

ENGL 404 Medieval Studies: Middle English Fictions

Trimester 2 2011

11 July to 12 November 2011

30 Points



TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	11 July to 14 October 2011
Mid-trimester break:	22 August to 4 September 2011
Study week:	17 to 21 October 2011
Examination/Assessment period:	21 October to 12 November 2011

Note: Students who enrol in courses with examinations are expected to be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

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	Office Hours
Peter Whiteford	peter.whiteford@vuw.ac.nz	463 6820	VZ 801	On request

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Tuesday	10.00 – 12.30 pm	VZ 802
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COURSE DELIVERY

This course will be taught through weekly seminars. You should be well prepared for classes – that is, up-to-date with your reading, and ready to introduce and lead discussion. Although the mandatory requirement is that you attend 8 seminars, at Honours level I expect students to attend all classes, and to take a full part in discussions.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will primarily be communicated through the seminars themselves, and via Blackboard. Please check the Blackboard site regularly.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

The dream poem was one of the most popular medieval literary genres, which almost all major English poets explored. This course will study poems by Chaucer, Langland, the Pearl-poet and others, reading their works against traditional (i. e. classical and medieval) theories of dreams, and investigating the medieval use of dream-poetry to create imaginative fictions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course will involve both a detailed examination of individual poems and some formal analysis of the genre to which they belong, and the final assessment will reflect these two aims. By the end of the course, you can expect to have read a wide range of Middle English dream poems; to be responsive to the linguistic and/or literary details of individual poems; to be able to discuss individual poems in an academic essay, paying attention to their subject and style; and to be able to propose through an academic essay an argument about some aspect of the nature of dream poetry in Middle English, paying due attention to such things as formal generic conventions, possible source material, and the exploratory character of individual poems.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The University guideline in respect of workload equates to approximately 10 hours per point for the whole of the course. For an Honours course, at 30 points, that means you should expect to spend about 300 hours over the duration of the course (including study breaks and examining period). We have 12 seminars of 2½ hours; the remainder of the workload is your own reading of primary and secondary materials, preparation, and research, together with work on assignments. I suggest you should anticipate spending about 18-20 hours per week.

READINGS

Essential texts:

1. *Dream visions and other poems: authoritative texts, contexts, criticism*. Ed. Kathryn L. Lynch. W.W. Norton, 2007.
2. *Pearl*. Ed. Sarah Stanbury. Published for TEAMS by Medieval Institute Publications, 2001.
3. *Piers Plowman: the Donaldson translation, Middle English text, sources and backgrounds, criticism*. Ed. Elizabeth Ann Robertson and Stephen H. A. Shepherd. W.W. Norton, 2006.

Texts of Clanvowe's and Lydgate's poems will be available on Blackboard; additional material may be distributed in class.

Recommended Reading:

Secondary readings will be suggested throughout the course. The edition of Chaucer's poems (above) contains an extensive bibliography, both relating to Chaucer and to the genre in general.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

The course is assessed through a combination of internal and external assessment. The final exam (about which details will be supplied later in the course) will be worth 40% of the total mark. The internal component (60%), will include the following items:

60% In-term work.

The internal work consists of:

- (i) a major essay (3500-4000 words, 40%) on some aspect of Chaucer's dream poetry, due immediately after the mid-semester break;
- (ii) three short commentaries, dealing with the poems of Clanvowe and Lydgate, and *Pearl*. These are of no more than 600 words each, and together account for 20% of your mark. For due dates, see the course schedule.

40% Final Examination.

The examination will be of three hours duration, and will be an "open book" examination, i.e., you will be permitted to take your set texts into the examination. Further details about the examination will be agreed during the course.

Final Examination:

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are expected to be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period, i.e. between Friday 21 October to Saturday 12 November 2011.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

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.

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.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- Submit all 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);
- take responsibility for leading one seminar ;
- attend at least 8 of the weekly seminars.

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. Where handwritten work is required you are expected to write clearly. If this is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

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

NOTE: The outline here can be changed according to interests that emerge during the course.

Week 1	Date	Introduction, Chaucer, <i>The Book of the Duchess</i>	
Week 2	Date	Chaucer, <i>The Parlement of Foules</i>	
Week 3	Date	Clanvowe, <i>The Boke of Cupide.</i>	Commentary 1 due Friday 5.00
Week 4	Date	Chaucer, <i>The Hous of Fame</i>	
Week 5	Date	Lydgate, <i>The Temple of Glas.</i>	Commentary 2 due Friday 5.00
Week 6	Date	Chaucer, Prologue to <i>The Legend of Good Women</i>	
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 22 August to Sunday 4 September 2011 MAJOR ESSAY DUE ON MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 5.00			
Week 7	Date	<i>Pearl</i>	
Week 8	Date	<i>Pearl</i>	Commentary 3 due Friday 5.00
Week 9	Date	Langland, <i>Piers Plowman</i>	
Week 10	Date	Langland, <i>Piers Plowman</i>	
Week 11	Date	Langland, <i>Piers Plowman</i>	
Week 12	Date	Review, summaries	

Study Week: Monday 17 October to Friday 21 October 2011

Examination Period: Friday 21 October to Saturday 12 November 2011