

Department of English and Writing Studies**Love in the Middle Ages**
English 3316E (001)
Fall/Winter 2021-22

Instructor: Professor Anne Schuurman

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Teaching Assistant: TBA

Contact: TBA

Office hours: TBA

Location: TBA

Day/Time: Tuesdays 12:30-2:30 and Thursdays 12:30-1:30

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.

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) lyric, 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 Courty 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

Recitation (5%)

You will be required to memorize and recite, using Middle English pronunciation, a selection of Chaucer's verse. You may choose **either** Lines 1-21 of *The Parliament of Fowls*; **OR** lines 1-29 of *The Book of the Duchess*; **OR** lines 1-20 of "Merciless Beauty."

A sign-up sheet will be posted on OWL for you to book a 10-minute time slot for you to recite the verse of your choosing. Your recitation will **not** be in front of the class, but for my ears only.

Middle English Reading Tests (10%)

You will write two one-hour tests around the mid-point of the Fall Term and again in the Winter Term to ensure you are on track with your reading and comprehension of Middle English. The tests will consist of translation and short answer.

Attendance and Class Participation (10%)

Essay 1 (15%)

Your first essay will be due on **December 1, 2021**. Topics and instructions can be found in the Assignments folder on OWL.

Essay 2 (30%)

Your second essay will be due on **March 16, 2022**. Topics and instructions can be found in the Assignments folder on OWL.

Final exam (30%)

The take-home final exam will consist of essay questions and will cover material from the entire year. The date of the exam will be set by the Registrar's Office later in the year.

Rules and Policies:

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>.

Examinations/Attendance

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, **in the opinion of the instructor**, is absent too frequently from class,

or, in the case of online courses, has not engaged sufficiently in class will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

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

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

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.

Schedule of Classes (Subject to Change)

September

Sept 8: Fall Term Classes Begin

Week 1 (Sept 9): Welcomes and introductions

Weeks 2-6: Romantic and Erotic Love

Week 2: Read Middle English Lyrics 16; Chaucer, "Merciless Beauty"

Week 3: Middle English Lyrics 24, 25, 30, 34; Andreas Capellanus, *Art of Courtly Love*, pp. 27-36, 144-57, 177-86.

October

Week 4: Middle English Lyrics 40, 44, 62; *Parliament of Fowls*, lines 1-371.

~Middle English verse recitations this week~

Oct 11: Thanksgiving

Week 4: *Parliament of Fowls*; Sources and Backgrounds: from *Divine Comedy*, pp. 282-3, and from *Scipio's Dream*, pp 258-264.

~Middle English verse recitations this week~

Week 5: *Sir Launfal* (pp. 190-218 in *Middle English Romances*)

~Middle English Reading Test this week~

Week 6: *Sir Landevale* (pp. 351-364 in *Middle English Romances*)

Weeks 7-9: Erotic/Divine Love Hybrids

November

Nov 1-Nov 7: Reading Week

Week 7: *Middle English Lyrics* 92, 105, 188, 197; excerpt from *Legenda aurea* (in Resources file on OWL)

Week 8: *The Legend of Good Women* Prologue (lines 1-579) in *Dream Visions*, pp. 122-137.

Week 9: *The Legend of Dido*, pp. 146-156; *The Legend of Philomela*, pp. 177-181; *The Legend of Hypermnestra*, pp. 185-189.

Weeks 10-12: Love and Loss

Week 10: *Sir Orfeo* (*Middle English Romances* pp. 174-190); *Orpheus and Eurydice* from Ovid's *Metamorphosis* (in Resources File on OWL).
~Essay 1 Due this week~

Week 11: *Book of the Duchess*; excerpt from Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*, pp. 268-273 in *Dream Visions*.

Week 12: *Book of the Duchess* cont'd

Dec 8: Fall Term Classes End

January

Jan 3: Winter Term Begins

Week 1 *Pearl*, lines 1-600; Sarah Stanbury's Introduction, pp. 1-19.

Week 2 *Pearl*, lines 601-1212.

Weeks 3-8: The Marriage Debate

Week 3: Middle English Lyric 62; St Jerome, *Against Jovinian* (in *The Canterbury Tales*); *The Wife of Bath's Prologue*.

Week 4: *The Wife of Bath's Tale*; *The Weddyng of Syr Gawen and Dame Ragnell* (*Middle English Romances*, pp. 378-87).

Week 5: *The Clerk's Tale*; Boccaccio, *Patient Griselda* (in *The Canterbury Tales*)

Feb 19-27: Reading Week

Week 6: *The Merchant's Tale*

Week 7: *The Franklin's Prologue and Tale*
~Essay Proposal due this week~

Week 8: *The Shipman's Tale*

Weeks 9-11: Divine Love

Week 9: *The Showings of Julian of Norwich*, pp. 3-47;

Grace M. Jantzen, from *The Life of an anchoress*, in *Showings* pp. 143-50.
~Bibliography for Essay 2 due this week~

Week 10: *Showings*, pp. 47-84; Caroline Walker Bynum,
from *Jesus as Mother*, pp. 190-95 of *Showings*.

Week 11: *Showings*, pp. 84-125.
~Essay 2 due this week~

Week 12: reread *Parliament of Fowls*

Apr 1: Winter Term Classes End

Apr 4-30: Final Exam Period