

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*2360	Course Title: The Medieval World	Date of Offering: W24
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Course Instructor: Aylin Malcolm	Course Format: Lecture
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This course offers an introduction to the Middle Ages through the literatures of England and beyond, exploring how medieval writers imagined the world around them. Students will read poetry, drama, travel writing, and scientific texts written between the tenth century and the fifteenth. These readings will allow us to discuss medieval perspectives on intercultural contact, gender and sexuality, natural environments, mental health, and the underworld. We will situate these texts in their historical contexts to develop an understanding of premodern societies as dynamic, diverse, and interconnected. No prior experience with any of this material is expected or required.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Reading journal: 20%
Close reading essays (2): 30%
Midterm exam: 20%
Final exam: 30%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Available at bookstore:

Gerald of Wales, *The History and Topography of Ireland* (trans. O'Meara)

Silence (trans. Roche-Mahdi)

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (trans. Winny)

Available as ebooks through the library or at bookstore:

Dante Alighieri, *Inferno* (trans. Durling)

Chrétien de Troyes, *Yvain* (trans. Raffel)

Ahmad ibn Fadlan, *Mission to the Volga* (trans. Montgomery)

Other materials to be posted on Courselink. This list of texts is provisional; please contact the instructor for an updated list if you would like to get started on reading.

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/distance/in-person/other details):

In person

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.