

HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SYLLABUS

İED 653/753 Medieval English Literature (Excluding Chaucer)

2015-2016 Autumn

Class Hours: Thursday 9:00-12-50

Prof Dr Huriye Reis

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This course aims to introduce and study the main literary traditions and conventions of medieval English literature through a critical reading of individual writers and works.. It hence covers the Middle English period and its major conventions, medieval dream poetry, the romance tradition, debate poetry, women's writing and letter writing with reference to medieval culture and society.

II.Course Outline:

Week I: (Week II No class, Bayram) :A historical , cultural and literary introduction to the Middle Ages.Major developments and changes; medieval worldview and literary conventions. **Read:** *A Social History of England, 1200–1500*. Ed. Rosemary Horrox and W. Mark Ormrod.Cambridge : Cambridge UP, 2006. (Bilkent library) Also Christopher Dyer's *Standards of Living in the later Middle Ages: Social Change in England c. 1200-1520*. Cambridge. Cambridge UP, 1989. (Bilkent Library)

Student short papers on medieval culture and literature: Major historical events, Social structure, the estates, the Church, Men and Women (in towns), royal family, The Crown and the Church, Popular entertainment, courtly life, chivalry, pilgrimage, trade and the merchants, estates and food culture, estates and clothes, status of English language etc)

Week III: The Romance tradition: Textual and cultural interrelations: Beroul's *Tristan*, Cretien de Troyes' *Ywain, Lancelot*

Week IV: *Sir Orfeo, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Chaucer's *Sir Thopas*

Week V: Medieval Dream Poetry, **Must read:***The Romance of the Rose, Divine Comedy, Consolation of Philosophy, The Complaint of Nature*, **Texts for discussion:***Pearl*, (the Gawain poet)

Week VI: Langland's *Piers Plowman*, Chaucer's *The Parliament of Fowles*

WeekVII: (No class, 29 October)

Week VIII: Debate poetry: Debating love, poetry, age and change:The Prologue to the *Legend of Good Women, The Flower and the Leaf, The Parlement of Three Ages*

Week IX: *The Cuckoo and the Nightingale, The Winner and Waster*

Week X: Women Writers: hagiographical and mystical writings, Margery Kempe

Week XI: Julian of Norwich

Week XII: Letter Writing, The Paston Letters,

Week XIII: Letters of Heloise and Abelard

Week XIV: Frame tale: Boccaccio, from *Decameron*, Gower, from *Confessio Amantis*,fable: from Henryson's *Moral Fables*

Week XV: Ballads, *A Gest of Robyn Hood*, and lyrics

Requirements: Attendance is obligatory. Class participation is essential. Students are required to prepare their discussions in writing and present their views orally and clearly. Students will write two research papers on a given topic which they will present in the class orally, and will hand in their papers soon after their oral presentation of the paper. There will be a final paper/exam. Students are advised to talk to the instructor about their subject matter and their theses.

Assessment:

Paper I: 15 %

Paper II: 20 %

Class Participation and Contribution (short oral presentations): 15 %

Final Paper/Exam:50 %