

ENGL 4300, Old and Middle English Literature

Dr. David Strong, Consultation via Canvas e-mail and by appt.

Aim of Course:

The study of medieval British Literature involves a submersion into a world that balances chivalric with religious ideals, gender with communal beliefs, and spiritual pursuits with socially productive ones. Whether reading a romance, an exemplum, or fable, the genres distinct to this era reveal a heightened awareness of the complexities confronting each individual in his or her quest to attain personal fulfillment. Sometimes the texts explore in artistic detail the psychological motivations of the texts' characters; at other times, character development is sacrificed in favor of episodic adventure. Despite the style embraced by the respective author, medieval literature invites a post-modern reader into a way of thinking that highlights those very concerns underpinning 21st century pilgrims who seek to perfect their being in mundane confines.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Read, analyze, and interpret a number of passages in light of the text's dominant themes.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the cultural or historical significance of the texts.
3. Explain how literary genres determine a text's construction.
4. Synthesize a detailed knowledge of literary works belonging to a specific time period.
5. Write informed, compelling literary arguments.

The grade will be based upon a series of assignments. Their point value is listed below.

The breakdown of points is as follows:

Weekly Quizzes	8 x 2 points	=	16 points
Discussion Board	9 x 6 points	=	54 points
Writing Assignments	13 x 10 points	=	130 points
Mid-Term & Final Exams	2 x 100 points	=	<u>200 points</u>
			400 points

Grade Breakdown:

A = 400—360 points

B = 359—320 points

C = 319—280 points

D = 279—240 points

F = 239—0 points

Please note: a college education is meant to teach students to think outside of their own viewpoints—to expose them to multi-faceted ways of thinking and knowing. That is intellectual growth and exploration. A student will not be excused from class discussion or assignments

simply because they do not agree with the text. Topics such as religion, sex, and politics are fundamental in literary studies and, thus, will be examined in detail in this course.

ENGL 4300, Old & Middle English Literature

Week 1: Jan. 9-13	Complete all writing tasks assigned for Module 1.
Week 2: Jan. 16-20	Complete all writing tasks assigned for Module 2.
Week 3: Jan. 23-27	Complete all writing tasks assigned for Module 3. <i>Census Date is Monday, Jan. 23.</i>
Week 4: Jan. 30-Feb. 3	Complete all writing tasks assigned for Module 4.
Week 5: Feb. 6-10	Complete all writing tasks assigned for this week in Module 5.
Week 6: Feb. 13-17	Complete all writing tasks assigned for this week in Module 5.
Week 7: Feb. 23	Mid-Term Exam
Week 8: Feb. 28- Mar. 2	Complete all writing tasks assigned for this week in Module 6.
Week 9: Mar. 7-9	Complete all writing tasks assigned for this week in Module 6.
Week 10: Mar. 14-16	Spring Break
Week 11: Mar. 21-23 from course	Complete all writing tasks assigned for Module 7; Last day to withdraw is Thursday, March 23.
Week 12: Mar. 28-30	Complete all writing tasks assigned for this week in Module 8.
Week 13: Apr. 4-6	Complete all writing tasks assigned for this week in Module 8.
Week 14: Apr. 11-13	Complete all writing tasks assigned for this week in Module 9.
Week 15: Apr. 18-20	Complete all writing tasks assigned for this week in Module 9.
Week 16: Apr. 27	Final Exam

If any changes are necessary to make on this syllabus, you will be notified through e-mail on your Canvas account.