

ENGL 4300.061, Old and Middle English Literature

Dr. David Strong

Office Hours: Friday 9:00 to 12:00 in office CAS 235, Zoom or by phone. Also, we can meet by appointment.

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 Quiz	1 x 2 points	=	2 points
Weekly Homework	1 x 10 points	=	10 points
Discussion Board	5 x 6 points	=	30 points
Writing Assignments	4 x 100 points	=	400 points
Final Points		=	442 points

Grade Breakdown:

A = 442—398 points

B = 397—354 points

C = 353--309 points

D = 308—265 points

F = 264—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.

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Module 1: Jun 2-5 Complete all writing tasks assigned for Module 1 by Thursday, June 5. Also, census date is Thursday, June 5.

Module 2: June 6-12 Complete all writing tasks assigned for Module 2 by Thursday, June 12.

Module 3: June 13-19 Complete all writing tasks assigned for Module 3 by Thursday, June 19.

Week 4: June 20-26 Complete all writing tasks assigned for Module 4 by Thursday, June 26. Last day to withdraw from course is Tuesday, June 24.

Week 5: June 27-July 3 Complete all writing tasks assigned for this week in Module 5 by Thursday, July 3..

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

[Student Resources](#)

[University Policies and Information](#)