

## ENGL 512: Medieval Literature (mostly) Exclusive of Chaucer

### Spring 2013 (Undergrad)

Dr. Jo Koster

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Office Hours: MW 2:30-4 PM; T 4-6 PM; frequently online; and gladly by appointment

Class Online Materials site: <http://faculty.winthrop.edu/kosterj/engl512.htm>

Dr K's web page: <http://faculty.winthrop.edu/kosterj>

Turnitin.com Class ID: **5912353**

#### Texts:

- Thomas Malory, *King Arthur & His Knights*, ed. Eugene Vinaver, ISBN 0-19-501905-9
- Marie de France, *Lais of Marie de France*, ISBN 9780140447590
- *Cambridge Companion to Medieval English Literature*, ed. Larry Scanlon, ISBN 978-0-521-60258-7
- Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe*, ed. Staley, ISBN 0-393-97639-4
- Bella Millett, *Middle English Prose for Women*, ISBN 0-19-811997-6
- Marie Boroff, transl., *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Patience, Pearl*, ISBN 0-393-97658-0
- A collection of handouts in Dropbox.com

#### Course Goals:

1. To familiarize you with some of Middle English literature's greatest works (exclusive of Chaucer) in both print and other media
2. To introduce you to the major forms, values, themes, and literary positions of Middle English, particularly as they prepare you to study later periods of literature and to take standardized exams like the GRE
3. To reinforce your critical reading, interpretative, and writing skills through in-class examinations and out-of-class writing assignments, leading to the creation of materials suitable for revising as a conference paper submission
4. To introduce you to the complexities of textuality involved in studying medieval literature
5. To introduce you to some of the complexities of medieval culture involved in studying medieval literature.

See a complete listing of course goals for the Department of English at <http://www.winthrop.edu/cas/english/default.aspx?id=20751>.

**Syllabus Change Policy**

This policy statement, calendars, and assignments posted on the class website are the most up-to-date ones and will be the ones we use to resolve any questions or issues. Please note the effective date; the up-to-date one is the applicable version in case of questions.

**Expectations**

1. This is an intense course, even in translation. Emphasis will be placed on a lot of discussion. Therefore, you are expected to do the reading **before class** and to come to class prepared. Since the course has been scheduled seminar-style, this means that you have to prepare a weeks' worth of reading at one time; we'll discuss this the first day of class, but be prepared to manage your study schedule accordingly.
2. As a 500-level class, you will be expected to dip into secondary criticism of the works we read as well as the primary texts themselves. I will explain to you what I want you to do with the secondary readings I suggest, but you should get into the habit of probing more deeply as well. Get to know the PR 1900-2200 range of the library.
2. Attendance is expected. University policy is that students who miss more than 25% of classes (4 classes on a one-night per week class) must receive a grade of F. If you miss more than two classes, expect your final grade to be lowered **at least** three points for every absence.
3. You are expected to purchase the texts and bring them to class as assigned. If you do not choose to purchase them from the Bookworm, please check the ISBNs for the texts so that you can get the right editions wherever you choose to shop. Some materials will be available online so that you can reduce your costs. If you choose not to print these materials out, then make detailed notes (with quotes!) so that you can participate intelligently in discussion.
4. I expect you to observe the English department's conventions for the appropriate use of borrowed information and documentation, available at <http://www.winthrop.edu/english/writing/plagiar.htm>. Plagiarism of any sort is unacceptable in the class and will result in an F grade for the class. Please ask me in advance if you have any questions about how you are using borrowed materials in your work. All work is presumed to be original for this class unless I give explicit permission otherwise.
5. All written work must conform to 2009 MLA style. See Harris' *Prentice Hall Reference Guide to Grammar and Composition* or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, if you have any questions.
6. The classroom is not the place for multi-tasking. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off during class. If yours goes off during class, you will be counted absent for the day. Repeated offenses will

seriously affect your class participation grade.

7. You must turn in all graded work to pass the class; no exceptions.

8. Graduate students will note that there are some additional course requirements for them. This is required by the SACS accreditation board for joint undergraduate/graduate classes.

**Course**

**Requirements:**

A 94-100; A- 91-93  
B+ 88-90; B 84-87;  
B- 81-83  
C+ 78-80; C 74-77;  
C- 71-73  
D+ 68-70; D 64-67;  
D- 61-63  
F 0-60

- Two in-class exams, 10% each: 20%
- Two out of three short reaction papers, 5% each: 10%
- Final exam; 25% Friday April 26, 6:30 PM.
- Critical paper of 9+ pages: 25%
- Involved, prepared class participation, including leading discussion of assigned articles and *CCMEL* chapters: 20%

All students will be graded on the plus/minus system.

**Grading Standards:**

On my web page I will provide links to my rubric for [grading essay exams](#) and a [rubric for class participation](#) in literature classes. See my [Literary Analysis Rubric](#) for the standards I use to grade your written efforts.

I encourage you to review these and to bring any questions about them to me.

**Additional Information:**

The English Department's home page is <http://www.winthrop.edu/english>. Additional resources are online at <http://faculty.winthrop.edu/kosterj/eng512.htm> and at <http://www.winthrop.edu/cas/medieval/default.aspx?id=24684>.

**Plagiarism Policy:**

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing in "Works Cited")—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will **not be tolerated**, whether intentional or not. It is also a violation of section V, "Academic Misconduct," of the Winthrop Student Conduct Code ([http://www2.winthrop.edu/acad/WU\\_StudentConductCode.pdf](http://www2.winthrop.edu/acad/WU_StudentConductCode.pdf)). The English Department has prepared *The Correct Use of Borrowed Information* to explain plagiarism (<http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/cas/english/CorrectUseBorrowedInfo.pdf>.) **You will be required to print out this statement, sign the last page, and bring it to your rough draft conference.** Ignorance or failure to consult this material is no excuse. If you plagiarize any work in this class, whether intentionally or not, the minimum penalty is a zero grade on the assignment, and may increase to an F in the class or disciplinary referral.

**Student Conduct Code**

As noted in the Student Conduct Code: "Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals." The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined

in the "Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy" in the online *Student Handbook* ([http://www2.winthrop.edu/acad/WU\\_StudentConductCode.pdf](http://www2.winthrop.edu/acad/WU_StudentConductCode.pdf)).

**Turnitin.com**

We will use [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) for papers in this class. Your class ID # is at the top of the syllabus and the password will be given to you in class. Keep the electronic receipt you get from Turnitin when you submit a paper; if you don't get an electronic receipt, then the paper did not upload and you must resubmit it!

**Duplicate Submission of Papers:**

You may not submit a paper for a grade in this class that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course, unless you obtain the explicit written permission of me and the other instructor involved *in advance*. This is to conform to the *Student Code of Conduct*, §V, which states: "Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to ... presenting the same or substantially the same papers or projects in two or more courses without the explicit permission of the professors involved." (*Student Code of Conduct* §V: [http://www2.winthrop.edu/acad/WU\\_StudentConductCode.pdf](http://www2.winthrop.edu/acad/WU_StudentConductCode.pdf)).

**Students with Disabilities:**

Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 803-323-3290. Once you have your official notice of accommodations, please notify me so that I am aware of your accommodations well before the first time you need accommodation.

**Class Participation Policy**

Class participation is an essential part of graduate study. This means you must be prepared for class and engage in discussion with your classmates and instructor on a REGULAR basis; please see the rubric for class participation on the class web page to see how I grade this involvement. If you suffer from "social anxiety" and wish this to be accommodated in terms of your class participation, you MUST fill out the paperwork from the Office for Students with Disabilities and give it to me in the first two weeks of the semester. Otherwise, in fairness, you will be assessed by the same rubric that your fellow classmates are assessed by.

**Global Learning Initiative:**

The global learning components of this class include reading materials written at least half a millennium ago, discussing social and cultural artifacts and practices of the medieval period, writing papers and essay exams about this period, and leading classroom discussions about assigned readings on medieval literature and culture.

**Safe Zones:**

This classroom is a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thoughts is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. I expect that ALL students will be able to consider our classroom a safe environment.

**Contacting Your Instructor:**

It's easiest to reach me by e-mail at the address above, or to leave voicemails for me on my office line (it does not provide text or IM capacity). You can leave messages for me in the department mailroom, 248 Bancroft, which is open from 8:30-5:00 each day.

<b>Late Paper/Assignment Policy:</b>	You may take an extension of one class period on either of the short papers, provided that you inform me in advance. You need not give me a reason; just send me an e-mail saying "I'd like to take my extension, please," and that will cover it. (Please send me an e-mail as my record keeping needs all the help it can get.) Unless you have a valid medical or university-approved excuse, I will not accept late research papers in this class. You'll have more than six weeks to get the research paper done. Plan accordingly.
<b>Technology Caveats</b>	<p>Personal and classroom technology is not infallible. Protect yourself by managing your time and backing up your work. Servers time out, e-mail crashes, flash drives get left in the clothes dryer, printers run out of ink. These are not considered emergencies; they are part of the normal production process for academic work. An issue you may have with technology is no excuse for submitting late work.</p> <p>I conduct most of my business with students using e-mail. All class e-mail will be sent to your Winthrop e-mail address, so make sure you set it to forward to any off-campus account you use (e.g. Comporium, Gmail, Yahoo!, etc.) All students must subscribe to the class listserv. Please note that Winthrop office phones are landlines and cannot accept text messages.</p>
<b>Final Examination Schedule:</b>	The final examination this semester is scheduled for Friday April 26 at 6:30 p.m., so plan accordingly. University policy states that travel or work schedules are not valid reasons for missing or rescheduling a final examination.
<b>Readings and Assignments:</b>	Click here for the link.
<b>Resources:</b>	<a href="http://faculty.winthrop.edu/kosterj/archives/LitClasses/midengres.htm">http://faculty.winthrop.edu/kosterj/archives/LitClasses/midengres.htm</a>
<b>University Level Competencies (ULCs)</b>	<p><i>Competency 1: Winthrop graduates think critically and solve problems.</i> In this class you will critically analyze the evidence presented in Middle English texts as well as evaluating secondary scholarly arguments about these texts. You will work on developing your own argumentative theses about medieval works and finding primary textual and secondary scholarly evidence to support your arguments.</p> <p><i>Competency 2: Winthrop graduates are personally and socially responsible.</i> In this class you will demonstrate the ethical use of borrowed information through correctly documenting your writing and demonstrate principled, respectful discussion in class.</p> <p><i>Competency 3: Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live.</i> Because this class covers a time period very different but very important to our own, you will focus on the historical, social, and global contexts of medieval literature and culture, and explore the multidisciplinary nature of medieval studies.</p> <p><i>Competency 4: Winthrop graduates communicate effectively.</i> In this class, through oral presentations and class discussion and written texts, you will demonstrate your abilities to communicate effectively on the topics of literary study.</p>

## ENGL 512 Reading &amp; Assignment Schedule Spring 2013

Date	Primary Reading/Assignments	Secondary Reading/Presentation Leader
January 8	Course introduction; materials and methods; overview. The vexed question of genre in Middle English; a brief look at Middle English lyrics (e-mailed in advance). (Don't panic about them being in Middle English!) We can't waste this much time by not having class, but I will have to do more lecturing than I plan to do for the rest of the term—sorry!	CCMEL chapter 1: "Re-inventing the Vernacular" and chapter 7: "Lyric" If you want to play with the "Wessex Parallel Web Texts" website ( <a href="http://www.soton.ac.uk/~wpwt/">http://www.soton.ac.uk/~wpwt/</a> ) you can find parallel Middle English/Modern English texts of some of the lyrics with notes and bibliography. For a background on religious/Marian lyrics, the best place to start is with the TEAMS edition: <a href="http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/intro.htm">http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/intro.htm</a> .
January 14	<b>10 Questions Assignment due in <a href="http://www.turnitin.com">www.turnitin.com</a></b>	
<b>Attitudes, Values, and Aims of Middle English Literature</b>		
January 15	<i>Medieval English Prose for Women: "A Letter on Virginity."</i> <i>Pearl</i> , Introduction and text to line 600.	CCMEL chapter 3: "Religious Writing" Secondary reading: Deb Schwartz, "Pearl," <a href="http://cla.calpoly.edu/~dschwartz/engl512/pearl.html">http://cla.calpoly.edu/~dschwartz/engl512/pearl.html</a> , and <a href="#">Britton J. Harwood, "Pearl as Diptych," from <i>Text and Matter: New Critical Perspectives on the Pearl-Poet</i> (1991)</a> . The <a href="#">Cotton Nero A.x. project</a> at the University of Calgary has a lot of material on the <i>Pearl</i> /SGGK manuscript.
January 22	Finish <i>Pearl</i> .	CCMEL chapter 2: "Textual Production & Textual Communities" Secondary reading: The intro to the TEAMS edition by Sarah Stanbury: <a href="http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/pearlint.htm">http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/pearlint.htm</a> . Tony Davenport's " <a href="#">Jewels and Jewellers in Pearl</a> ," <i>Review of English Studies</i> 59 (2008): 508-520, is a good rebuke to those who want to make the poem into a kind of class-warfare document.
January 28	<b>Short paper 1 due by 5 PM in <a href="http://www.turnitin.com">turnitin.com</a>.</b>	
January 29	Vernacular Religion and Social Order: Chaucer, <i>The General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales</i> * Langland, selections from <i>Piers Plowman</i>	CCMEL chapter 9: "William Langland" and chapter 5: "Dialogue, Debate, and Dream Vision." Secondary reading: J. A. Burrow, "Lady Meed and the Power of Money," <i>Medium Aevum</i> 74.1 (2005): 113-118. Available thru MLA International Bibliography database, search term "piers plowman."
February 5	<i>The Second Shepherd's Play</i> <i>The York Play of the Crucifixion</i> <b>First take-home exam distributed.</b>	CCMEL chapter 6: "Drama" Secondary reading: M. F. Vaughan, "Mak and the Proportions of the Second Shepherd's Play," <i>Papers in Language and Literature</i> 18/4 (Winter 1982): 355-367. Available thru MLA International Bibliography (use

		subject heading "second shepherd's play").
<b>February 11</b>	<b>First take-home exam due by 5 PM in turnitin.com.</b>	
<b>Political and Social Mythmaking (More secondary reading will be added to this section)</b>		
<b>February 12</b>	Arthurian backgrounds; from Andreas Cappellanus; <i>The Lais of Marie de France</i> .	CCMEL chapter 4: "Romance"
<b>February 19</b>	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>	CCMEL chapter 10: "The Gawain-Poet"
<b>February 26</b>	Malory. Vinaver, "Introduction," "Merlin," "The Knight of the Cart," and "Lancelot and Elaine."	CCMEL chapter 17: "Sir Thomas Malory"
<b>Mar 4-5</b>	Free medieval manuscripts seminar at USC. If you want to participate, let me know before January 15!!!	
<b>March 4</b>	<b>Short paper 2 due by 5 PM.</b>	
<b>March 5</b>	Malory, "The Holy Grail," "The Poisoned Apple," "The Fair Maid of Astolat," "The Healing of Sir Urré," and "The Death of King Arthur."	
<b>March 12</b>	<b>Spring Break. Class will not meet.</b>	
<b>March 18</b>	<b>Second Midterm Exam due by 5 PM in turnitin.com</b>	
<b>Gender Roles and Rules</b>		
<b>March 19</b>	<i>Ancrene Wisse</i> Selections from Julian of Norwich and from <i>The Festis and the Passion of oure Lord Ihesu Crist</i>	CCMEL chapter 13: "Julian of Norwich"
<b>March 25</b>	<b>Graduate Book Review due in turnitin.com by 5 pm.</b>	
<b>March 26</b>	Chaucer, <i>The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale</i> Selections from the <i>Paston Letters</i>	CCMEL chapter 12: "Geoffrey Chaucer"
<b>April 1</b>	<b>Research Paper Proposal due in turnitin.com by 5 pm.</b>	
<b>April 2</b>	<i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i> to p.	CCMEL chapter 16: "Margery Kempe"
<b>April 8</b>	<b>Short Paper 3 due in turnitin.com by 5 pm</b>	
<b>April 9</b>	Finish <i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i> .	
<b>April 16</b>	Selections from Christine de Pizan Possible visit from Dr Laura Dufresne Research Paper conferences this week	
<b>April 22</b>	Final research paper due in turnitin.com by 5 pm with hard copy to Dr. K's office (no extensions)	
<b>April 26</b>	<b>Final exam, 6:30 PM. Open book, note, and handouts.</b>	

\*This is available in every British lit anthology and all over the Internet so I will let you find your own copy.

## Class Materials Available in Class Dropbox Folder (this list will grow over the semester)

January 8	Medieval Lyrics; Intro to Medieval Genre
January 15	
January 22	
January 29	Langland, selections from <i>Piers Plowman</i> Background on vernacular reading and repression
February 5	<i>The Second Shepherd's Play</i> <i>The York Play of the Crucifixion</i>
February 12	Geoffrey Ashe on "The Historical Origins of the Arthurian Legend" Andreas Cappellanus, from <i>The Art of Courtly Love</i> Larry D. Benson, "Courtly Love in the Middle Ages"
February 19	
February 26	
March 5	Malory, "The Healing of Sir Urré"
March 19	Selections from Julian of Norwich Selections from "The Festis and the Passion of oure Lord Ihesu Crist"
March 26	Selections from <i>The Paston Letters</i>
April 2	
April 9	
April 16	Selections from Christine de Pizan



*"Like the concept. Like the whole thing. But take out the arches."*