

Department of English & Writing Studies

Love in the Middle Ages
English 3316E (001)
Fall/Winter 2020-21

Instructor: Anne Schuurman
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Course Day/Time: Asynchronous,
Tuesdays 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

Course Location: Online

Antirequisites: The former English 3116E.

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

Love may seem like a universal emotion, but as Chaucer notes:

Ek for to wynnen love in sondry ages,
In sondry londes, sondry ben usages.

If people express their love differently in different ages and lands, does it follow that they also feel love differently? This course will explore the different expressions and experiences of love in the medieval period. We will focus on the literature of late-medieval England, but we will place the English within a broader European context. We will also look at a variety of manifestations of love: romantic and erotic, but also familial, divine, and platonic. While exploring this most fundamental of emotional states, we will learn to read and enjoy Middle English literature. We will begin with Chaucer's short lyric poems, which are relatively easy, and work our way to more challenging genres and dialects of the language.

This course will be offered asynchronously for the most part, with 1-2 hours per week of synchronous class discussion held via Zoom. All course content, in the form of lectures, study guides, and assignments, will be available online, via OWL. Zoom discussions will give students an opportunity to share their thoughts, raise questions, and hear from each other and from me about course readings and material. These discussions will be loosely structured by questions distributed in advance but students are also encouraged to bring their own ideas and questions to the "table" and to steer the discussion in the way that best suits their course-related concerns and interests for the week. We will also use synchronous Zoom sessions for listening to Middle English and practicing reading out loud.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Read and pronounce Middle English with sufficient competency that they can examine the content, themes, rhetoric and prosody of Middle English literature;
- Describe and explain the literary and aesthetic expectations of a variety of medieval genres, including (but not limited to) romance, fabliaux, hagiography, and dream vision;
- Construct and present a complex argument about one or more Middle English texts which demonstrates mastery of the points above, and is firmly placed within existing theoretical and critical debates about the literature.

Course Materials

The following texts are required and may be purchased from Western's Bookstore. Most of the texts for this course are available in hard copy only (with the exception of *The Canterbury Tales* and *Pearl*: see below), and the Bookstore will ship these textbooks directly to you. Go to the Bookstore website to place your order: <https://bookstore.uwo.ca>

Capellanus, Andreas. *The Art of Courtly Love*. Tr. John Jay Parry. New York: Columbia University Press, 1960.

Chaucer, Geoffrey. *The Canterbury Tales*. Second Edition. Ed. Robert Boenig and Andrew Taylor. Peterborough, ON: Broadview, 2012.

(CT)

An ebook version of this text may be purchased via this link:

<https://bookstore.uwo.ca/product/cebebookid9649673>

Chaucer, Geoffrey. *Dream Visions and Other Poems*. Ed. Kathryn L. Lynch. New York: Norton, 2007. (DV)

Julian of Norwich. *Showings*. Ed. Denise N. Baker. New York: Norton, 2005.

Middle English Lyrics. Eds. Maxwell S. Luria and Richard L. Hoffman. New York: Norton, 1974. (MEL)

Middle English Romances. Ed. Stephen H.A. Shepherd. New York: Norton, 1995. (MER)

Pearl. Ed. Sarah Stanbury. Kalamazoo, MI: Medieval Institute Publications, 2001.

This volume may be accessed for free online:

<https://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/publication/stanbury-pearl>

****Middle English texts can vary widely between different editions, so please obtain these editions****

Methods of Evaluation

Course requirements will include participation in OWL forums and class discussions; a recitation of Middle English verse; informal and formal writing assignments; quizzes and a final exam.

Details on requirements, including grade distribution and due dates, coming soon.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are temporarily unable to meet academic requirements (e.g. attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) may submit a self-reported absence form online (available on your Student Center) provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy are met. Students can self-report only two absences per academic year. See policy here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf.

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to Academic Counselling. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. The Student Medical Certificate is available online at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations.

Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Timetable

TBA