

English 141 Introduction to Medieval Literature
Professor N. Stork Spring 2001
MWF 930-1020
Faculty Offices Building 218 924-4477
Office Hours: MW 1030-1130, W 1400-1500 and by appt.

This course is an introduction to the major works and genres of English and Continental literature from the 10th through 14th centuries in Western Europe. New course materials have been developed through a grant from the Contemplative Practice Fellowship, Nathan Cummings Foundation. With this aid, I have translated a homily of Gregory the Great and prepared course materials that will allow us to replicate in the modern university some of the features of early medieval monastic education. Do not panic! All will be made clear as we proceed. The course handouts will provide you with a translation of Gregory's homily, the texts of 6 psalms, some Old English translations of the Meters of Boethius (found in *More Latin Lyrics*) and two medieval texts on how to develop an artificial (i.e. trained) memory. I will help to develop a basic understanding of some of the vocabulary of Old English and Latin, focusing on words easily recognizable in modern English.

We will use the above materials to try to simulate the way that Latin language and literature were taught in the Middle Ages. You will be expected to memorize short sections of medieval poetry (in modern English) and to begin the study and contemplation of the interconnections between different medieval texts. Contemplation will take the form of some memorization, re-reading, commentary and comparison with other texts. Your commentaries and comparisons will be your journal entries. You should enter into your journal quotations that you find particularly interesting or compelling. These will then be used to generate critical questions about each text and to draw comparisons between successive texts we read. You will be asked to share your ideas during class. There will be quizzes on the readings as well as brief recitations. You will expand two of your journal entries into longer essays, informed by some research (5-7 pages each).

Two major themes to be explored in the course are the nature of love and the plan of heaven.

I have a complete index to the classical and Biblical citations contained in the Letters of Heloise and Abelard and these can be used for your research.

Grading will be determined as follows:

Journal	20%
Two essays	30%
Memorization	10%
Quizzes	20%
Final Exam	20%

The following books are required:

<i>Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love</i>	(Penguin)
<i>Njal's Saga</i>	(Penguin)
<i>The Lais of Marie de France</i>	(Penguin)
<i>The Art of Courtly Love</i>	(Columbia)
<i>Perceval</i>	(University of Georgia)
<i>The Letters of Heloise and Abelard</i>	(Penguin)
<i>The Portable Dante</i>	(Penguin)
<i>More Latin Lyrics</i>	(Norton)
Course Reader	(A.S. Print Shop)

Schedule of Classes:

Jan 24	Introduction
Jan 26	Hugh of St. Victor, "De Tribus...", Psalm 68(69)
Jan 29	T. Bradwardine "De Memoria Artificiali", Psalm 77(78)
Jan 31	Psalms 83 (84) and 89 (90)
Feb 2	Psalms 103 (104) and 148
Feb 5	Gregory the Great, Homily 34
Feb 7	Gregory
Feb 9	<i>More Latin Lyrics</i> , Boethius (see also xeroxed OE texts)
Feb 12	Boethius
Feb 14	Boethius

Feb 16 *More Latin Lyrics*, Alcuin. First Recitation
Feb 19 *Letters of Heloise and Abelard: Historia Calamitatum*
Feb 21 *Letters (all letters except the Letters of Instruction)*
Feb 23 *Letters*
Feb 26 *Art of Courtly Love*
Feb 28 *Art*
March 2 *Art*
March 5 *Lais of Marie de France: Prologue, Guigemar, Equitan*
March 7 *Lais: Le Fresne, Bisclavret*
March 9 *Lais: Lanval*
March 12 *Lais: Yonec, Laüstic*
March 14 *Lais: Chaitivel, Chevrefoil*
March 16 *Perceval*
March 19 *Perceval*
March 21 *Perceval*
March 23 *Perceval* FIRST ESSAY DUE
March 26-30 SPRING BREAK
April 2 Dante: *Inferno*, Cantos 1-4
April 4 *Purgatorio*, Cantos 28 - 33
April 6 *Paradiso*, Cantos 1-5
April 9 *Paradiso*, Cantos 6-11
April 11 No Class
April 13 *Paradiso*, Cantos 12-17
April 16 *Paradiso*, Cantos 18-23
April 18 *Paradiso*, Cantos 24-29
April 20 *Paradiso*, Cantos 30-33
April 23 Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love*
April 25 Julian
April 27 Julian SECOND ESSAY DUE
April 30 *Njal's Saga*
May 2 *Njal's Saga*
May 4 *Njal's Saga*
May 7 *Njal's Saga*
May 9 *Njal's Saga*
May 11 SLIDE SHOW on early Germanic, Norse and Celtic art
May 14 Valediction, Final Recitations and Exam Review

FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 21 715-930 AM!