

# ENGL 214 The Chivalric Quest from Chaucer to Spenser

**Trimester 2 2012**

16 July to 17 November 2012

**20 Points**



A Crusader Knight (12th century),  
(British Library, MS. 2A XXII, F. 220)

## TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	16 July to 19 October 2012
Mid-trimester break:	27 August to 9 September 2012
Study week:	22 to 26 October 2012
Last piece of assessment due:	Friday 19 October

## WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

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



- 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 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. 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

The expected workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours spread evenly over the 12 week trimester and breaks, or 13 hours per teaching week.

### READINGS

#### Essential texts:

*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, including the Chaucer text, will be made available on Blackboard.)

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 9–27 July 2012. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building.

You can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. You will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

## 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 26 October, 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.

## 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.

Applications for extensions should be addressed to Professor Walls.

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 70% of the classes. **Please note that this is a variation from the standard requirement in English—a variation associated with the delivery of the course, including the relative irregularity of seminars.**
- Sit the class test on the required date

### Course Requirements: Preparation and Written Work

Satisfactory completion of all the prescribed written work is a mandatory requirement.

### Course Requirements: Attendance

Attendance is an important aspect of the teaching and learning programme for this course, and you are expected to attend all classes. 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 as making provision for such circumstances. If you are prevented from attending more than 30% of 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. 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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).

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ENGLISH PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE ENGL 214

**COURSE PROGRAMME (PROVISIONAL)**

Week 1	July 16	Introduction: The crusades
	July 17	<i>Orfeo</i> : Reading, pronunciation
	July 18	<i>Orfeo</i>
	July 20	<i>Orfeo</i> : Seminar
Week 2	July 23	<i>Gawain</i> : language, metre
	July 24	Continued; reading aloud (=seminar)
	July 25	<i>Gawain</i> 1
	July 27	<i>Gawain</i> 1
Week 3	July 30	<i>Gawain</i> 1: seminar
	July 31	<i>Gawain</i> 2
	Aug 1	<i>Gawain</i> 2
	Aug 3	<i>Gawain</i> 3
Week 4	Aug 6	<i>Gawain</i> 3 : seminar
	Aug 7	<i>Gawain</i> 4
	Aug 8	<i>Gawain</i> 4
	Aug 10	t.b.a.
Week 5	Aug 13	<i>Gawain</i> : seminar
	Aug 14	<i>Gawain</i> : artistic background
	Aug 15	Chaucer and pilgrimages: texts will be supplied
	Aug 17	CLASS TEST
Week 6	Aug 20	Chaucer's "Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale"
	Aug 21	Continued
	Aug 22	Poems and excerpts: seminar
	Aug 24	Continued
<b>Mid Trimester Break:</b> Monday 27 August – Sunday 9 September 2012		
Week 7	Sept 10	The York Play of the Crucifixion (text will be supplied)
	Sept 11	York Play: Seminar

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Sept 12 Background to Spenser: The Reformation

Sept 15 NO CLASS TODAY

Week 8 Sept 17 Background to Spenser: The Reformation (continued)

Sept 18 *Legende of the Knight of the Red Crosse 1*

Sept 19 Seminar

Sept 21 *Legende 1-2 (Red Cross and Una)*

FIRST ESSAY DUE

Week 9 Sept 24 Continued

Sept 25 *Legende 2, 4, 5 (Red Cross)*

Sept 26 Continued

Sept 28 *Legende 2, 4, 5: Seminar*

Week 10 Oct 1 *Legende 3, 6 (Una)*

Oct 2 Continued

Oct 3 Seminar

Oct 5 *Legende (the dwarf)*

Week 11 Oct 8 Aspects of 7-12

Oct 9 Continued

Oct 10 Continued

Oct 12 Seminar

Week 12 Oct 15 Continued

Oct 16 Continued

Oct 17 Seminar

Oct 19 NO CLASS TODAY

LAST ASSESSMENT (I.E., SECOND ESSAY) DUE

**You may delay submission of this essay for one week (i. e., until October 26) without applying for an extension.**