

English 216  
Medieval Literature  
Professor Stork  
Fall 2017

Office Hours: M 1030-1130, W 1500-1600 and by appointment

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This class is an introduction to the literature of medieval England and the methods of studying earlier literature. We will look at linguistic developments, historical backgrounds and cultural context. All texts (except *Njal's Saga*) will be read in their original language. Not to worry! These forms of Middle English can be mastered with just a modest effort at learning some new grammatical features.

Work will focus on transcription, prose analysis and translation. This course has recently been revamped from 3 units to 4 and the assignments reflect the increased units. Many of these texts will be useful to you when you take the M.A. Reading Exam, Part One.

Required Texts:

Barratt, Alexandra, *Women's Writing in Middle English*, Longman Annotated Texts

Shepherd, ed., Sir Thomas Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, Norton Critical Edition

Beidler, Peter, ed., Chaucer, *The Wife of Bath: Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism*

Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde*, Norton Critical Edition

*Njal's Saga*, Penguin

Grading:

Pisan Transcription First Draft	10%
Pisan Transcription Final Draft	20%
Malory Prose Analysis First Draft	10%
Malory Prose Analysis Final Draft	20%
Translation Exam	20%
Reading Response to <i>Njal's Saga</i>	20%

Late Policy: In the case of genuine and compelling emergencies beyond your control, late work can be accepted up to one week late. There will be a full grade penalty.

Schedule of Classes:

- Aug 23 Introduction to Transcription and Editing of Medieval Texts
- Aug 30 Read Christine de Pisan pp. 137-162, *Women's Writing in Middle English*
- Sept 6 Transcription Workshop. Bring a draft of your preliminary work.
- Sept 13 Malory, 3-40 and *Sankgreal*, 462-506 Transcription First Draft DUE
- Sept 20 Malory, *Sir Launcelot and Guinevere*, 588-645
- Sept 27 Malory, *Dethe of Arthur*, 646-698 Transcription Final Draft DUE
- Oct 4 Workshop on prose analysis (Bring your chosen passage)
- Oct 11 Margery Kempe, 177-204, *Women's Writing in Middle English*  
First Draft of Prose Analysis DUE
- Oct 18 *Lay le Fresne*, 40-48, *Women's Writing in ME*; Wife of Bath, Prologue and Tale
- Oct 25 Finish Wife of Bath. Start Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde*, Book One
- Nov 1 *Troilus and Criseyde*, Books Two and Three
- Nov 8 *Troilus and Criseyde*, Book Four Final Prose Analysis DUE
- Nov 15 *Troilus and Criseyde*, Book Five Translation Exam
- Nov 22 Thanksgiving Break
- Nov 29 *Njal's Saga*
- Dec 6 *Njal's Saga*
- Mon, Dec 18, 1715-1930 (5:15 – 7:30 pm) Reading responses to *Njal's Saga* DUE (1000 words)

(n.b. This is our regularly assigned Final Exam time but you will present your paper informally and we will discuss your responses to *Njal's Saga*)

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