English 3305.001—Medieval and Renaissance Literature—Fall 2023
MW 1:00–2:15, Ferguson 181

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Office Hours: MW 2:30–3:30, TR 9:30–11:00
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English 3305 is designed to deepen your knowledge and appreciation of key texts from the medieval and Renaissance periods. To this end, we will be reading major French authors (Marie de France, Chrétien de Troyes, Marguerite de Navarre) and 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.

ENGL 3305 "Medieval/Renaissance World Literature" (3 credits) typically meets three times each week in 50-minute segments or twice each week in 75-minute segments for 15 weeks, and also meets for a 2-hour final examination. Students have significant weekly reading assignments, take midterm and final examinations, and submit at least three essays, at least one of which involves substantial secondary research. All of these activities average a minimum 6 hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

**Required Texts:**

Note: You have to have the three Norton editions above because of their critical materials, and you have to have Marie de France right away (so you may want to consider the e-book for it if not the others as well). With respect to other readings on the syllabus, any edition you have or can find online will be acceptable (typically Project Gutenberg [PG]).

**Course Requirements:** In addition to the two exams, centered on textual knowledge, students will produce a guided response (900–1200 words) and a literature review (1800–2000 words). (More information about each essay will be given as we progress through the course.) Grades will be calculated according to the following formula:

- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Guided Response: 20%
- Literature Review: 25%
- Participation and Attendance: 10%

**General Grading Expectations:** A=exceptionally high performance in every element of an assignment, from content to expression. B=good performance in both areas. C=acceptable performance, but there were some issues of content and/or expression. D=minimal achievement, with significant issues of content and/or expression. F=the requirements of the assignment were not met.

**Program Objectives:** The Program Learning Outcomes for the English major are as follows:
1. The student will demonstrate the ability to analyze works accurately through close reading.
2. The student will demonstrate the ability to conduct and apply effective textual research.
3. The student will demonstrate the ability to write clear, grammatically correct prose for a variety of purposes.

**Attendance (6.7):** The attendance policy for this course is the official SFASU policy, by which 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, religious observation, family emergencies, and participation in certain SFASU-sponsored events—and documentation may be required. Whether absences are excused or unexcused by the instructor, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for absences equaling no more than 15% of the scheduled course meeting time for the term, depending on the nature of the missed work. The timeline for completing make-up work will be determined by the instructor.

**Academic Integrity (4.1):** The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy. Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. **Cheating** includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities. **Plagiarism** is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements. **Collusion** is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam. **Misrepresentation** is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Withheld Grades (5.5):** 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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).

**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, and Room 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 provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Student Wellness and Well-Being:** SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc. If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
*The Dean of Students Office* (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
[www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents](http://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents)
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

*SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic* Human Services, Room 202
[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)
936.468.1041

*The Health and Wellness Hub* “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.
To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education
[www.sfasu.edu/thehub](http://www.sfasu.edu/thehub)
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

**Crisis Resources:**
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

**Schedule**

<p>| Week One | 28 Aug | Introduction to course: historical and literary backgrounds |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 Aug</td>
<td>Marie de France. Lais: Prologue, Guigemar, Equitan, Le Fresne; pp. 290–99 (in PG, the lays are, respectively, Gugemar, Equitan, and the Ash Tree)</td>
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<td>Week Two</td>
<td><strong>Lais</strong>: Bisclavret, Lanval, Les Deus Amanz; pp. 241–68, 281–84; Francis (pp. 356–62)</td>
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<td>4 Sep</td>
<td><strong>Lais</strong>: Yönec, Laüstic, Milun, Chaitivel, Chevrefoil, Eliduc; pp. 281–84</td>
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<td>Week Three</td>
<td>Espurgatoire de Seint Patriz; pp. 317–30; Le Goff (pp. 362–403)</td>
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<td>11 Sep</td>
<td>Chrétien de Troyes. Erec et Enide (PG, through line 1844, end of first part)</td>
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<td>Week Four</td>
<td>Erec et Enide</td>
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<td>13 Sep</td>
<td>Lancelot (The Knight of the Cart) (PG, up to the Sword Bridge)</td>
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<td>Week Five</td>
<td>Lancelot</td>
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<td>18 Sep</td>
<td>Dante. Inferno, cantos 1–5</td>
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<td>Week Six</td>
<td>Inferno 26–28, 30–34</td>
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<td>2 Oct</td>
<td>Purgatorio 1–2, 8–12, 20–22</td>
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<td>Week Seven</td>
<td>Purgatorio 27–33; Paradiso 26–33</td>
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<td>9 Oct</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Week Eight</td>
<td>Boccaccio. Decameron, introductions and 1.1–5, 7; 2.10</td>
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<td>16 Oct</td>
<td>Decameron, 3.1–2, 8, 10; 4.1, 2, 5, 9</td>
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<td>Week Nine</td>
<td>Decameron 5.8–10; 6.1, 7, 10; 7.2, 9</td>
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<td>23 Oct</td>
<td>Guided Response Paper Due. Decameron 8.3, 6–7; 9.2–3, 5, 6, 10</td>
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<td>Week Ten</td>
<td>Decameron 10.3–4, 9–10, conclusions</td>
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<td>30 Oct</td>
<td>Criticism by Mazzotta, Barolini, Ascoli, Wofford, Migiel</td>
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<td>Week Eleven</td>
<td>Machiavelli. The Prince, chps. 1–15; “Backgrounds“ (pp. 87–105, 167–75)</td>
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<td>6 Nov</td>
<td>The Prince, chps. 15–26</td>
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<td>Week Twelve</td>
<td>Criticism by Berlin, Pocock, Skinner, Hulliung, Pitkin</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Nov</td>
<td>Criticism by Viroli, Najemy, Hörnquist, Rebhorn, Kahn, Benner, Pedullà</td>
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Thanksgiving Break

Week Thirteen
27 Nov Marguerite de Navarre. *Heptameron*, day 1 (PG, prologue, stories 1–9)
29 Nov *Heptameron* 39–41, 45, 47, 52, 58–59, 68

Week Fourteen
4 Dec Medieval drama (*Play of Adam, Everyman, Wakefield Second Shepherd’s Play*)
6 Dec Literature Review due

Finals Week (day and time of exam TBA)