

English 340: Medieval Literature
Prof. Sharon E. Rhodes (serhodes@pdx.edu)
Fall of 2017, CRN 15284
Neuberger Hall 381
Tuesdays and Thursdays — 4:40pm to 6:30pm

Office: NH 483 Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:15pm to 4:15pm, or by appointment

In this class we will read and discuss a broad range of literature written in England from the 9th through the 15th century. You will learn about the history of English literature; the development of the English language, literary and metrical forms; and the cultural and political forces at work in medieval England. You will have the opportunity to test your knowledge of the diverse period of literature and to explore one of our topics in depth through a final research paper.

Required Text: Old and Middle English c.890-c.1450: An Anthology, 3rd Edition, ed. Elaine Treharne, Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009 (ISBN: 978-1-4051-8120-4)

Other Readings will be provided in electronic form and **must be printed out** before class!

Assignments and Grading:

- **Response Papers:** You will be asked to write **3 response papers** throughout the term. Response papers should be close-readings of a passage of 10 to 20 lines from the 2 weeks preceding the due date for the response paper — think about how the form and content of the language work together to create meaning. Response papers should be approximately 1000 words and should be emailed to me by 5pm on the day they are due as .docx files.
- **Final Paper:** You will be asked to write a **5-7 page research paper**. Prompts and essay ideas will be discussed in class.
- **Exams:** There will two exams consisting of identifications with short essays and longer essay prompts. I will not accept late exams. The exams will not be easy, so you should schedule time to review your notes either alone or in groups, think about the passages presented, and answer thoughtfully.
 - Identifications will consist of a passage from a work we have studied. You must provide the **authors, genre names of major characters, dates, titles, historical moments and write a short essay explaining the significance of the passage.**
 - Longer essay questions will ask you to explore major themes by citing 3 or more of the works we have studied.
 - The Final Exam will also include a section on terminology that we've discussed during the course of the term.
- **Attendance and Participation:** You are expected to attend each class prepared to discuss the assigned material. If we do not have time to discuss an assigned reading in class, which may happen, feel free ask questions or chat about it during office hours, or email me a question.

- **Grading:**

Response Papers:	25%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam	20%
Final Paper:	20%
Class participation:	15%
Total:	100%

Grading Policy: The percentage ranges below will earn the following final grades. Grades that are on the verge (89.99, for instance) will only be rounded up for students who have a strong participation record. Policy on grading and incompletes for this class follow those stated in current PSU catalogue. INCOMPLETES are not given other than for a significant medical reason, and must be arranged *before* the last day of classes. If you have unfinished work at the end of the term, your grade is “F.”

93-100 (A), 90-92.99 (A-), 87-89.99 (B+), 83-86.99 (B), 80-82.99 (B-), 77-79.99 (C+), 73-76.99 (C), 70-72.99 (C), 67-69.99 (D+), 63-66.99 (D), 60-62.99 (D-) lower (F)

Guidelines:

Late work: Late work will be penalized or not accepted. You cannot make up late response papers. You cannot make up missed “in-class” writing or missed exams. There will be no make-ups for in-class writing or exams. There will be no make-ups for electronic assignments. If I am not able to open electronic assignments because they are in an unapproved format (see below), your work will be considered late.

Participation and Discussion: Participation and discussion are a major part of this class. I expect to hear from you at least 5 times during this term. You will need to plan on participating verbally this term. I know this can be difficult, but we will endeavor to create a safe classroom culture of open curiosity. Please feel free to stop by office hours or email me for strategies to work through these difficulties. Keep up with the reading and be prepared to ask questions, respond to questions and say what you think and why.

Classroom Decorum: Please be on time. **TURN OFF Cell-Phones! No laptops or tablets, unless expressly allowed by instructor.** Please treat every person in the classroom professionally and with respect. Each person, students and instructor, deserves a calm and respectful learning environment, as required in PSU’s Code of Conduct: <http://www.pdx.edu/dos/codeofconduct>.

Accommodations: The Disability Resource Center at Portland State University provides accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability that may have an impact on your work in this class, please get in touch with them and with me within the first two weeks of term so that we can work together to adapt assignments to meet your needs and the requirements of the course. Disability Resource Center, Room 116 of Smith Memorial Student Union (503-725-4150). Website: <http://www.drc.pdx.edu/>

Schedule of Readings

Subject to emendation. Readings are due the day they are listed. You should also plan to read the introductions in our text.

Week 1 — Old “English”

Tues. September 26

Introductions

Bede and Cædmon’s Hymn — p. 1

Alfred’s Preface — p. 13

Ælfric’s Preface — p. 129

The Lord’s Prayer — handout

Thurs. September 28

**Treharne, “Introduction” *Old and Middle English c.890-c.1450: An Anthology, 3rd Edition* — p. x

from *Beowulf* — p. 182

The Wanderer — p. 54

The Seafarer — p. 60

Deor — p.70

The Wife’s Lament — p. 86

The Ruin — p. 94

Week 2 — Old English Poetry and the Alliterative Tradition

Tues. October 3rd

**Scragg — “The Nature of Old English Verse” — pdf

Genesis A & B ll. 1-938 & ll. 1945-2096 (and Douay-Rheims version — <http://drbo.org/chapter/01001.htm>) — pdf

The Battle of Maldon — p. 155

The Dream of the Rood — p. 118

Thurs. October 5

No Class

Due: Response Paper 1

Week 3 — Old English Prose Fiction and The Alliterative Survival

Tues. October 10

Apolonius of Tyre — p. 275

Thurs. October 12

Hali Meidhad — p. 366

Ancrene Wisse — p. 382

Week 4 — Alliterative Survival

Tues. October 17

**McIntosh, Angus, “Early Middle English Alliterative Verse” — pdf

Lazamon, *Brut* — p. 456

Thurs. October 19

The Life of Saint Margaret — p. 308

Pearl — pdf and <http://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/text/stanbury-pearl>

Due: Response Paper 2

Week 5 — Romances

Tues. October 24

**Christine Chism, “Romance” — pdf

Sir Orfeo — p. 550

King Alisaunder — p. 627

Thurs. October 26

Ywain and Gawain — p. 642

Athelston — p. 656

The Whale — p. 66

Arundel 292: *The Bestiary* — p. 435

Week 6 — Mid-Term, Boethius, and Old English Sermons

Tues. October 31

Mid-Term!

Thurs. November 2

Alfred’s translation of *The Consolation of Philosophy* — p. 16

selections from Chaucer’s *Boece* — <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=cme;cc=cme;view=toc;idno=ChaucerBo> (Parts I, II & XI)

recommended: *The Consolation of Philosophy* — see <http://sites.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/titles.htm>, <http://sites.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/special/authors/boethius/Bo-1m1.html>

Vercelli Homily X — p. 108

Wulfstan, *Sermo Lupi ad Anglos* — p. 259

Week 7 — Spirituality and Chaucer

Tues. November 7

**Lynn Staley, “Julian of Norwich”

Ayebite of Inwit — p. 615

Manning, *Handling Synne* — p. 534

Julian of Norwich, *A Vision* — p. 801

The Book of Margery Kempe — p. 809

recommended: Langland, selections from *Piers Plowman* — p. 688

Richard Rolle, *Ego Dormio, Ghostly Gladness* — p. 619

Soul and Body I, Soul and Body II — pdf

Wynnere and Wastoure — p. 675

Thurs. November 9

Dinshaw, “New Approaches to Chaucer” — pdf

Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, “The General Prologue” p. 729

— “The Knight’s Tale” — p. 729 and “*The Nun’s Priest’s Tale*” — pdf

recommended: **Strohm, “The Social and Literary Scene in England” — pdf

Due: Response Paper 3

Week 8 — Birds and Lyrics and Dialogues

Tues. November 14

**Steven F. Kruger, “Dialogue, debate, and dream vision”

The Owl and the Nightingale — p. 468

Chaucer, *The Parliament of Fowls* — pdf

Thurs. November 16

**Butterfield, “Lyric”

Lyrics from Trinity College B. 14.39 — p. 506

selections from Plato’s *Republic* — <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html> (Book VI & X)

Trevisa, *Dialogue between a Lord and a Clerk* — pdf
Gower, selections from *Confessio Amantis* — pdf

Week 9

Tues. November 21

No class — research day

Thurs. November 23

Thanksgiving — No class

Week 10 — Travel Literature

Tues. November 28

**Lochrie, “Provincializing Medieval Europe: Mandeville’s Cosmopolitan Utopia” —pdf
The Accounts of the Journey’s of Ohthere and Wulfstan — p. 24
Wonders of the East — p. 173
selections from *Mandeville’s Travels* — pdf

Thurs. November 30

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight — p. 776

Due: Final Paper

Finals Week

Mon. December 4— Review Session, Time and Place TBD

Tues. December 5— 5:30pm — Final Exam