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca)

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

## Course Schedule

### Reading Schedule and Due Dates

- W8 September: **Context lecture: "After Rome: The Intellectual Cultures of the European Middle Ages"**; "Cædmon's Hymn" (cuLearn); "The Ruin" (cuLearn)
- M13 September: Augustine and Boethius (extracts from *Confessiones* and *De consolatione philosophiae* (cuLearn); **international influences on the literatures and cultures of the British Isles**
- W15 September: *Beowulf* (pages 53-113)
- M20 September: *Beowulf* (pages 114-167)
- W22 September: *Beowulf* (pages 167-245)
- **Early Feedback Quiz (15 minutes / 10 multiple-choice questions: to be completed on culearn outside of class hours)**
- M27 September: **Context and transition lecture: Ireland and the Middle Ages: *Táin Bó Cúailnge* (1)**
- W29 September: *Táin Bó Cúailnge* (2)
- M4 October: *Táin Bó Cúailnge* (3)
- W6 October: **Context and transition lecture: Al-Andalus, Troubadour Poetry, *Fin amors***
- **Commentary Assignment on *Beowulf* due before 11:59 pm; please submit it directly to the upload module for this date on cuLearn**
- M11 October is a statutory holiday. No class.
- W13 October: **Context and transition lecture: The Norman Conquest, Anglo-Norman Literature:** Marie de France, *Lais*: Prologue, "Chevrefoil," "Bisclavret," "Equitan," "Le Fresne," "Deus Amanz," "Guigemar," "Laustic," "Yonec"
- M18 October: Marie de France, *Lais*: Prologue, "Chevrefoil," "Bisclavret," "Equitan," "Le Fresne," "Deus Amanz," "Guigemar," "Laustic," "Yonec"
- W20 October: Finish Marie de France; **Context and transition lecture: Wales, Ireland,**

**and England:** *The Mabinogion* (“The First Branch of the Mabinogi”)

### **OCTOBER 25-29: FALL BREAK: NO CLASSES**

M1 November: “The Second and Third Branches of the Mabinogi”

W3 November: “The Fourth Branch of the Mabinogi”; “The Dream of Emperor Maxen”

M8 November: **Context and transition lecture: Anglo-Norman to Middle English and the Later Middle Ages** (*Troilus and Criseyde*, 1.1-56)

W10 November: Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* (Book 1, esp. lines 57-1092)

M15 November: Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* (Book 2, esp. lines 1-931)

W17 November: Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* (Books 2 and 3, esp. lines 2.932-1757 and 3.1-420)

M22 November: Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* (Book 3, esp. lines 421-1820)

W24 November: Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* (Book 4, esp. lines 1-1085)

- **Online test to be completed in Brightspace between 1:00 pm and 11:59 pm.**

M29 November: Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* (Book 4-5, esp. lines 4.1086-1701 and 5.1-686)

W1 December: Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* (Book 5, esp. lines 687-1869)

M6 December: March: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Fitt 1)

W8 December: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Fitts 2 and 3)

F10 December: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Fitt 4)

### **Accommodations**

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 accommodation regarding a formally scheduled final exam, you must complete the [Pregnancy Accommodation Form](#).

**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](mailto: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>

### **Timeline for Early and Medieval Britain (circa 55 BCE-circa 1500)**

55 and 54 BCE	Julius Caesar invades Britain
<b>43 CE-410</b>	<b>Roman Britain</b>
400s	Germanic Migrations
449	Bede's date for the arrival of the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes
<b>449-1066</b>	<b>Anglo-Saxon England</b>
<b>449-1485</b>	<b>The Middle Ages / Medieval England</b>
597	Pope Gregory the Great sends Augustine of Canterbury to convert the English
circa 658-680	Supposed approximate date of "Caedmon's Hymn"
circa 700-800	Ruthwell Cross (bears lines similar to a passage in "The Dream of the Rood")
731	Bede completes the <u>Historia ecclesiasticae gentis Anglorum</u>
793	Vikings raid Lindisfarne
circa 800?	Cynewulf
869	Death of King Edmund
886	Treaty of Alfred and Guthrum establishes the Danelaw

- 899 King Alfred dies after translating “the texts most necessary for all men to know”
- 960s Benedictine Reforms
- 990s Ælfric of Eynsham
- 991 Battle of Maldon
- circa 1000 Approximate date of the four poetic codices: “Beowulf MS,” “Exeter Book,” “Junius MS,” “Vercelli Book.” **With the exception of “Cædmon’s Hymn” and “The Fight at Finnsburgh,” the Old English poems on our reading list are attested only in these manuscripts.**
- 1014 Wulfstan, Sermo Lupi ad Anglos
- 1066 Norman Conquest
- 1066-1204 Anglo-Norman**
- 1066-1485 Middle English**
- circa 1100-1200 Marie de France, Lais (including “Bisclavret”)
- 1277-1282 Edward I of England conquers Wales
- circa 1350-1410 Manuscripts containing the stories brought together and now known as the Mabinogion
- circa 1375 Chaucer, Troilus and Criseyde
- circa 1375-1400 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
- 1400 Chaucer dies
- circa 1460-1500 Henryson, Testament of Cresseid



“Cædmon’s Hymn”

The following text is cited as it appears in *A Choice of Anglo-Saxon Verse*, ed. Richard Hamer (London: Faber and Faber, 1970) 121-3. Hamer asserts that “The text here given is from an early MS and is in a Northumbrian dialect, though many MSS are extant, some of them in West Saxon” (121).

Nu scylun hergan	hefænrices Uard,	Now must we praise the Guardian of heaven,
Metudæs mæcti	end His modgidanc,	The power and conception of the Lord,
uerc Uuldurfadur,	sue He uundra gihuæs,	And all His works, as He, eternal Lord,
eci Dryctin,	or astelidæ.	Father of glory, started every wonder.
He ærist scop	ælda barnum	First He created heaven as a roof,
Heben til hrofe,	haleg Scepen.	The holy Maker, for the sons of men.
Tha middungeard	moncynnæs Uard,	Then the eternal Keeper of mankind
Eci Dryctin,	æfter tiadæ	Furnished the earth below, the land of men,
Firum foldu,	Frea allmectig.	Almighty God and everlasting Lord.