

**Hacettepe University**  
**Faculty of Letters**  
**Department of English Language and Literature**

**Course:** İED 272 (01) English Poetry and Prose I

**Instructor:** Assist. Prof. Dr. Pınar Taşdelen

**Year/Term:** 2019-2020 Spring

**Class Hours:** Thursday 09:00-11:50 B2/205

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 10:00-12:00

**Aim of the Course:** This course intends to enable students to acquire a knowledge and appreciation of Old English and Middle English concepts, traditions, genres and conventions through the study of the masterpieces of the era within the social, literary, cultural and historical texts. It introduces students to the literary traditions associated with the cultures of early and late medieval England through the study of exemplary texts, which is essential for a better understanding and appreciation of not only Old English but also medieval English literature.

**Course Content:** This course introduces the Old English period and its literature, and continues with Medieval English literature and its historical, social and cultural contexts.

**Course Outline:**

**Week I:** Introduction to Anglo-Saxon England and Old English literature

**Week II-III:** Old English epic tradition

*Beowulf* (Anon.)

**Week IV:** Introduction to medieval literature and culture

**Week V:** Discussion of miscellaneous ballads, lyrics

**Week VI:** Women's writing and a brief survey of medieval genres (folk tale, bestiary, fabliau, hagiography etc.)

**Week VII: Midterm I (09.04.2020)**

**Week VIII:** Romance tradition, writers and their works

**Week IX: Bank Holiday (23.04.2020)**

**Week X: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Anon.)**

**Week XI: Midterm II (07.05.2020)**

**Week XII:** Allegory and dream-vision conventions, Extracts from *Piers the Ploughman* (William Langland)

**Week XIII-XIV:** Frame-tale convention

The General Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales* (Geoffrey Chaucer)

**\*There may be changes to the course outline.**

**Text Book:** The primary texts are stated above. They are available in the first volume of *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*.

**Course Requirements and Method:** It is essential for students to read the assigned material before class meetings because the course will be conducted in the form of class discussions and references to the texts will be made necessary. The background material will be briefly introduced in class, but the students should not rely only on class material and are advised to do reading of the secondary sources in their spare time. Needless to say each student should have his/her own text that will be brought to class.

**Attendance:** Attendance is compulsory, those who fail to come to class more than **11 hours** will get **F1**. Moreover, punctual attendance is required at every class meeting.

**Assessment:** 25% Midterm I  
25% Midterm II  
50% Final

**25%** of the marks will be deducted for incorrect English. The lowest passing mark is **50**.

### **Suggested Reading List**

\*This list is recommendatory only. There are many other books and articles available at the Beytepe Library and Bilkent Library, in addition to the vast number of online articles.

#### **General**

- Barber, Richard. *The Knight and Chivalry*
- Boitani, Piero and Anna Torti, eds. *Poetics: Theory and Practice in Medieval Literature*
- Brewer, Derek. *Chaucer and His World*
- Browne, Matthew. *Chaucer's England*
- Burrow, J. A. *Medieval Writers and Their Work*
- Coote, Stephen. *English Literature of the Middle Ages*
- Coss, Peter. *The Knight in Medieval England*
- Coulton, G. G. *Medieval Panorama*
- Crump, C. G. and E. F. Jacob. *The Legacy of the Middle Ages*
- Duby, Georges, ed. *Medieval Marriage*
- Gies, Joseph and Frances Gies. *Life in a Medieval Castle*
- Grierson, Herbert and J. C. Smith. *A Critical History of English Poetry*
- Harpur, James. *Inside the Medieval World*
- Herlithy, David. *Medieval Culture and Society*
- Jackson W. T. H. *The Literature of the Middle Ages*
- Jusserand, J. J. *English Wayfaring Life in the Middle Ages*
- Lewis, C. S. *The Discarded Image*
- Myers, A. R. *England in the Late Middle Ages*
- Pickering, F. P. *Literature and Art in the Middle Ages*
- Slack, M. *Medieval England: A Social and Economic History*
- Slauch, Margaret. *English Medieval Literature and Its Social Foundations*
- Strayer, J. R. and D. C. Munro. *The Middle Ages: 395-1500*
- Given-Wilson, Chris. *An Illustrated History of Late Medieval England*