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English 305 is designed to deepen your knowledge and appreciation of key texts from the medieval and Renaissance periods. To this end, we will be reading three major French authors (Marie de France, Chrétien de Troyes, Marguerite de Navarre) and three major Italian authors (Dante, Boccaccio, Machiavelli), along with supporting materials. We will be interested in issues of genre and cultural and literary history, as well as the unique qualities and concerns of each author/text.

Required Texts:  
- The Lais of Marie de France (ISBN 9780140447590)
- Chrétien de Troyes, Arthurian Romances (9780140445213)
- The Portable Dante (9780142437544)
- Boccaccio, The Decameron (9780199540419)
- The Portable Machiavelli (9780140150926)
- Marguerite de Navarre, The Heptameron (9780140443554)

Note: I do not require that you have the specific editions above—though I may refer to their critical apparatuses—as long as you have the material from each volume in some physical form that you can bring to class (e.g., for Dante, you will need all three canticles of the Divine Comedy as well as the Vita nuova; see the Schedule for other specific readings from specific authors).

Course Requirements: In addition to the cumulative final, centered on textual knowledge and knowledge of literary history and literary genres, students will produce three essays: two guided responses (900–1200 words) and one critical essay (2000–2400 words). (More information about each essay will be given as we progress through the course.) Grades will be calculated according to the following formula:

- Final Exam: 25%
- Guided Responses: 20% each
- Critical Essay: 25%
- Participation and Attendance: 10%

Course Objectives: The Program Learning Outcomes for the English major are as follows:
1. The student will demonstrate the ability to read complex texts, closely and accurately.
2. The student will demonstrate the ability to comprehend both traditional and contemporary schools/methods of critical theory and apply them to literary texts to generate relevant interpretations.
3. The student will demonstrate knowledge of literary history in regard to particular periods of world literature.
4. The student will demonstrate the ability to conduct literary research effectively.
5. The student will demonstrate the ability to write clear, grammatically correct prose for a variety of purposes in regards to literary analysis.

Student Learning Objectives: The Student Learning Outcomes for this course expect that the student will, upon completing the course:
1. Know the plots, characters, and themes of the texts studied;
2. Understand the development of literary motifs and ideas (e.g., courtly love) from text to text and/or author to author;
3. Understand each author/text in a broader historical context; and
4. Be able accurately to expound upon these matters in fluent academic prose.

Attendance: The attendance policy for this course is the official SFASU policy as stated at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class_attendance_excused_abs.asp; i.e., regular and punctual attendance is expected for all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which a student is registered. Valid excuses are limited to health, family emergencies, and participation in certain SFASU-sponsored events. Students with acceptable excuses may be permitted to make up work for absences to a maximum of three weeks of a semester when the nature of the work missed permits. Whether an absence is excused or unexcused, or in the case of a late add, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Also, you must take the final exam and turn in all three essays to pass this course. Late essays will lose one letter grade per business day of lateness. I will not accept the submission of material via e-mail without prior approval.

Acceptable Student Behavior: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance available to help SFA students succeed.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1): Academic integrity is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways, including instruction on the components of academic honesty as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Policy (A-54): Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities: To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be
Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

Schedule

Week One
28 Aug  
Introduction to course: historical and literary backgrounds
30 Aug  
**Marie de France:** Prologue, *Guigemar, Equitan, Le Fresne*

Week Two
4 Sep  
*Bisclavret, Lanval, Les Deus Amanz, Yonec, Laüstic*
6 Sep  
*Milun, Chattivel, Chevrefoil, Eliduc*

Week Three
11 Sep  
**Chrétien de Troyes:** *Erec and Enide*
13 Sep  
*The Knight with the Lion (Yvain) (up to Yvain’s madness)*

Week Four
18 Sep  
*The Knight with the Lion (Yvain); The Knight of the Cart (Lancelot) (up to the Sword Bridge)*
20 Sep  
*The Knight of the Cart (Lancelot)*

Week Five
25 Sep  
27 Sep  
**Dante:** *Vita nuova*

Week Six
2 Oct  
*Inferno, cantos 1–5*
4 Oct  
*Inferno, cantos 6–11, 19–23*

Week Seven
9 Oct  
*Inferno, cantos 26–28, 30–34*
11 Oct  
*Purgatorio, cantos 1–2, 8–12*

Week Eight
16 Oct  
*Purgatorio, cantos 20–22, 27–33*
18 Oct  
*Paradiso, cantos 1–5, 10, 20, 24*

Week Nine
23 Oct  
*Paradiso, cantos 29–33*
25 Oct  
**Boccaccio: Decameron,** introductions and 1.1–4 (day one, stories 1–4); 2.10

Week Ten
30 Oct  
*Decameron, 3.1, 9–10; prologue to day 4; 4.1, 2, 5, 9, 10*
1 Nov  
**Response Paper Due. Decameron** 5.8–10; 6.1, 10; 7.2, 10

Week Eleven
6 Nov  
*Decameron 8.3, 6–8; 9.2, 6, 10; 9.1–2*
8 Nov  
*Decameron 10.3–4, 8–10, author’s conclusion*
Week Twelve
13 Nov  Machiavelli: The private letters and The Prince
15 Nov  The Mandrake Root; Belfagor, The Devil Who Took a Wife

Thanksgiving Break

Week Thirteen
27 Nov  Marguerite de Navarre: Heptameron, day 1 (prologue, stories 1–9)
29 Nov  Heptameron, stories 20–25, 33, 35–36, 39, 40

Week Fourteen
4 Dec   Heptameron, stories 41, 45–48, 52, 58–59
6 Dec   Essay due. Heptameron, stories 66–72

Finals Week