**UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS**

## ENGLISH 4305/5305 MEDIEVAL ENGLISH LITERATURE and MANUSCRIPT STUDIES

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**FALL 2022**

**Instructor**: Dr. Dwayne C. Coleman **CRN**: 26043/26044

**Office**: Irby 317H **Time**: W 6:00pm-9:00pm

**Virtual Office Hours**: MWF 10:00am-noon **Place**: Irby 312

(or by appointment; video conferencing can be arranged)

**Phone**: 450-3488 (office)

**E-mail**: dcoleman@uca.edu

**Introduction:** Welcome to an introduction to the art and science of investigating medieval English literature in their most primal forms: manuscripts. I like to call this class “Text Scene Investigation” because, while we’re going to perform literary analysis, studying the content of the works, we’re also going to learn how to look at manuscripts as physical artefacts that give us many clues about the what, the where, the “by whom/for whom,” and even the why for a literary work’s composition, recording, and transmission. This course will likely be a challenging one because you will have to use your powers of observation, reasoning, critical thinking, and persistence. However, if you like working on mysteries (sometimes without any clues), I think you’ll enjoy this class.

**Course Goals/Objectives:** In this class, each student will pursue a number of goals which include the following:

1. Students will read significant works of medieval English literature closely, acquiring a basis for understanding the works and the ability to interpret, to critique, and to respond reflectively to them.
2. Students will learn and understand the conventions, concepts, and key elements of literary works of the Old and Middle English learn to apply that understanding to the reading of specific works.
3. Students will learn some of the basic elements of oral/aural tradition and transmission and how these elements affect our current understanding of medieval literary works.
4. Students will learn some of the basic elements of manuscript production, transmission, and provenance and how these elements affect our current understanding of medieval literary works.
5. Students will write one research-supported critical essay addressing some aspect of medieval English literature. (Undergraduate students will write around 10 pages; graduate students around 15 pages.)
6. Students will investigate the textual/manuscript history of specific works of Old and Middle English, and will present a number of in-class presentations about their findings (undergrads one; graduate students two).
7. Students will enhance their understanding of the Middle Ages and its literature by reading primary and secondary sources. Undergraduates will choose at least two texts and graduate students at least three to complement sources used in the writing of the research paper.

**Required Texts:**

*Beowulf: A Dual-Language Edition*, edited by Chickering, Howell D., Anchor/ ISBN 9781400096220

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, translated by Merwin, W. S., Knopf/ ISBN 9780375709920

Kempe, Margery, *The Book of Margery Kempe (Norton Critical Edition)* W. W. Norton/ISBN 9780393976397

Chaucer, Geoffrey*. Dream Visions and Other Poems (Norton Critical Edition)*, W. W. Norton /ISBN

9780393925883

Malory, Sir Thomas. *Le Morte Darthur (Norton Critical Edition)* , W. W. Norton /ISBN 9780393974645

**Class Requirements:**

You are expected to perform the following tasks:

1. Read all assigned pages. These pages will be announced in class, typically near the conclusion of the period. You will be held responsible for the content of these pages on exams and quizzes whether we discuss them in class or not.

2. Engage in class discussion. Graduate students will be assigned to lead discussion on specific days for specific works. Graduate students should meet with me to decide which discussions they will lead.

3. Write brief reports (4 pages max) on various aspects of orality and textuality concerning medieval literary works. Undergraduate students will write four, and graduate students will write five.

4. Present findings on one report as an in-class presentation with visual and perhaps audio aids. Undergraduate students will present one, and graduate students will present two.

5. Take and pass a midterm exam based on essay questions covering the literature read in class at that point.

6. Write one research-supported critical essay addressing orality or textuality in medieval English literature. (Undergraduate students will write around 10 pages; graduate students around 15 pages.)

**Attendance and Class Conduct Policy:**

And now the rules.

Please read these policies carefully and familiarize yourself with them. You will get the most out of this class—and will help me do my job better—if you observe some ground rules:

1. All students are expected to know and comply with university policy related to Covid-19. For information and resources, see <https://uca.edu/coronavirus/>.
2. Each of us will take responsibility for ourselves.
3. Every student must fill the same set of requirements for this class.
4. You will be honest. You will treat all communications, synchronous or asynchronous, associated with the class as though they are occurring within a real classroom and behave accordingly.
5. You will attend class, stay engaged with the class, and be ready and willing to participate in all class activities.
6. You will complete all assignments on time.
7. You will be treated as a student, not as a customer.
8. You will take time to study, carefully prepare assignments, and use other resources if needed, regardless of your schedule or other responsibilities. I have taken care not to overload you, but you will still have to work time for this course into your daily schedule.
9. **You will take the initiative in working on the assignments for this course; you will need to be a self-starter.**

In short, you will conduct yourself as a university scholar, with integrity and professionalism

**Assignments and Grading:**

**Undergraduates:**

Three short reports on aspects of early medieval texts 100 points each = 300 points

One presentation based on one of the three short reports 100 points

One short report about medieval texts and modern editing 150 points

One midterm exam 200 points

One paper written during the course of the term 250 points

**Graduate Students:**

Three short reports on aspects of early medieval texts (50, 100. 100 points) = 250 points

Two MS description reports w/in-class presentations 100 points each = 200 points

One short report about medieval texts and modern editing 100 points

One midterm exam 200 points

One paper written during the course of the term 250 points

**And so, grading is on the following scale:**  A 1000-895 points

B 894-795

C 794-695

D 694-595

F 594 and under

**Grading Policy**

1. Grading will be rigorous and exacting as a course of this importance demands.

2. Please do not inform me of your desires or requirements for a certain grade. You are responsible for earning whatever grade satisfies you.

3. In addition, I cannot grade on effort, but I must base all grades on the submitted product of your effort. Part of the task of becoming a successful student is learning how to expend effort in the most efficient way.

4. I will not give extra credit assignments for the purpose of improving a student’s grade in the class.

**The Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS):** The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodation under this act due to a disability, contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) at 450-3613.

**Academic Honesty and Policies:**

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.

For this class, any discovered instances of cheating or plagiarism WILL result in a ZERO for the assignment and will likely result in failure of the course. Plagiarism includes piecing together phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or ideas from sources without documentation as well as submitting work that has been composed wholly or in part by someone else. The plagiarized work will also be kept on file in the English Department, and the student may be subject to other sanctions and processes pending the revision of the University’s policy on cheating.

**Sexual Harassment Policy and Title IX disclosure:** Please familiarize yourself with the University’s policies concerning sexual harassment in the current UCA *Student Handbook*.

In furtherance of its core values— academic vitality, integrity, and diversity—UCA is dedicated to promoting a campus community free from discrimination. Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 requires all educational institutions to address gender-based discrimination on campus, and UCA implements these Federal requirements through a fair, consistent, and appropriate process of investigation and adjudication. Please see UCA’s Title IX website (<https://uca.edu/titleix/>) for the university’s policy, relevant forms, training opportunities, and related information.

**Emergency Procedures:** An Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS) for the building in which this class is held will be discussed during the first week of this course. EPS and Building Emergency Plan (BEP) documents for most buildings on campus are available at <https://uca.edu/go/bep-library>. Every student should be familiar with emergency procedures for any campus building in which he/she spends time for classes or other purposes.

**Attendance and class conduct:**

* We will maintain standards and deadlines for our attendance and performance in the course. Regular attendance in-person is required. Assignments need to be turned in by the announced due dates, and grades with rigor will be assigned. This adjustment may come as a shock to some after so many concessions were made during the pandemic, but in order for your grade in this course to mean something, we must have real, definite criteria for assessing your performance on assignments. However, Covid-19 is still with us as a health threat, and we may still need to make some adjustments along the way. All students are expected to comply with the University policy regarding Covid-19 (see <https://uca.edu/coronavirus/>).
* If you intend to make a premium grade (A or B), you should attend class as frequently as possible, preferably every day, and perform tasks to stay engaged with the course. Students who accumulate more than three (3) unexcused absences will be required to consult with me about their attendance and their commitment to complete the course. Students with more than four (4) unexcused absences will be advised to drop the course. Documentation of the reason for absence must be presented to me in order for an absence to be excused.
* Attendance includes being prepared for class. **Therefore, students who do not bring the appropriate materials to class and use them will be counted absent.**
* Students who are quarantined for testing positive for Covid-19 may have their attendance requirements adjusted and may rejoin in-person attendance once healthcare professionals deem it to be safe. Documentation must be presented to me in order for this adjustment to be made.
* Class meetings will begin and end at the agreed upon time. They will be in the classroom announced in the course schedule unless otherwise advised.
* You should do your best to keep up with the readings. **Please notify me of any planned gaps in your engagement with the course in advance.**  **If some factor has caused you to miss a deadline or due date in the course, please contact me as soon as possible and arrange to make up the uncompleted work. Please let me know if they are any factors potentially effecting your completion of the course as soon as possible. Communication is crucially important on this issue.**
* **Communication:** The best way to communicate with me will be my UCA email address dcoleman@uca.edu, and you need to use your UCA account for issues related to this class. Please do not send me messages through Blackboard as it is too hard to sift them out from the boatload of messages that Blackboard generates for instructors. If you need to speak to me, I will hold office hours Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10:00am-noon. I will be in my office, but please try to make an appointment if you need to see me in person. You may also reach me by my office phone 501-450-3488 or make an appointment.
* This class runs from Thursday, August 25 to Thursday, December 15 (final exam day). Be careful to keep these dates in mind when making any plans involving holiday travel or other occasions that will affect your completion of the course. Make sure family and friends know about the policy if they’re making travel arrangements or other plans for you.
* Last, but not least, please make note of this drop date for this semester: **Wednesday, November 16, 2022**—Last day to drop with a grade of W. After that day, only A, B, C, D, or F will be awarded.
* Please do not bring food into the classroom. Drinks (non-alcoholic, of course) are permitted, but you are asked to clean up any spills yourself.
* **If we are required to pivot to remote instruction for a limited time**, all of the above conditions will remain except in-person class attendance will be suspended for the defined duration. All classroom discussion and lecture will be conducted on Zoom, and you will only be counted absent if you don’t attend synchronously. If socially distanced in-person attendance is allowed, classes will be divided into groups attending in-person on different class days such that the appropriate distancing can be maintained in the given classroom.
* **If we are required to pivot to remote instruction at some point for the remainder of the semester**, most classroom discussion and lecture will be conducted on Zoom, and you will only be counted absent if you don’t attend synchronously on designated synchronous days. In order to avoid “Zoom fatigue,” a limited number of days (perhaps once every two weeks) may be converted to asynchronous class activities that must be completed and submitted before the end of the class day. These activities will count for points in the “Class Exercises” category of assignments.

**Medieval English Lit and Manuscript Studies**

**Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

**August 31 (Week One): Intro and** ***Beowulf***

1. Brief notes on syllabus and texts; show resource page

2. Look at British Library web page [A rough guide to making a manuscript - Medieval manuscripts blog](https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2017/09/a-rough-guide-to-making-a-medieval-manuscript.html); look at some interesting examples (choose 3-4)

3. *Beowulf*

a. read lines 1-1062

b. the manuscript [Studying Beowulf | Electronic Beowulf - Fourth Edition - ed. Kevin Kiernan (uky.edu)](http://ebeowulf.uky.edu/)

**September 7: *Beowulf***

1. Introduce first report: find and comment on marginalia (due on Sept. 21 by the end of the day)

2. Discuss Presentations and Paper due on Dec. 14

3. *Beowulf*

a. read lines 1063-end

b. the manuscript [Studying Beowulf | Electronic Beowulf - Fourth Edition - ed. Kevin Kiernan (uky.edu)](http://ebeowulf.uky.edu/)

**September 14:** **Chaucer’s occasional work *The Book of the Duchess***

1. read *The Book of the Duchess,* 1-709

2. the manuscript [MS. Fairfax 16 - Medieval Manuscripts (ox.ac.uk)](https://medieval.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/catalog/manuscript_4850)

**September 21: Chaucer’s occasional work *The Book of the Duchess***

1. read *The Book of the Duchess,* 1-709

2. the manuscript [MS. Fairfax 16 - Medieval Manuscripts (ox.ac.uk)](https://medieval.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/catalog/manuscript_4850)

3. **DUE: Report one on Marginalia**

**September 28: Chaucer’s dream visions *Parliament of Fowles***

1. Introduce second report: find and comment on illuminations (due on Oct. 12 by the end of the day)

2. read *Parliament of Fowles*

3. the manuscript [MS. Fairfax 16 - Medieval Manuscripts (ox.ac.uk)](https://medieval.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/catalog/manuscript_4850)

**October 5:** **Autobiography and** **manuscript transmission *The Book of Margery Kempe***

1. Read *The Book of Margery Kempe*, Book One, beginning through chapter 45

2. the manuscript [Digitised Manuscripts (bl.uk)](https://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Add_MS_61823)

**October 12: Autobiography and** **manuscript transmission *The Book of Margery Kempe***

1. Read *The Book of Margery Kempe*, Book One, chapter 46-89 (end of Book One)

2. the manuscript [Digitised Manuscripts (bl.uk)](https://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Add_MS_61823)

3. Discuss presentation night

4. **DUE: Report Two on Illuminations**

**October 19: First Undergraduate Presentation Night; Midterm Assigned**

**October 26:** ***Sir Gawain and the Green Knight***

1. read *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, parts I and II

2. the manuscript [Digitised Manuscripts (bl.uk)](https://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?Source=BrowseScribes&letter=A&ref=Cotton_MS_Nero_A_X/2)

**November 2: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight***

1. Assign Report Three on Oral/aural features in Medieval texts (due Nov. 16)

2. read *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, parts III and IV

3. the manuscript [Digitised Manuscripts (bl.uk)](https://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?Source=BrowseScribes&letter=A&ref=Cotton_MS_Nero_A_X/2)

**November 9: Sir Thomas Malory’s *Le Morte Darthur***: **Author, Title, Text**

1. Read the beginnings and endings of the major textual divisions in our classroom Norton edition

2. [Malory Project - Home](http://www.maloryproject.com/)

3. **Midterm Due by the end of the day**

**November 16: Second Undergraduate Presentation Night**

1. Assign Report on Medieval Texts and modern punctuation (Due Dec. 7)

2. Read Malory, “The Tale of Sir Launcelot”

3. [Malory Project - Home](http://www.maloryproject.com/)

4. **DUE: Report Three on Oral/aural features in Medieval texts (end of the day)**

**November 23: Thanksgiving Break—NO CLASS**

**November 30: Malory**

1. Read Malory, “The Tale of Sir Launcelot and Quene Gwenyvere”

2. [Malory Project - Home](http://www.maloryproject.com/)

**December 7: Malory**

1. Read Malory, “The Deth of Arthur”

2. [Malory Project - Home](http://www.maloryproject.com/)

3. **DUE: Report Four on Medieval Texts and modern punctuation (end of the day)**

**December 14: Research paper due by the end of the day.**