

CLC 2292G/GER 2261G **SPECIAL TOPICS: LIFE AND LOVE IN THE MIDDLE AGES**

This course outline is provisional and subject to change.

Professor Melitta Adamson

e-mail: melitta@uwo.ca

COURSE CONTENT

Bookended by the Late Antique Little Ice Age in the early Middle Ages and the Little Ice Age at the end of the period was the Medieval Warm Period around 1200 CE in which life in Europe flourished and a new concept of love, known as Courtly Love, spread across the continent. The emphasis in the course will be on the living conditions of the upper and lower classes as well as the emerging urban middle class during the Medieval Warm Period, especially in the areas of today's Germany, France, and the British Isles. Modern translations of texts ranging from love poetry to courtly epics reflecting the period will be read and discussed.

AIMS

- develop an understanding of medieval life in a changing climate
- study the culture of Christian Europe from architecture, interior decoration, fashion, food, travel, and medicine to war
- find out about the attitudes towards sexuality and procreation and the rules of Courtly Love
- explore medieval culture as reflected in the literature of the time

OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course students will have

- acquired a good overview of daily life in medieval Europe and the tools to study, synthesize, and critically analyze the medieval cultural, scientific, and literary achievements in a European context
- gained an enhanced ability to present clear, persuasive, and original arguments about them in oral and written course work

ASSESSMENTS FOR CLC/GER (TENTATIVE)

Two short essays (750 words each)	30%
1 Oral Presentation	15%
Class Participation	10%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	30%

COURSE MATERIAL

Gies, Joseph and Francis. *Life in a Medieval Castle*. Harper and Row, latest edition.

Gottfried von Strassburg. *Tristan*. Penguin, latest edition.

The Medieval Messenger, Usborne Publishing (available on amazon.ca)

Selected poetry and verse epic excerpts will be provided.