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SCHOOL OF ENGLISH, FILM, THEATRE, AND  
MEDIA STUDIES

ENGL 214

2009

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CHRIST AS LEADER OF THE CRUSADERS, FROM A THIRTEENTH-CENTURY MANUSCRIPT

**THE CHIVALRIC QUEST  
FROM CHAUCER TO SPENSER  
COURSE OUTLINE**

## COURSE ORGANISATION

### *Course co-ordinators*

A/P Kathryn Walls

VZ 916, Ext. 6898

Prof. Robert Easting

VZ 901, Ext. 6803

### *Also teaching*

A/P Peter Whiteford

VZ 801, Ext. 6820

The normal email address for staff members is: [Christian name.surname]@vuw.ac.nz

### *Class times and places*

Lecture theatre: Hunter LT 323

Class times: Mon, 2.10pm-3.00 pm, \*Tues, 12 noon-12.50pm,  
Tues 2.10pm-3.00 pm, Thurs 2.10 pm-3.00pm

*\*Please note this exception to the pattern: you will generally have two classes on Tuesdays.*

*Some classes will take the form of lectures. Others will be seminars (similar to tutorials). See the attached Schedule for details.*

To enjoy and gain real value from the seminars, you will need to read the relevant text in advance, bring the text with you to the session, and be ready to join in the discussion.

### *Further information*

Additional information or notification of changes will be provided in lectures and tutorials and posted both on Blackboard and on the English noticeboard (outside HM 206).

Spare copies of course handouts, and uncollected written work, will be available from VZ 809A.

If you have a question or problem, you should consult Kathryn (A/P Walls) or Robert (Professor Easting).

## COURSE CONTENT

### *Aims and Objectives*

This course provides an introduction to Medieval and Renaissance/Reformation chivalric romance through careful readings of six texts, every one of which is a masterpiece.

In addition to the close study of these individual texts, the course will:

- introduce a range of analogous texts for the purposes of comparison;
- introduce the “cultural revolution” of the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Protestant Reformation;
- reinforce the skills of close analysis which are essential for all literary study;
- provide opportunities for academic writing at an appropriate level.

By the end of the course, you should:

- know the set texts;
- appreciate the detail of individual works;
- be able to relate the set texts to each other;
- appreciate the significance of the historical context of texts;
- be able to convey your knowledge and understanding in a formal academic essay.

**Set texts** (in the order in which they will be studied):

*Sir Orfeo*, ed. Moore (Student Notes), *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, ed. Franzen (Student Notes), Chaucer's "Knight's Tale" in *Canterbury Tales*, ed. Kolve and Olson (Norton)\*, *Fierce Wars and Faithful Loves: An Anthology*, compiled Wood (Student Notes), Spenser's *Legende of the Knight of the Red Crosse* compiled Wood (Student Notes).

\*You may save on the cost of this volume by downloading the text of Chaucer's "Knight's Tale" from the "Literature Online" Database, held by the University Library—but you will need to consult a library copy for Kolvé's helpful glosses and supplementary material.

## RECOMMENDED WORKLOAD

For a 22 point course at 200-level, it is recommended that you spend on average approximately 15 hours per week including class contact hours. You should, therefore, spend about 11 hours of your own time in reading and preparation.

## MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### **Course Requirements: Preparation and Written Work**

You are required to study all the set texts to the point where you are familiar not only with their stories and structure, but also with what might be described as their "texture". You must be able to draw on this knowledge in order to produce analyses (including comparative analyses), and to discuss interpretation. It is essential that you read each text (or part of) in advance of the lectures and seminars in which it is to be discussed; if you do this you will gain a vast amount more from classes. Satisfactory completion of all the prescribed written work (as described below) is a mandatory requirement.

### **Course Requirements: Attendance**

Seminar attendance is an important aspect of the teaching and learning programme for this course, and you are strongly advised (and, indeed, expected) to plan to attend all seminars. From time to time, however, there may be unusual circumstances, such as illness, which prevent your attendance. In ENGL 214, we regard the mandatory requirement of only 70% attendance (i.e. 8 of the 11 seminars) as making provision for such circumstances. If you are prevented from attending more than 3 seminars you may, however, apply to be excused.

## ASSESSMENT

### **Method**

This course is internally assessed.

### **Contents**

The CLASS TEST (50 minutes) counts for 20% of your assessment for the course as a whole. You will be asked to write an essay on two passages, one from *Sir Orfeo*, and one from *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. The passages concerned will be distributed a week in advance of the test itself, and the essay topic given out at the beginning of the scheduled hour. The purpose of this test is to assess your basic familiarity with and capacity to analyse and interpret the texts you have studied in the initial weeks of the course.

The FIRST ESSAY (2000 words) counts for 40% of your assessment for the course as a whole. Its purpose, in addition to those identified for the class test (above) is to test your capacity to develop a coherent argument.

The SECOND ESSAY (2000 words) also counts for 40%. You will be asked to write a comparative discussion of a selection of excerpts from Spenser's *Legende of the Knight of the*

*Red Crosse* and related shorter works. There will be a significant element of choice. The purpose of this essay is the same as that of the first (above).

### ***Formalities***

Essays should be set out according to the English Program's *Referencing Guide* (accessible on Blackboard). You must submit a hard copy, attach the cover sheet (available from Reception on floor 8 of the Von Zedlitz), and deliver it into the drop box on level 8 of the Von Zedlitz.

### ***English Language majors***

English Language majors may wish to offer a linguistic project in place of one or both of the essays. Students thinking of doing this should see Dr Christine Franzen (VZ 919, ext. 6805) at least three weeks before the dates due.

### ***Dates due:***

Class Test: This will be held in class time at noon on **Tuesday March 31**.

Essay 1: Due **Monday May 11**.

Essay 2: Due **Friday June 12 (but you may wish to make June 5 your personal deadline, depending on whether or not you face examinations during the mid-term break)**.

### ***Extensions***

If you need an extension beyond the due date for any piece of work, you should apply to Kathryn – by the day before the due date. Work submitted when an extension has been granted will be graded in the normal way.

Work submitted late without an extension, will be assessed. Work submitted on this basis will be penalized by the loss of one grade step, however (i. e., a B+ essay will receive a B), and it will be returned without comments.

Extensions cannot be granted beyond the end of the examination period.

**N.B.** You should keep a copy of any work submitted.

### ***Return of written work***

Work that has been handed in on time will normally be marked within two weeks, and returned in class. Uncollected work may be claimed from the VZ 809A until the end of examination marking.

## **SECONDARY READING**

See separate handout.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Trimester Dates:**

Teaching term: Monday 2 March – Friday 5 June.

Examination period: Friday 12 June – Wednesday 1 July.

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **General University policies and statutes**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

**ENGL 214 – CLASS SCHEDULE 2009**

Remember that there are four sessions a week, one at 2.10 pm on Mondays, two on Tuesdays (noon, and 2.10 pm), and one (again at 2.10 pm) on Thursdays. On average, one session a week will take the form of a seminar (similar to a tutorial). We have not, however, arranged these sessions for a particular day every week. You will therefore need to keep a close eye on this schedule. Seminars are marked with an asterisk. You will need to sign in for the seminars (but not for the lectures.)

WEEK				<i>Topic</i>	
1	March	Mon	2	Introduction	KW
		Tues	3	noon: <i>Orfeo</i> : Staff Reading/Pronunciation; <b>no 2.10 class today</b>	
		Thurs	5	<i>Sir Orfeo</i>	PW
2		Mon	9	* <i>Orfeo</i> seminar	PW
		Tues	10	noon: <i>Gawain</i> , language 2.10: <i>Gawain</i> metre	RE RE
		Thurs	12	<i>Gawain</i> I: history	KW
3		Mon	16	<i>Gawain</i> I: continued	KW
		Tues	17	<i>Gawain</i> II *2.10 <i>Gawain</i> seminar	KW KW
		Thurs	19	<i>Gawain</i> III	RE
4		Mon	23	<i>Gawain</i> III continued	RE
		Tues	24	*noon: <i>Gawain</i> seminar 2.10 <i>Gawain</i> IV	RE KW
		Thurs	26	<i>Gawain</i> : issues	KW, PW
		Mon	30	<i>Gawain</i> artistic background	KW
		Tues	31	noon: CLASS TEST 2.10 Introduction to Chaucer	RE
	April	Thurs	2	<i>Knight's Tale</i>	RE
6		Mon	6	<i>Knight's Tale</i>	RE
		Tues	7	*noon: <i>Knight's Tale</i> I seminar 2.10 <i>Knight's Tale</i>	RE RE
		Thurs	9	<i>Knight's Tale</i>	RE
MID-TERM VACATION					
7		Mon	27	* <i>Knight's Tale</i> II seminar	RE
		Tues	28	noon: <i>Knight's Tale</i> 2.10 <i>Knight's Tale</i>	RE RE
		Thurs	30	* <i>Knight's Tale</i> III seminar	RE
8	May	Mon	4	<i>Knight's Tale</i>	RE
		Tues	5	noon: <i>Knight's Tale</i> *2.10 KT IV seminar	RE RE
		Thurs	7	Christ as Knight, Lover ( <i>Fierce Wars</i> )	KW

9	Mon	11	Christ (etc.) <i>continued</i>	KW	<b>FIRST ESSAY DUE</b>
	Tues	12	noon: The Reformation	KW	
	Thurs	14	2.10 pm lecture: Reformation cont'd Spenser	KW KW	
10	Mon	18	Spenser	KW	
	Tues	19	*noon: Spenser seminar	KW	
	Thurs	21	2.10 pm lecture: Spenser Spenser	KW KW	
11	Mon	25	*Spenser seminar	RE	
	Tues	26	*noon: Spenser seminar	RE	
	Thurs	28	<b>no 2.10 class today</b> *Spenser seminar	RE	
12 June	Mon	1	No lecture (Queen's Birthday)		
	Tues	2	noon: Spenser	KW	
	Thurs	4	2.10 lecture: Spenser To be arranged	KW	
<b>ESSAY DUE JUNE 12</b>					