

ENG 399: THE MONSTROUS MIDDLE AGES

SUMMER I 2013 (CRN: 42490)

Instructor: Marcus Hensel

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Meeting: Monday-Thursday, 10-11.50am, 117 Global Scholars Hall

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday (1-2.30pm) and by appointment

TEXTS AND SUPPLIES

Required Texts and Supplies:

- *Beowulf* (Liuzza trans. only)
- *The Book of Marvels and Travels* (Bale trans. only)
- *The Saga of the Volsungs* (Byock trans. only)
- Readings on Blackboard
- Stapler

Recommended Texts:

- A writing handbook (*Rules for Writers* and *The Little Seagull* are easily available)
- College-level dictionary

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

From dragons to dog-headed saints, from werewolves to the *wyrm* in *Beowulf*, the Middle Ages were a fertile period for imagining monsters. In this class we will read medieval texts (both literary and visual) that have an interest in monsters. We will delve into Western medieval imagination and culture through the ways authors created their monsters.

EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS

Your final course grade will be based on the following work:

20%—Final Exam

25%—Paper 1

35%—Paper 2

20%—Short Writing Assignments and Group Work

Final Exam: Your final exam will be given via Blackboard. It is open-book and open-notes, but know that not studying will hurt you since there is a strict one-hour time limit. If you do not finish within the hour, the test will auto-submit with whatever you have completed. This exam will test you on material we have covered in class and readings that have been assigned but not necessarily discussed; that is, just because we did not talk about Grendel's shining eyes does not mean that you are free to purge it from your memory.

Papers: You will write two papers, each four to six pages in length. Further information will be provided on the Paper Assignment Sheet well in advance of the due date. Each paper must be turned in via hard copy and uploaded to SafeAssign to receive full credit.

Short Writing Assignments and Group Work: Throughout the term, I will assign short, informal writing assignments to be completed in-class. If you are absent for anything but an official UO event, you will not be able to make up this work. You will also be placed in peer groups on the first day of class. In these groups, you will work together on short (five- to ten-minute) presentations on specific topics given to you. Each group will present twice during the term.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Attendance: You are responsible for all material covered and all assignments whether or not you are present.

Code of Courtesy: Arrive on time with your cell phone silenced. Bring the appropriate book, and give the instructor or classmate your full attention. Do not chat, text, or surf the internet. Remain in the room until the class meeting ends. Conduct yourself in a manner respectful to all present. Most importantly: never hesitate to ask a question, to express a doubt, or to request clarification.

Preparedness: Unless otherwise noted, all papers and out-of-class assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day stipulated in the Class Schedule. Papers will be penalized one letter grade for each class day (whole or part) they are late, unless you have made prior arrangements with me. NB: I will not accept any assignment that is more than three days late.

Academic Integrity: All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Please consult *The Little Seagull* or *Rules for Writers* for a definition of plagiarism and information on documentation and refer to the summary of the Code of Student Conduct on the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards website. In cases where academic dishonesty has been clearly established, the award of an F for the final course is the standard practice. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.

Special Needs: The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me in week one if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You may also wish to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 541.346.1155 or uoac@uoregon.edu.

ADDITIONAL TOOLS FOR YOUR SUCCESS

Email: In addition to office hours, I will be available via email. I encourage you to email legitimate questions or concerns. Attached documents will not be read unless you have made prior arrangements with me or you have a legitimate emergency that bars you from attending class on the day an assignment is due. I do not respond to emails sent on weekends or school holidays until the following business day.

Office Hours: I strongly encourage you to meet with me individually to better understand my expectations and discuss readings, paper topics, or other areas of interest. Either visit during my drop-in office hours or make an appointment if my normal hours are inconvenient for you.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The Schedule, as it is presented here, is subject to change with prior notice. Assignments and readings should be completed prior to the class period for which they are listed. With the exceptions of the John Ulrich's Youtube video, and the Hereford and Ebstorf Mappaemundi which are posted separately, readings in the Blackboard packet are labeled "BB."

Week 1		
Monster Theory	06.24	"Monster Culture: Seven Theses," Cohen (BB) "The Impact of Monsters and Monster Studies," Mittman (BB) "Conversations: Monsters" video, Ulrich (BB)
	06.25	Selection from <i>Natural History</i> , Pliny (BB) Selection from <i>City of God</i> , Augustine (BB)
Monstrous History	06.26	Selection from <i>Maps and Monsters in Medieval England</i> , Mittman (BB) Hereford and Ebstorf Mappaemundi (BB)
	06.27	<i>Wonders of the East</i> (BB) <i>Alexander's Letter to Aristotle</i> (BB) <i>The Book of Marvels and Travels</i> , Mandeville (xxxvi-39)
Monstrous Geography/ Religion	Week 2	
	07.01	<i>The Book of Marvels and Travels</i> , Mandeville (39-124)
	07.02	Introduction to Middle English (BB) <i>The King of Tars</i> (BB)
	07.03	<i>The King of Tars</i> (BB)
	07.04	NO CLASS MEETING (INDEPENDENCE DAY)
Werewolves	Week 3	
	07.08	"Lycaön," Ovid <i>Melion and Biclarel</i> (BB) <i>Arthur and Gorlagon</i> (BB) "Bisclavret," Marie de France (BB) Paper 1 Due (Hard Copy and SafeAssign)
Giants	07.09	Genesis 6 (BB) "The Giants," Ovid Selection from <i>Historia Regnum Britanniae</i> , Geoffrey of Monmouth (BB)
	07.10	Selection from <i>Alliterative Morte Arthure</i> (BB)
	07.11	Selection from <i>Alliterative Morte Arthure</i> (BB) Selection from <i>Yvain</i> , Chretien de Troyes (BB)
Monstrous(?) Heroes	Week 4	
	07.15	<i>Life of St. Christopher</i> , Golden Legend and Nowell Codex versions (BB) <i>Volsunga Saga</i> (35-73)
	07.16	<i>Volsunga Saga</i> (73-109) <i>Beowulf</i> (ll. 1-990)
	07.17	<i>Beowulf</i> (ll. 1-2199) Glamr and Sandhaugar episodes from <i>Grettis saga</i> (<i>Beowulf</i> pp. 163-69)
	07.18	<i>Beowulf</i> (ll. 2200-3182) <i>Maxims II</i> (BB) "Post-script: The Promise of Monsters," Cohen (BB) Paper 2 Due (Hard Copy and SafeAssign)