

**HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

SYLLABUS

Title of the Course: IED 272 (02) British Poetry and Prose I

Instructor: Associate Prof Dr. Huriye Reis

Year and Term: 2011-2012 Spring

Class Hours: Wednesday: 09:00-11:45 ZNG

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I.Aim and Contents: This course aims to cover the major literary genres, types and traditions of medieval English literature through readings from the works of Chaucer, Langland, the Gawain poet and Margery Kempe. It thus introduces and studies epic, religious poetry, dream convention, romance, allegory and frame tale as they are employed in the works of medieval English writers.

II.Course Outline:

Week I&II: (15 February, 22 February) Introduction to the early Medieval period and its literature: society, the heroic ideal, the church, historical events: The period up to the Norman conquest, and *Beowulf*.

Week III: (29 February) Reading *Beowulf*,

Week IV: (7 March) Middle English Literature

Week V: (14 March 2012 Wednesday) MIDTERM I

Week VI: (21 March) Romance and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Week VII: (28 March) Reading *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Week VIII: (4 April) Reading *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Week IX: (11 April) Mystical writing and Dream vision convention. From *The Book of Margery Kempe*, From Langland's *The Piers Plowman* (Prologue and Passus V)

Week X: (18 April) *The Book of Margery Kempe*, From Langland's *The Piers Plowman* (Prologue and Passus V)

Week XI: (25 April) *The Book of Margery Kempe*, From Langland's *The Piers Plowman* (Prologue and Passus V)

from *The Piers Plowman*

Week XII: (02 May 2012 Wednesday) MIDTERM II

Week XIII: (9 May) Chaucer, frame tale narrative and *The General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales*

Chaucer continued

Week XIV: (16 May) Chaucer continued.

III. Textbook: *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, Vol I.

IV: Method of Instruction: There will be introductory lectures on the historical and literary background of the Middle Ages; however, the classes will mainly be conducted through textual analysis and critical reading of the primary texts. Students should read the secondary material as they are expected to display a considerable knowledge of the social and literary background as well as the primary texts. .

V. Requirements: Attendance is obligatory. More than 11 (eleven) hours of absence will result in F1. Students should obtain and read the texts assigned for the class discussions. Students will be guided through questions (written and/or oral) in their reading of the texts. **Assessment:** In the grading of examination papers up to 25 % of the total mark will be taken off for grammatical and writing mistakes. There will be two mid-term examinations which will carry 50 % of the total grade. The final examination will carry the remaining 50 % . **(Please note that regardless of your semester average, you need to get at least 50 points in the final exam to pass the course)** Students should demonstrate that they have read the relevant secondary material and have done independent research. Students should present their arguments clearly and should display the ability to think independently. They should also demonstrate a good knowledge of the poets and the poems that the course covers. **Attendance, class participation and assignments will contribute to the final assessment.**

VII. Relevant reading

- Alford, John A. *A Companion to Piers Plowman*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1988
- Andrew, Malcolm. *Critical Essays on Chaucer's Canterbury Tales*. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1991
- Brewer, Derek. Ed. *Geoffrey Chaucer: The Writer and His Background*. Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 1990
- Burrow, J.A. *Medieval Writers and Their Work: Middle English Literature and Its Background 1100-1500*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1982, reprint. 1989
- *Essays on Medieval Literature*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1984. See Chapter 6&7.
- *A Reading of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1966.
- Cooper, H. *Oxford Guides to Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales*. Oxford UP, 1989
- Everett, Dorothy. *Essays on Middle English Literature*. Ed. by Patricia Kean. Oxford: Clarendon, 1967. pp. 1-22; 68-84.
- Godden, Malcolm. *The Making of Piers Plowman*. London & New York: Longman, 1990.
- Gurevich, A.J. (trans. G.L. Campbell) *Categories of Medieval Culture*, 1985.
- Ford, Boris. ed. *The New Pelican Guide to English Literature I. Medieval Literature Part One: Chaucer and the Alliterative Tradition*, 1982
- Hanavalt, Barbara. Ed. *Chaucer's England: Literature in Historical Context*. Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 1992.
- Lawton, David. *Middle English Alliterative Poetry and Its Literary Background: Seven Essays*. D.S. Brewer, 1982.
- Olson, Paul A. *The Canterbury Tales and The Good Society*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton UP, 1986. pp.3-46
- Raffel, Burton and Alexandra H. Olsen. (ed) *Poems and Prose from the Old English*. New Haven and London: Yale UP, 1998. Read the Introductions by Olsen.
- Reis, Huriye. *Adem'in Bilmediği, Havva'nın Görmediği: Ortaçağda Türk ve İngiliz Kadın Yazarlar*. Ankara: Dörtbay, 2005.

Spearing, A.C. *Medieval Dream Poetry*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1976., Introduction

Stone, Brian. *Chaucer*. Penguin, 1989, first print. 1987.

Chaucer Metapage