

English 4305/5305, Medieval English Literature

Spring 2013

Irby 303, MWF 10:00-10:50am

Office hours: MWF 9-9:50,

T/Th 1:30-2:30 and by appt

Dr. Elizabeth Harper

Office: Irby 427

elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Phone: 501-852-2263

Welcome to Medieval English Literature! Modernity defines itself in contrast to the Middle Ages; the word *medieval* is used as a synonym for *antiquated*, *outdated*, *barbaric*, and *backward*. In this class we will explore the literature and culture of the English Middle Ages; our ultimate goal is to enjoy and understand medieval literature on its own terms, and to understand ourselves better in relation to the profound ethical, political, and spiritual challenges that these texts pose to us.

Required texts:

Readings from Anglo-Saxon poetry and prose (posted on Blackboard and noted in the syllabus).

The Lais of Marie De France. Translated by Glyn S. Burgess and Keith Busby. 2nd ed. Penguin Classics, 1999.

Langland, William. *Piers Plowman: An Alliterative Verse Translation*. Edited by Judith H. Anderson and Elizabeth D. Kirk. Translated by E. Talbot Donaldson. W. W. Norton & Company, 1990.

The Gawain Poet: Complete Works: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Patience, Cleanness, Pearl, Saint Erkenwald. Translated by Marie Borroff. W. W. Norton & Company, 2011.

The Shewings of Julian of Norwich. Edited by Georgia R. Crampton. Western Michigan Univ Medieval, 1994.

Kempe, Margery. *The Book of Margery Kempe*. Edited by Lynn Staley. Western Michigan Univ Medieval, 1996.

Malory, Sir Thomas. *Le Morte Darthur*. Edited by Stephen H. A. Shepherd. 1st ed. W. W. Norton & Company, 2003.

Other Middle English readings (posted on Blackboard and noted in the syllabus).

Required text for graduate students (optional but recommended for undergraduates):

Bennett, Judith. *A Medieval Life: Cecilia Penifader of Brigstock, c. 1295-1344*. McGraw-Hill, 1998.

Assignments

100 points	Attendance and contribution to class
200 points	10 reader response papers (collected every Wednesday; you may skip 4 dates)
100 points	1 5-7 page essay (assignment will be described more fully next week)
100 points	Midterm exam
100 points	Final exam

Policies

You will not do well—or learn anything important—unless you **attend class, read the day's readings before you come to class, and do the assigned work**. Five or more absences (the equivalent of missing three weeks' worth of class) will lead to your being dropped from the course. Why waste our time and yours?

Very Obvious Things: Buy, rent, or photocopy the books and come prepared to discuss the day's readings. Please check your UCA email account regularly. Don't text in class. If your cell phone rings, you owe the class a tasty snack.

Gradebook: You can always view your current grades using the Gradebook function of Blackboard. You have access to them as soon as I have entered them in the gradebook. To figure out your overall average, add up your current point total and divide it by the total number of possible points thus far.

Office Hours: I keep regular office hours so that you can come talk to me about any question or problem related to the course. These appear on the first page of the syllabus and are posted outside my door. No appointment is necessary, but I would appreciate a heads-up if you think you're dropping by: let me know when you plan to come by and what you'd like to talk about, so I can plan for your visit.

Late Papers: All assignments should be turned in at the beginning of class on the day that they are due. Late papers will receive a penalty of 10% per day.

Plagiarism: Presenting someone else's ideas, information, or writing as your own, whether it is intentional or unintentional, is considered plagiarism. It is dishonest and disrespectful to your instructor and to your fellow students. If you plagiarize during this course—whether from a professional writer or scholar, a fellow student, or the internet—you will receive a zero for the entire course and you will be reported to the dean's office. Repeated offenses can result in suspension and expulsion from school. One of your first assignments will be a reading and exercise that will help you understand what is acceptable use of outside sources, and what is not. If you are in doubt about your use of a particular source, please see me for help. Here is the university's official statement on this issue:

The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy.

The **Writing Center** is eager to help you work on your writing at any stage of development. To make an appointment, submit a paper for online tutoring, or to find out about drop-in hours, visit <http://www.uca.edu/writingcenter/appointment.php>. They also offer useful online resources at http://www.uca.edu/writingcenter/online_resources.php. The **Academic Success Center** is also available to help you with all aspects of college work. Please check them out at <http://www.uca.edu/ucollege/asc.php>.

Disability Services: The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, please contact the UCA Office of Disability Services, 450-3613.

Please see your **Student Handbook** for the university's sexual harassment policy, academic policies, and other important information.

Exams: You will write two essay exams in this class: one mid-term (perhaps pre-term, considering when it's scheduled) and one final exam. Exams will focus on identifying passages and putting them in their literary and cultural context.

Reader Response Papers: Over the course of the semester, you will write 10 reader response papers. Each paper will be short—1-2 pages—and will focus on some aspect of the day's reading that you found particularly interesting. You can write in the first person, but focus on isolating and exploring a literary element, cultural feature, or idea found in the day's reading. For example, you might write about the warlike language used to describe Christ in "The Dream of the Rood." I don't expect you to do any outside research for these short papers, but you may decide that you like what you've written enough to use it as a starting point for your longer essay.

Essay: You will write and present one long (5-7 page) essay. More information about this essay will be given to you during the second week of class, including the sequence of drafts.

Medieval English Lit

Fri Jan 11, 2013

All day Course overview

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Mon Jan 14, 2013

All day Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People, Book 1, chs. 1-22 (BB)

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Wed Jan 16, 2013

All day Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People, Book 4, chs. 19-24 (BB)

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Fri Jan 18, 2013

All day Old English elegies: "The Wanderer," "The Seafarer," "The Wife's Lament," "Wulf and Eadwacer" (BB)

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day paper assignment handed out

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Mon Jan 21, 2013

All day MLK Day--no class

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Wed Jan 23, 2013

All day Old English elegies: "The Wanderer," "The Seafarer," "The Wife's Lament," "Wulf and Eadwacer" (BB)

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Fri Jan 25, 2013

All day "The Dream of the Rood" (BB)

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Mon Jan 28, 2013

All day "The Battle of Maldon" (BB)

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Wed Jan 30, 2013

All day Marie de France, Lais: "Prologue," "Le fresne," "Bisclavret"

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Fri Feb 1, 2013

All day Marie de France, Lais: "Lanval," "Les Douz Amanz," "Eliduc"

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Medieval English Lit

Mon Feb 4, 2013

All day Geoffrey Chaucer, "Book of the Duchess" (BB); work on Middle English language

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Wed Feb 6, 2013

All day Geoffrey Chaucer, "Book of the Duchess" (BB)

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Fri Feb 8, 2013

All day Midterm exam

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Mon Feb 11, 2013

All day Piers Plowman, Prologue and Passus 1

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Wed Feb 13, 2013

All day Piers Plowman, Passus 2-4

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Fri Feb 15, 2013

All day Piers Plowman, Passus 5

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Mon Feb 18, 2013

All day Piers Plowman, Passus 5

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Wed Feb 20, 2013

All day Piers Plowman, Passus 18

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Fri Feb 22, 2013

All day Piers Plowman, Passus 18

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Mon Feb 25, 2013

All day Pearl, pp. 125-135

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Medieval English Lit

Wed Feb 27, 2013

All day Pearl, pp. 135-147

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Fri Mar 1, 2013

All day Pearl, pp. 147-160

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Mon Mar 4, 2013

All day Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, part 1

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Wed Mar 6, 2013

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, part 2

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Fri Mar 8, 2013

All day reading day

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Mon Mar 11, 2013

All day Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, part 3

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Wed Mar 13, 2013

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, part 4

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Fri Mar 15, 2013

All day Dives and Pauper (BB)

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Mon Mar 18, 2013

All day spring break-- no class

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Wed Mar 20, 2013

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day spring break-- no class

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Medieval English Lit

Fri Mar 22, 2013

All day spring break-- no class

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Mon Mar 25, 2013

All day Julian of Norwich, Shewings, chs 1-11,

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Wed Mar 27, 2013

All day Julian of Norwich, Shewings, chs 12-22

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Fri Mar 29, 2013

All day Julian of Norwich, Showings, 51-63

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Mon Apr 1, 2013

All day Julian of Norwich, Shewings, 83-86

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Wed Apr 3, 2013

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day The Book of Margery Kempe, chs. 1-6, 11

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Fri Apr 5, 2013

All day The Book of Margery Kempe, chs. 18, 28

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Mon Apr 8, 2013

All day The Book of Margery Kempe, chs. 52, 76

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Wed Apr 10, 2013

All day Malory, Morte Darthur, pp. 3-39

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Fri Apr 12, 2013

All day Malory, Morte Darthur, pp. 646-664

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Medieval English Lit

Mon Apr 15, 2013

All day Malory, Morte Darthur, pp. 664-678

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Wed Apr 17, 2013

All day Malory, Morte Darthur, pp. 679-698

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Fri Apr 19, 2013

All day Everyman (BB)

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Mon Apr 22, 2013

All day Everyman (BB)

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day long essays due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Wed Apr 24, 2013

All day Everyman (BB)

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

All day reader response papers due

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com

Mon Apr 29, 2013

8am final exam

Calendar: Medieval English Lit
Created by: elizabeth.harper@gmail.com