

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL 3560	Course Title: Medieval Literature	Date of Offering: WINTER 2018
Course Instructor: S. D. Powell	School of English and Theatre Studies	
Brief Course Synopsis: This course will introduce the major literary forms of the European Middle Ages, with an emphasis on English-language texts. We will be examining the origins of these forms and their cultural uses—as expressions of philosophical and religious questioning, for example, or as meditations on life, love, and death, as records of past deeds, as markers of group identity. Along the way, we will also learn about medieval cultural practices, separating (to the extent possible) modern myths about the Middle Ages from the realities that are to be discerned from careful examination of medieval texts. Among the primary focuses of this course will be religious belief and practice; love, sex, and gender; and social order and incipient nationalism. The texts we read (all in English or in translation) will be drawn from a wide variety of genres and from across approximately six centuries. Among the texts will be <u>Beowulf</u> , selected lais of Marie de France, parts of <u>The Book of Margery Kempe</u> , selections from the <u>Canterbury Tales</u> , and at least two medieval plays.		
Course Format: Lecture with discussion	Methods of Evaluation and Weights: In-class writing assignments – 15% Short response papers (2) – 20% Midterm examination – 25% Comprehensive final examination – 40%	
Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.) <u>The Broadview Anthology of British Literature</u> , vol. 1 The Medieval Period, 3rd ed.		
Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):		