

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*2360	Course Title: The Medieval World	Semester and Year of Offering: W25
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Course Instructor: Aylin Malcolm	Course Format: Lecture
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This course offers an introduction to the Middle Ages through the literatures of England and beyond, exploring how medieval writers imagined the world around them. Students will read poetry, drama, travel writing, and natural philosophy written between the tenth century and the fifteenth. These readings will allow us to discuss medieval perspectives on intercultural contact, gender and sexuality, natural environments, mental health, and the underworld. We will situate these texts in their historical contexts to develop an understanding of premodern societies as dynamic, diverse, and interconnected. Texts will generally be read in translation, although we will cover the basics of Middle English. No prior experience with any of this material is expected.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

<i>Component</i>	<i>Weight (%)</i>
Close reading exercises	20
Midterm exam	20
Adaptation analysis	30
Final exam	30

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.):

Available at campus bookstores:

Marie de France, *Lais* (trans. Waters)

Silence (trans. Roche-Mahdi)

Available as library ebooks or at bookstores:

Dante Alighieri, *Inferno* (trans. Durling)

Chrétien de Troyes, *Yvain* (trans. Raffel)

Ahmad ibn Fadlan, *Mission to the Volga* (trans. Montgomery)

Other materials to be posted on Courselink. This list of texts is provisional; please contact the instructor for an updated list if you would like to get started on reading.

Information about mode of delivery:

In person

Final Exam information:

In person, essay-based