

ENG 225
MWF 10-11
Winter 2013
mjbayles@uoregon.edu

Martha Bayless
Office: PLC 344
Office phone: 541-346-3930
Office hours: MW 9-10, W 11-12

THE AGE OF KING ARTHUR: SYLLABUS

This is an introduction to the literature of the Age of King Arthur — the Middle Ages. We will read poetry, quests and adventures, Christian and pagan works, and comic stories, set against the backdrop of medieval culture. We'll read most texts in translation, with a few short works in Middle English, which will give us an opportunity to glimpse the beginnings of modern English. Our goal is to learn to appreciate medieval literature and culture in its depth, variety, and richness.

Texts:

Geoffrey Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde*, trans. Nevill Coghill (Penguin edition)

The Book of Margery Kempe, ed. Barry Windeatt (Penguin edition)

Sir Thomas Malory, *Le Morte D'Arthur*, vol. I (Penguin edition)

These are available at the UO Bookstore. Used editions are also available very cheaply (starting at around \$2 plus postage) at sites like Half.com, Abebooks.com and Amazon.com.

Other texts will be available electronically via Blackboard, under "Course Documents."

Grading:

Two papers: 20% each

Three quizzes: 20% each

Required but not graded: participation, preparation, and consistent attendance.

There is no final exam in this class.

Schedule:

Week 1

Poetry and Carols

January

M 6: Introduction. "The Corpus Christi Carol."

W 8: "Pity for Mary," "Peace" and "I Live in Great Sorrow" (handed out in previous class)

F 10 "I Sing of a Maiden," and "Maiden in the moor lay"

Week 2

Legends and Adventure

Magic

M 13: *Sir Orfeo* (on Blackboard; print out, read, and bring to class)

W 15: Selections from *The History of the Kings of Britain*: Merlin and King Arthur

F 17: " " " "

Week 3

- M 20: Malory, *Morte D'Arthur*, book I, chapters 1-7
W 22: Malory, *Morte D'Arthur*, book I, chapters 19-27
F 24: Malory, *Morte D'Arthur*, book IV, chapters 1-16

Week 4:

The Pursuit of Love

- M 27: **First quiz.**
W 29: "Gereint son of Erbin" (handout; no need to read ahead)
F 31: *The Dream of Maxen* (on Blackboard; print out, read, and bring to class)

Week 5

February

- M 3: Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde* book I
W 5: *Troilus and Criseyde* book II
F 7: *Troilus and Criseyde* book III

Week 6

- M 10: *Troilus and Criseyde* book IV
W 12: *Troilus and Criseyde* book V
F 14: **Second quiz.**

Week 7

- M 17: *The Partridges* (on Blackboard; print out, read, and bring to class)
First paper due.
W 19: *The Sacristan* (on Blackboard; print out, read, and bring to class)
F 21: *The Book of Margery Kempe*, chapters 1-38

Week 8:

The Quest for God

- M 24: Further discussion of *The Book of Margery Kempe* (same chapters)
W 26: Further discussion of *The Book of Margery Kempe* (same chapters)
F 28: *Pearl*, verses 1-40

Week 9

March

- M 3: *Pearl*, verses 41-101
W 5: *Pearl*, entire text
F 7: Medieval manuscripts: visit to Special Collections, Knight Library

Week 10

- M 10: *The Seventh Seal* (viewed in class)
W 12: *The Seventh Seal* (viewed in class)
F 14: **Third quiz. Second paper due.**