

Literatures on the British Isles: the Middle Ages

PROGRAMME (Wednesday class)

1. Week 1 (19.2.) Introduction

2. Week 2+4 (26.2.; 12.3.) Orality/Literacy

The Seafarer

The Wanderer, Christ II (selections)

3. Week 5-6 (19.3.;26.3.) Native poetics/Latin literary culture

Judith

"The Book of Judith", <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08554a.htm>

4. Week 7 (2.4.) Early English Literary Prose

Ælfric: The Life of St Edmund

Life of St Margaret

5. Week 8 (9.4.) From Old to Middle English: Between Genres - Epic, Romance, Homily

Dream of the Rood

Ancrene Wisse - a selection

"When y se bloemes springe"

6. Week 9 (16.4.) Middle English Lyrics: genre, convention, irony

selection of lyrics

7. Week 10-11 (23.4.;30.4.) Between history and romance

The Lay of Havelok the Dane

Alliterative Morte Arthure (selection)

8. Week 12-13 (7.5.; 14.5.) Chaucer and genres

The Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnelle

Canterbury Tales: Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale

N.B. Texts will be provided in original and in translation

PRESENTATIONS

1. Stanley, E.G., "Old English Poetic Diction and the Interpretation of the Wanderer, the Seafarer, and the Penitent's Prayer", *Anglia* 73 (1955) – selection – **wk 2: abstract**

2. Campbell, Jackson J, "Oral Poetry in The Seafarer", *Speculum* 35 (1960) – **wk 2**

3. Smithers, G. V., "The Meaning of The Seafarer and The Wanderer", *MÆ* 26 (1957) – selection – **wk 4: abstract**

4. Pasternack, C. B., *Textuality of Old English Poetry*. CUP, 1995 – selection – **wk 4**

5. O'Brien O'Keefe, K., "Heroic Values and Christian Ethics," *The Cambridge Companion to Old English Literature*, ed. Malcolm Godden and Michael Lapidge, CUP, 1991 – **wk 5**

6. "The Treatment of the Source", *Judith*, ed. Mark Griffith, University of Exeter Press, 1997 – **wk 5**

7. Fee, C., 'Judith and the Rhetoric of Heroism in Anglo-Saxon England', *ES* 78. (1997) – **wk 6**

8. Herbison, Ivan, "Heroism and Comic Subversion in the Old English Judith", *ES* 91.1(2010) – **wk 6**

9. Bredehoft, T.A., "Ælfric and late Old English verse", *ASE* 33 (2004) – **wk 7**

10. Millett, Bella, "The Saints' Lives of the Katherine Group and the Alliterative Tradition", *JEGP* 87 (1988) – **wk 7**

11. Brown, G. H., 'Old English Verse as a Medium for Christian Theology', *Modes of Interpretation in Old English Literature: Essays in Honour of Stanley B.Greenfield*, University of Toronto Press, 1987 – **wk 8: abstract**

12. Burrow, J. A., "Poems Without Contexts: the Rawlinson Lyrics", *Essays on Medieval Literature*, Oxford University Press, 1984 – **wk 9**

13. Couch, Julie Nelson, "The Vulnerable Hero: *Havelok* and the revision of romance", *Chaucer Review*, 42 (2008) – **wk 10: abstract**

14. Liuzza, Roy Michael, "Representation and readership in the Middle English 'Havelok.' ", *JEGP* 3.4 (1994) – **wk 10**

15. Rudnytzky Schray, Kateryna A., "The Plot in Miniature: Arthur's Battle on Mont St. Michel in the *Alliterative Morte Arthure*", *Studies in Philology*, 104 (2004) – **wk 11**

16. De Marco, Patricia. "An Arthur for the Ricardian Age: Crown, Nobility, and the Alliterative Morte Arthure", *Speculum* 80.2 (2005) – **wk 11: abstract**

17. "Marriage and the Good Woman", Robert p. Miller (ed.), *Chaucer: Sources and Backgrounds*, OUP 1977 – **wk 12**

18. "The Antifeminist Tradition" Robert p. Miller (ed.), *Chaucer: Sources and Backgrounds*, OUP 1977 – **wk 13**

PROCEDURE

The seminar will combine Moodle forum with class sessions.

To make the discussion of the texts more streamlined, students will be divided into groups, each group focusing closely on a given section/aspect of the text. Members of the group will take turns introducing the respective passage to their colleagues through a brief interpretative reading "opening" the text. There will also be questions for discussion posted in the forum, which the members of the group should address (briefly, in the space of 100 words). The forum should thus provide all students with a basic idea of the text and its problems. The class session will expand on this, allowing all participants to interrogate, compare and combine their individual insights and conclusions.

Further details will be discussed during the first introductory session. Please watch for updated information in the course account on Moodle.

Oral presentations should be accompanied by a handout/presentation summarizing the most important points. The talk should not exceed 10 minutes.

ASSESSMENT

Single subject students obtain a credit (zápočet) passing the test following the LECTURE and fulfilling the requirements for the SEMINAR:

- active participation (requirements: 6 forum posts, max. 3 absences in the seminar),
- one presentation,
- final essay of min. 1000 words.

The final grade (zkouška) will be determined on the basis of the aggregate performance in all the above, i.e. participation, presentation, test, essay.

The relative weight of individual components is:

participation: 15%, presentation: 15%, test: 33%, essay: 37%.

Essay subject to 1 rewriting, test subject to two re-sits.

Students must complete all the credit requirements BY THE END OF THE YEAR FOLLOWING THAT IN WHICH THEY REGISTERED FOR THE COURSE in keeping with the rules set for zkouška.

Additional essay deadlines

- for students planning to take the finals in June: 15 May 2025
- for students planning to take the finals in September: 30 June 2025

Literatures on the British Isles: the Middle Ages

PROGRAMME

1. Week 1 (20/21.2.) Introduction

2. Week 1-2 (20/21.2.;27/28.2.) Orality/Literacy

The Seafarer

The Wanderer, Christ II (selections)

3. Week 3-4 (5.3./6.3.;12/13.3.) Native poetics/Latin literary culture

Judith

"The Book of Judith", <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08554a.htm>

4. Week 5 (19/20.3.) Early English Literary Prose

Ælfric: The Life of St Edmund

Life of St Margaret

5. Week 6 (26/27.3.) From Old to Middle English: Between Genres - Epic, Romance, Homily

Dream of the Rood

Ancrene Wisse - a selection

"When y se bloemes springe"

6. Week 7 (2/3.4.) Middle English Lyrics: genre, convention, irony

selection of lyrics

Week 8 (9/10.4.) Reading week

7. Week 9-10 (16/17.4.;23/24.4.) Between history and romance

The Lay of Havelok the Dane

Alliterative Morte Arthure (selection)

8. Week 11-13 (30.4./---;7.5./15.5.) Chaucer and genres

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Canterbury Tales: Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale

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17. "Marriage and the Good Woman", Robert p. Miller (ed.), *Chaucer: Sources and Backgrounds*, OUP 1977

– wk 11

18. "The Antifeminist Tradition" Robert p. Miller (ed.), *Chaucer: Sources and Backgrounds*, OUP 1977 – wk 12/13

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essay: 37%, test: 33%, presentation: 15%, participation: 15%.

Essay subject to 1 rewriting, test subject to two re-sits.

Students must complete all the credit requirements BY THE END OF THE YEAR FOLLOWING THAT IN WHICH THEY REGISTERED FOR THE COURSE in keeping with the rules set for zkouška, with a special extra year allowance as per the Dean's decree No. 2/2024 (i.e. by September 2026).

Additional essay deadlines

- for students planning to take the finals in June: 15 May 2024
- for students planning to take the finals in September: 30 June 2024