

English 425
Spring 2016
UH 10-11:20
CRN 36702
240B McKenzie

Prof. Laskaya
357 PLC (x-6-1517)
Hrs: Tu noon-2:00; W 1-2pm
& by appointment
email: laskaya@uoregon.edu

MEDIEVAL ROMANCE

Textbooks:

The Lais of Marie de France, ed and tran Hanning and Ferrante

The Middle English Breton Lays, ed. Laskaya & Salisbury (TEAMS)

Havelock the Dane (TEAMS edition provided for you via Canvas)

Floris and Blancheflour (TEAMS edition provided for you via Canvas)

The Romance of Silence, trans. Roche-Mahdi

Resources: The Middle English Dictionary, available online; some reading materials provided online and/or on Canvas.

*TEAMS volumes are available online; however, you will need print copies, if you decide to use the online text. The volumes are produced “at cost” by an educational, nonprofit, university press. Since I co-edited one required book, please note that TEAMS editors receive no royalties or financial gain from their editions.

Course Description: This course will examine Middle English Romances and French Breton Lais that exerted considerable influence on medieval English literature. Most readings will be in ME. The course is designed for advanced undergraduate English Majors and fulfills the advanced elective required in pre-1500 literature. Advanced students in other majors are also welcome. I encourage you to review course texts the 1st day of class to be sure Middle English will not present undue difficulty, since we will move very quickly with the ME texts. The course requires close reading of the ME materials; quizzes (announced and unannounced) will occur and may require you to create a modern translation of the Middle English. Discussion, punctuated with occasional lectures, will predominate. Some lectures will provide literary, cultural, archival, and historical frameworks, and some will examine interpretations and/or linguistic features of texts. We will probe these frameworks and our own interpretations, locating questions about the texts that will lead us beyond the apparent simplicity of the surface narrative often found in Middle English Romance.

Requirements: **Prerequisite: UofO Junior Standing.

Attendance, Steady Preparation, Willingness to participate in class.

Reading and translating Middle English.

Informal writing: inside and/or outside of class (may be unannounced)

Quizzes (some unannounced; lowest quiz score dropped)

Two interpretative papers (submitted on Canvas)

Final Exam: Take home due on Canvas no later than 10 a.m. Friday, June 10th.

Additionally, as in the world beyond the University, all work should be completed on time, and all requirements, including regular attendance and preparation, must be completed to Pass this course, whether you take the course for a grade or P/NP. The lowest quiz score will be dropped; quizzes and in-class work cannot be made up except when students are away on official university business (i.e., music, debate, dance or athletic events organized by and

sponsored by the UO). Illness will not usually be a reason to make up quizzes. Extended illnesses may require a withdrawal from the course. The Final exam will not be given individually outside the university's scheduled time for finals, except in accord with UO policy.

Grading:

Quizzes, short assignments, activities, etc.	30%
No midterm. Equivalency spread across the term with quizzes and short assignments, etc.	
Interpretative Papers	40% (20% each)
Final exam	30%

--Consistent attendance is assumed. Failure to attend class regularly, prepared to participate, will result in a lower course grade, regardless of grades on written work. All major assignments and requirements must be completed to Pass the course.

Canvas site:

The syllabus, course assignments, some readings, and general course information will be available throughout the term on Canvas and/or through e-reserve. Please check Canvas regularly. If I send you email, it will usually be to your UOregon email account, so be sure to check your UOregon email regularly. Also note that if you send me an email from hotmail, comcast, or some other server, it may get caught in UO spam filters and never make it into my mailbox, so sending email from your UOregon account is always wise.

Class Policies:

Students with disabilities: If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this class, please register with the University's Office for Students with Disabilities and see me early in the term so we can make appropriate accommodations for your full access to all course activities and requirements.

Lectures and/or discussions: Please turn off all electronic devices during class. Class sessions may not be copied, taped, or videotaped in any manner unless you have a communication-related disability documented with the University and have received permission from the course instructor. Should you miss a class meeting, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from your colleagues, so be sure to get to know others in the course who would be willing to help you and whom you would be willing to help. Missing class should, however, be a rare event since active preparation and participation is a course requirement.

Academic Assistance: Students may use any of the services offered by the University of Oregon's Academic Learning Services (ALS), located in 68 PLC (X6-3226). Any assistance received on papers from anyone else, from organizing a paper to identifying main points, from typing or proofreading papers to editing or revising papers, must be cleared with the professor. However, as you prepare for the final, or as you work to understand readings and discussions, talking and reviewing with your colleagues outside of class is encouraged; this is different from directly assisting one another with a specific essay assignment. If you have questions, please see me.

Academic Integrity: The University of Oregon values academic honesty. Students are informed of the University's policies and expectations about conduct and academic honesty when they matriculate. You are here because you clearly have the ability to engage your own mind in rigorous intellectual work. The Code can found online at: <http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/conduct>. All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. Any use of sources (ideas, quotations, and paraphrases) beyond our lectures and discussion must be properly documented. In other words, rely on your own grey matter, and wrestle well, yourself, with the course material. Protect the integrity of your own work and that of others'. In cases of clearly established plagiarism or cheating, a course grade of "F" will be the minimum penalty. All incidents will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, as required by University Policy.

Learning Outcomes:

Reading shorter Middle English Romance texts in the original Middle English. In addition to gaining an understanding of the medieval romance genre that has had significant influence on the development of literature in English, the English Department's assessment procedure is built around six desired learning outcomes:

1. read literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of their conventions;
2. draw on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate texts within their cultural, political, and historical contexts;
3. perform critical, formal analyses of literary and other cultural texts;
4. write focused, analytical essays in clear, professional and grammatical prose;
5. employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments;
6. employ primary and secondary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay's thesis. [In our course the emphasis will be on primary texts with discussion serving as the main 'secondary source' for you to negotiate. Some secondary/scholarly articles will be examined.]
7. In addition, ENG 425 requires students to participate actively within discussion, to work effectively in the smaller group setting, and to focus on presenting ideas clearly orally and in writing.
8. In addition, ENG 425 requires students to read several primary texts in their original Middle English, & learn about vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation of this earlier form of English as a language.

NB: Medieval Studies Students will find these outcomes congruent with those of the MDVL program. Those learning outcomes are available here: <http://pages.uoregon.edu/midages/courses>.

SCHEDULE (subject to change; most short assignments tba; additional readings in the Middle English dictionary, scholarly articles, etc. tba)

Week one

- U 3/29 Intro to course/materials. The Genre of Romance and the Late Middle Ages
H 3/31 No class; Prof presenting paper at Medieval Studies Conference

Week two

- U 4/5 The Breton Lai: Marie de France, *Prologue* and *Guigemar*, *Equitain*
H 4/7 Marie de France, *Bisclavret*; *Lanval*; *Les Deus Amanz* [quiz #1]

Week three

- U 4/12 Marie de France, *Yonec* and *Eliduc* [reading quiz #2]
H 4/14 ME Breton Lays, *Sir Launfal*; reading Middle English;

Week four

- *M 4/18 *MED assignment due*
U 4/19 Middle English *Sir Launfal* vs. MdeF's *Lanval* [reading quiz #3]
H 4/21 2 Journal articles on *Launfal*

Week five

- U 4/26 *Emaré*, and Saints Lives (Sts Lives provided on BB)
H 4/28 *Sir Gowther* [reading quiz #4]
*F 4/29 *Paper #1 due by 4 p.m.*

Week six

- U 5/3 *Sir Orfeo* [reading quiz #5]; Classical version of Orpheus online
H 5/5 Chivalric Romance: *Havelock the Dane*

Week seven

- U 5/10 *Havelock the Dane*, cont. [reading quiz #6]
H 5/12 *Havelock the Dane concl.*; one theoretical reading on 'romance'

Week eight

- U 5/17 Second theoretical reading on 'fantasy' [reading quiz #7]
H 5/19 *Floris and Blancheflour* available from TEAMS online [reading quiz #8]

Week nine

- *M 5/23 *Paper #2 due by 4 p.m.*
U 5/24 *Roman de Silence* [reading quiz #9]
H 5/26 *Roman de Silence*

Week ten

- U 5/31 *Roman de Silence* [reading quiz #10]
H 6/2 *Roman de Silence*; continuing questions, final exam prep

Final Exam: take home; due on Canvas no later than Friday 10 a.m. June 10th.