

**Carleton University
Winter 2022
Department of English**

ENGL 2301B: Literatures and Cultures 500-1500

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

Format: In-person

Days: Monday and Wednesday
Time: 1:05 pm – 2:25 pm
Room: TBA (please consult Carleton Central)

Professor Wallace
andrew_wallace@carleton.ca
Office: 1922 Dunton Tower
Phone: 520-2600 ext. 1039
Office Hour: By appointment (Zoom)

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, the course 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 course, we will be reading poetry written in “Middle English,” a form of the 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 section is being designed with the expectation that it will be an in-person, synchronous course delivered on campus.

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]

*Books are available at Haven Books 43 Seneca Street, Ottawa, ON, K1S 4X2, (613) 730-9888: 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 text of *Troilus and Criseyde*. Please note that all course 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 specific editions, you can order them by entering the ISBN (i.e., the number in square brackets) into the “search” field of your preferred online bookstore.

Evaluations

- 5% Early feedback assignment (online via cuLearn)
- 30% Online Test in Brightspace (80 minutes)
- 30% Essay
- 35% Final Exam (3 hours: it will be held during the formally scheduled exam period)

You must complete all required assignments in order to be eligible to pass this 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, an online test, a formal essay, 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 online test will gauge your command of course texts and your ability to offer close readings of passages from those texts.
- A formal essay on Chaucer’s *Troilus and Criseyde* will enable you to develop your ability to sustain an interpretive argument across several pages and to analyze / interpret poetry written in Middle English.

- 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 2021-2022 academic year is unfolding under extraordinary circumstances. 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 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 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 test will be written in Brightspace on the assigned deadline. Details and sample answers will be supplied in advance of the test. [30%]

One formal essay (5-6 pages) will be submitted via Brightspace on the assigned deadline. Deadlines are firm, but I generally make exceptions for a variety of circumstances: bereavement, serious illness, heartbreak, etc. Late submissions will be penalized 2% per day, and they will not receive extended comments. Assignments will be graded and returned to students via Brightspace. [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. Meeting times will be conducted via Zoom.

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 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 is 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

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

- M10 January: **Context lecture: “After Rome: The Intellectual Cultures of the European Middle Ages”**; “Cædmon’s Hymn” (Brightspace); “The Ruin” (Brightspace)
- W12 January: Augustine and Boethius (extracts from *Confessiones* and *De consolazione philosophiae* (Brightspace); **international influences on the literatures and cultures of the British Isles**
- M17 January: *Beowulf* (pages 53-113)
- W19 January: *Beowulf* (pages 114-167)
- M24 January: *Beowulf* (pages 167-245)
- **Early Feedback Quiz (15 minutes / 10 multiple-choice questions: to be completed in Brightspace outside of class hours)**
- W26 January: **Context and transition lecture: Ireland and the Middle Ages: *Táin Bó Cúailnge* (1)**
- M31 January: *Táin Bó Cúailnge* (2)
- W2 February: *Táin Bó Cúailnge* (3)
- M7 February: **Context and transition lecture: Al-Andalus, Troubadour Poetry, *Fin amors***
- **Online Test to be completed in Brightspace (80 minutes)**
- W9 February: **Context and transition lecture: The Norman Conquest, Anglo-Norman Literature**: Marie de France, *Lais*: Prologue, “Chevrefoil,” “Bisclavret”
- M14 February: Marie de France, *Lais*: “Guigemar,” “Equitan,” “Le Fresne”
- W16 February: “Yonec,” “Laustic,” “Milun”

FEBRUARY 21-25: WINTER BREAK, NO CLASSES

- M28 February: **Context and transition lecture: Wales, Ireland, and England: *The Mabinogion*** (“The First Branch of the Mabinogi”)
- W2 March: “The Second and Third Branches of the Mabinogi”)
- M7 March: “The Fourth Branch of the Mabinogi”
- W9 March: “The Dream of the Emperor Maxen”; “The Lady of the Well”
- M14 March: **Context and transition lecture: Anglo-Norman to Middle English and the Later Middle Ages** (*Troilus and Criseyde*, 1.1-56)
- W16 March: Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* (Book 1, esp. lines 57-1092)
- M21 March: Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* (Book 2, esp. lines 1-931)
- W23 March: Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* (Books 2 and 3, esp. lines 2.932-1757 and 3.1-420)
- M28 March: Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* (Book 3, esp. lines 421-1820)
- W30 March: Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* (Book 4, esp. lines 1-1085)

M4 April: Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* (Book 4-5, esp. lines 4.1086-1701 and 5.1-686)

W6 April: Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* (Book 5, esp. lines 687-1869)

M11 April: Conclusion

- **Chaucer essay due: please submit your essay directly to Brightspace**

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 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/focus/sexual-violence-prevention-survivor-support/>

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

43 CE-410 Roman Britain

400s Germanic Migrations

449 Bede's date for the arrival of the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes

449-1066 Anglo-Saxon England

449-1485 The Middle Ages / Medieval England

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 Historia ecclesiasticae gentis Anglorum

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 "Caedmon'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, <u>Lais</u> (including “Bisclavret”)
1277-1282	Edward I of England conquers Wales
circa 1350-1410	Manuscripts containing the stories brought together and now known as the <u>Mabinogion</u>
circa 1375	Chaucer, <u>Troilus and Criseyde</u>
circa 1375-1400	<u>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</u>
1400	Chaucer dies
circa 1460-1500	Henryson, <u>Testament of Cresseid</u>

“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.