

ENGL 214: The Chivalric Quest from Chaucer to Spenser

Trimester 1 2011

28 February to 2 July 2011

20 Points



TRIMESTER DATES

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| Teaching dates: | 28 February to 3 June 2011 |
| Mid-trimester break: | 18 April to 1 May 2011 |
| Study week: | 6 to 10 June 2011 |
| Last piece of assessment due: | 14 June 2011 |

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

| Staff | Email | Phone | Room |
|------------------------|--|----------|--------|
| Prof Kathryn Walls | kathryn.walls@vuw.ac.nz | 463 6898 | VZ 916 |
| A/Prof Peter Whiteford | peter.whiteford@vuw.ac.nz | 463 6820 | VZ 801 |

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri

9.00 – 9.50 am

Hunter LT 220

COURSE DELIVERY

Some classes will take the form of lectures and occasional readings. 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.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL 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 Hugh Mackenzie 206).

If you have a question or problem, you should consult Kathryn (Prof Walls).

COURSE CONTENT

Aims and Objectives

This course provides an introduction to Medieval and Renaissance/Reformation chivalric romance through careful readings of three narrative masterpieces, and a selection of related poems and excerpts.

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 16th-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.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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 their poetic texture. You should be able to draw on this knowledge in order to produce analyses (including comparative analyses), and interpretations. 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. Satisfactory completion of all the prescribed written work (as described below) is a mandatory requirement.

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.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

For a 20 point course it is recommended that you spend on average approximately 13 hours per week including class contact hours. You should, therefore, spend about 9 hours of your own time in reading and preparation.

READINGS

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 7 February to 11 March 2011, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 3 of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

Essential 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); *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). (Some supplementary material will be made available on Blackboard.)

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

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 time. The purpose of this test is to assess your basic familiarity with and capacity to analyse and interpret the material 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 topics will centre on *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. 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 earlier works (not including *Orfeo* or *Gawain*). There will be a significant element of choice. The purpose of this essay is the same as that of the first (above). Although this assignment is not due until June 14, the topics will be distributed in week 10, so that those who wish to do so may complete and submit by the end of week 12.

Formalities

Essays should be set out according to the SEFTMS Student Handbook (accessible on Blackboard). You must submit a hard copy, attach the cover sheet (available on Blackboard and from Reception on floor 8 of Von Zedlitz), and deliver it into the drop box on level 8 of Von Zedlitz.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to enter "Kathryn Walls" as your tutor.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for a pass in this course you must:

- Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend 8 seminars.

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 their poetic texture. You should be able to draw on this knowledge for the purposes of analysis and 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. 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 expected 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.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer.

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>

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

COURSE PROGRAMME (PROVISIONAL)

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| Week 1 | Feb 28 | Introduction: The crusades |
| | March 1 | <i>Orfeo</i> : Reading, pronunciation |
| | March 2 | <i>Orfeo</i> |
| | March 4 | <i>Orfeo</i> : Seminar |
| Week 2 | March 7 | <i>Gawain</i> : language, metre |
| | March 8 | Continued; reading aloud (=seminar) |
| | March 9 | <i>Gawain</i> 1 |
| | March 11 | <i>Gawain</i> 1 |
| Week 3 | March 14 | <i>Gawain</i> 1: seminar |
| | March 15 | <i>Gawain</i> 2 |
| | March 16 | <i>Gawain</i> 2 |
| | March 18 | <i>Gawain</i> 3 |
| Week 4 | March 21 | <i>Gawain</i> 3 : seminar |
| | March 22 | <i>Gawain</i> 4 |
| | March 23 | <i>Gawain</i> 4 |
| | March 25 | t.b.a. |
| Week 5 | March 28 | <i>Gawain</i> : seminar |
| | March 29 | <i>Gawain</i> : artistic background |
| | March 30 | Chaucer and pilgrimages: texts will be supplied |
| | April 1 | CLASS TEST |
| Week 6 | April 4 | Further poems and excerpts (<i>Fierce Warres</i>) |

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April 5 Continued
 April 6 Continued
 April 8 Poems and excerpts: seminar

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| Week 7 | April 11 | The York Play of the Crucifixion (text will be supplied) |
| | April 12 | York Play: Seminar |
| | April 13 | Background to Spenser: The Reformation |
| | April 15 | NO CLASS TODAY |

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 18 April– Sunday 1 May 2011

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| Week 8 | May 2 | Background to Spenser: The Reformation (continued) |
| | May 3 | <i>Legende of the Knight of the Red Crosse 1</i> |
| | May 4 | Seminar |
| | May 6 | <i>Legende 1-2 (Red Cross and Una)</i> |
| | | FIRST ESSAY DUE |

Week 9 May 9 Continued
 May 10 *Legende 2, 4, 5 (Red Cross)*
 May 11 Continued
 May 14 *Legende 2, 4, 5: Seminar*

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| Week 10 | May 16 | <i>Legende 3, 6 (Una)</i> |
| | May 17 | Continued |
| | May 18 | Seminar |
| | May 20 | <i>Legende (the dwarf)</i> |

Week 11 May 23 Aspects of 7-12
 May 24 Continued
 May 25 Continued
 May 27 Seminar

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| Week 12 | May 30 | Continued |
| | May 31 | Continued |
| | June 1 | Seminar |
| | June 3 | NO CLASS TODAY |

Study Week: Monday 6 June to Friday 10 June 2011