

Rhode Island College
English 347
British Literature to 1500

Texts: *Beowulf*. Ed. and Trans. H. Chickering.
The Tain. Trans. R. Kinsella.
Marie de France. *Lais*. Trans. Robert Hanning and Joan Ferrante.
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, and Patience. Trans. Marie Borroff.
Excalibur (film).

Handouts*: Old English selections.
Second Shepherds' Play.
Tournament of Tottenham.

*These texts will be available in Adams Library through electronic reserve.

Course Requirements: 2 exams (40%), 2 papers each 5-7 pages (40%),
class participation and final presentation (20%).

Week 1	Introduction: Early Britain; Old English poetry (handouts)
2	Labor Day (College closed)
3	<i>Beowulf</i>
4	<i>Beowulf</i>
5	Celtic Literature: <i>The Tain</i>
6	<i>The Tain</i>
7	Columbus Day (College closed)
8	(Monday classes meet) Exam 1
9	Introduction: Anglo-Norman, Literature: Marie de France, <i>Lais</i> (<i>Bisclavret, Equitan, Laustic</i>)
10	Marie de France, <i>Lais</i> (<i>Les Deus Amanz, Chevrefoil, Chaitival, Lanval</i>)
11	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>
12	<i>Excalibur</i> (film) (Paper 1 due)
13	Dream Vision: <i>Pearl</i> , Satire: <i>The Tournament of Tottenham</i>
14	Introduction: Medieval Drama, <i>Second Shepherds' Play</i> discussion
15	<i>Second Shepherds' Play</i> (rehearsal)
16	<i>Second Shepherds' Play</i> (in-class performance) (Paper 2 due)

Exam 2

The Course

In this course we will sample a variety of works of literature produced in the British Isles between 600 and 1500 A.D. These works were originally composed in several languages: Old Irish, Old English (Anglo-Saxon), Anglo-Norman French, and Middle English. Through study of these texts we will come to a better understanding and appreciation of medieval literature and its cultural and historical contexts. In the course of our reading and discussion we will also apply several theoretical approaches to the study of the

medieval texts. A portion of my weekly office hours is reserved for individuals or groups who want to gain facility in the pronunciation and reading of literature in any of the original languages you choose. This reading practice together can enrich your study of the literature, and is a valuable skill for those of you who may be teaching some of these texts yourself. It is also fun, but it is not required.

Grading

Regular attendance and classroom participation are expected and missing more than 2 classes may result in a reduction of your course grade and after 4 absences you may be dropped from the class. One goal of this course is to improve your analytical and writing skills. You will prepare two short analytical papers (5-7 pages). Remember that the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th edition) specifies the standard citation format required by the English Department. There will be 2 examinations.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic behavior. Plagiarism is expressly prohibited as outlined in the Student Handbook; in such cases there are severe penalties which may include failing the assignment without make-up or failing the course. Evidence of plagiarism will be kept on file in the English Department and the office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs for the rest of the student's academic career at Rhode Island College. Severe infringements will be submitted to the Board of College Discipline for further action.

Communication

You are encouraged to ask questions at any time and I am always pleased to meet with you during my office hours or at mutually convenient times arranged in advance. E-mail is an excellent method of communication and you are encouraged to use it to ask questions or make comments about your reading and writing assignments as well as the course. We will also have a class e-mail Discussion List. **Please check your own e-mail regularly during the term.**

Welcome to English 347. It's going to be a good semester!