MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE LITERATURE AND CULTURE:
DREAMS, QUESTS, LOVE, AND MAGIC (ENGLISH 101)
Fall 2016, MWF 10:30-11:20, SSB 120
Instructor: Dr. Katherine Steele Brokaw, kbrokaw@ucmerced.edu
Office: COB2 375 • Office hours: Mondays 11:30 am–1:00 pm or by appointment
Discussion sections: W 11:30-12:20; 12:30-1:20
TA: Cristina Gomez, cgomez25@ucmerced.edu
Office: • Office hours:

In this class, we will meet men who battle monsters and green knights, secret lovers who send messages through a swan, real townspeople who put on pageants in the city streets, and a sympathetic Satan. We will also learn about the history of England from the eighth through seventeenth centuries and the music and art and architecture of these periods, as well as the politics and religions that shape and are shaped by these artistic forms.

COURSE GOALS:
After engaging with this course actively and thoughtfully, you will be able to:
1. Identify early forms of English literature as well as the people, places, and events that shaped the context in which that literature was written.
2. Interpret early texts, sensitive to both textual and contextual cues.
3. Appreciate the aesthetic qualities of these texts, different as they are from modern day.
4. Perform and recite early texts aloud, with proper presentation suitable to its original context, enhancing your public speaking skills.
5. Articulate your evaluations of this literature, in speech and writing, cogently and with sensitivity to context.
6. Apply interpretive strategies developed in historical literary study to other academic and professional contexts.

TEXTS:
• Additional materials and study resources are available online; you must print out materials for class.

REQUIREMENTS:
First Paper: 10% of grade
Second Paper: 20%
Recitation Performance and Reflection: 15%
Exams (3 during semester, 7.5% each): 22.5%
Final Exam: 17.5%
Quizzes, freewrites, and participation: 15%
**Weekly Schedule:**

Reading and assignments are to be completed by the day they appear on the syllabus. You are responsible for and may be quizzed on all assigned pages, including headnotes that introduce writers, periods, and texts.

**Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman Periods**

**Week 1: Heroes and Monsters**

*Wednesday, August 24:* (in Norton A) “Introduction to the Middle Ages,” pages 3-10, 24-5; *Beowulf,* pages 36-51 (to line 490).

*Friday, August 26:* *Beowulf,* pp. 51-72 (to l. 1383).

**Week 2: Heroes and Mothers**

*Monday, August 29:* *Beowulf,* pp. 72-88 (to l. 2199).

*Wednesday, August 31:* *Beowulf,* pp. 88-108. **Sign up for recitations.**


**Week 3: A Woman Writes of Knights**

*Monday, Sept 5:* No class for Labor Day.

*Wednesday, Sept 7:* Marie de France, “Bisclavret” (online).

**No section today.**


**Paper 1 assigned.**

⇒ Performance: Shakespeare’s *Love’s Labour’s Lost* September 10th and 11th at Applegate Park

**The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries**

**Week 4: Green Knight, Green World**


*Wednesday, Sept 14:* *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight,* pp. 203-221 (to l. 1689).

*Friday, Sept 16:* *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight,* pp. 221-238.

⇒ Performance: *Love’s Labour’s Lost* September 17th and 18th at Applegate Park

**Week 5: Pilgrims and Stories I**

*Monday, Sept 19:* **Examination 1 in lecture.**


**Complete draft of paper 1 due in section.**


**Week 6: Pilgrims and Stories II**


**Paper 1 due.**

 WEEK 7: MYSTICS AND LYRICS  
*Friday, Oct 7*: “Introduction,” pp. 531-34 (In Norton B); John Skelton poems, pp. 564-568; William Dunbar “Flyting” and “Lament for the Makars” (online).  

 WEEK 8: “MEDIEVAL” BIBLICAL DRAMA  
*Paper 2 assigned.*  
*Friday, Oct 14*: The Brome Play of Abraham and Isaac (online).  

THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY  

 WEEK 9: POLITICS AND PREACHERS  
*Monday, Oct 17: Examination II.*  
➢ Thursday, Oct 20: Highly recommended extra credit lecture: Sandra Steingraber, 7:00 pm; KL 355  

 WEEK 10: SONNETS IN VOGUE  
*Monday, Oct 24: No class.*  
*Paper proposal due on CatCourses.*  
*Friday, Oct 28*: “Sir Philip Sidney,” pp. 1037-1039 and sonnets 1, 2, 45, 47 from *Astrophil and Stella*.  

 WEEK 11: ANGELS AND DEVILS IN THE THEATER  
*Wednesday, Nov 2*: Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, pp. 1136-1148 (through scene 6)  
*Friday, Nov 4*: Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus* (finish play); “Marlowe Resources” (online).  

 WEEK 12: ANGELS AND DEVILS IN THE THEATER II  
*Monday, Nov 7*: Film day: *Doctor Faustus* (Globe Theatre)
Wednesday, Nov 9: Examination III

No section today.

Friday, Nov 11: No class for Veteran's Day.

Week 13: Staging Shipwrecks and Cross-Dressing

Wednesday, Nov 16: Shakespeare, Twelfth Night Acts 4-5. Guest lecture today from Dr. Peter Novak, University of San Francisco.

Draft of paper 2 due in section


The Seventeenth Century

Week 14: Otherness


Paper 2 and reflection due in lecture.

Wednesday, Nov 23 and Friday, Nov 25: NO CLASS for Thanksgiving.

Week 15: Poems of Love, Doubt, and Faith


Week 16: Satan, Adam, and Eve

Friday, Dec 9: John Milton Paradise Lost, Book 9, pp. 2091-2116; excerpt from Book 12, pp. 2174-5 (l. 606-end).

Saturday, December 10: Final exam, 8-11 am.

Assignment Overview:

• First paper (close reading): You will write a 3-4 page paper closely analyzing how language and rhetoric create meaning in a selection from Beowulf or a Marie de France lai.

• Second paper (comparative analysis): You will produce a 6-8 page paper comparing two literary texts. You will select one text assigned for this course and compare a particular aspect of it to another text that is not assigned for the class, which may be any of the following: “The Wanderer,” “The Dream of the Rood,” Sir Orfeo, anything by Edmund Spenser, Sidney’s Defense of Poesy, anything by Sir Walter Ralegh, any poetry Ben Jonson or
his play *Volpone*, anything by Mary Wroth, or John Webster's *Duchess of Malfi*. Process will be a part of your final grade.

- **Shorter examinations**: Quotation identification, multiple choice questions, and short essay, given in lecture. Three throughout the semester.

- **Final examinations**: Quotation identification, multiple choice, short answer, short essay, and long essay. Comprehensive, covering *Beowulf* through Milton (first part of exam covers fourth part of semester).

- **Recitation**: Because medieval and early modern literature was most often experienced in live performance, you will be asked to memorize and recite one of the texts we are reading for class, at the start of the period in which we are discussing that text. At a minimum, you will memorize and recite 1-2 minutes of text. Extra credit: alone or in pairs, sing the text, stage scenes with blocking and/or costumes, present the text in its original pronunciation (not available for all texts), create a YouTube video. Keep all performances close to 2 minutes.

- **Quizzes and in-class writing**: Lecture or section may begin with a reading quiz that includes a short freewrite to kickstart discussion of material. You will be unable to make up quizzes you missed throughout the semester.

- **Extra Credit**: You may receive up to 15 quiz bonus points if you attend a live theater event, a literary event, or an academic lecture and write a one-page response. Playhouse Merced on Main Street offers many plays each semester, and there are also numerous excellent campus events you might attend. You can also get extra credit for reading or viewing one of the recommended medieval or early modern books and movies, and writing a response. You may receive credit for three extra credit assignments (5 points each).

**COURSE POLICIES:**

**Special Needs**: I welcome all students into this class. If you have any special needs, please speak to me and to Student Services as soon as possible so that we can outline the best ways to promote your success in this course.

**Writing Help**: Students who would like help with their writing are encouraged to visit the Student Advising and Learning Center (SALC) in Kolligian 172. Please check their website (learning.ucmerced.edu) for details on tutoring and other academic assistance.

**Plagiarism Policy**: As a simple guideline, if you submit your own work, you will avoid all serious types of plagiarism. Nevertheless, a responsible student should also consider the less obvious variants of plagiarism, especially when writing research papers that require citations. Consider these examples:

- ✓ Paraphrasing or summarizing a written source, including text from the Internet, without footnoting or otherwise referencing the source.
  
  When does another person’s idea supplant your own? Who “owns” an idea?

- ✓ Copying a written source, including text from the Internet, without using quotation marks or block indentation.
How can a student paraphrase or summarize without using at least some language from the original source?

For serious instances of plagiarism, such as submitting an essay obtained from an online “paper mill,” students in this course will automatically fail the assignment, receive a final grade of F, and be recommended for dismissal from the university. There is no excuse for serious plagiarism.

I will also regard unattributed citations – verbatim copying of another’s person’s work without some indication of the source – as a serious form of plagiarism. In other words, don’t insert any text in a paper that is not your own without also noting the source.

If you’re uncertain about how to use sources, ask me, or consult this website: http://www.library.ucla.edu/bruinsuccess/. It’s your responsibility to comply with principles of academic honesty; it’s my responsibility to see that every student receives a fair and accurate grade. Let’s work together in meeting these goals.

**Technology:** Laptops and tablets are not allowed in lecture. Cell phones must be turned off, and iPods and other recording devices are forbidden during class. The same applies to discussion sections. Taping, filming, and photography in class (by camera, cell phone, or any other means) is prohibited.

When emailing any instructor, you are expected to write as you would in any professional correspondence, with courtesy, respect, and clarity. Please refer to the “How to email your professor” handout, posted on CatCourses.

**Participation:** Arrive to class on time and do not leave early unless you have emailed the instructor in advance with regards to an urgent prior commitment. Try to use the restroom before coming to class. Please do not read other materials during class, or bring food into the classroom.

Participation grades are assigned four times throughout the semester, on the day of each test. If you miss more than two classes (including section and lecture) in one testing period, your participation grade for that period is forfeited. If you miss more than six classes (including section) during the course of the semester without a valid medical excuse, you will forfeit your entire participation grade for the course, and are in danger of failing the course. If you miss class, you are responsible for speaking with a classmate about the class discussion to get caught up on the material. Missing class will also seriously affect your ability to do well on quizzes and exams, as well as papers.

Two significantly late arrivals (or early departures) equal one absence, and texting once during class also equals one absence.