

**ENG 210-04 Approaches to Literature:
King Arthur & the Middle Ages
Spring 2008**
MWF 11:00-11:50 Potter 107
Missouri Western State University
Dept. of English, Foreign Languages, and Journalism

Instructor: Dr. Cynthia Jenéy
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Phone: 271-4447
Office Hours: MWF: 12:00-12:50 | T-TH: 12:30-1:30
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Required Texts:

- ❑ Damrosch, Baswell, and Schotter, Eds. *The Longman Anthology of British Literature, Volume 1A: The Middle Ages*. (3rd Edition). NY: Longman, 2006. ISBN 0-321-33391-8 (“The green edition”)
- ❑ Aristotle. *Poetics*. Translated by Malcolm Heath. NY: Penguin Books. ISBN: 0-140-44636-2

Reading Assignments: Make sure you have read assigned sections of the textbook *before coming to class* on the day readings are listed. Come to class prepared to submit formal discussion questions, and be prepared to make informed comments based on the assigned reading.

About ENG 210: Approaches to Literature

Objectives and Means: Upon completion of English 210 a student should be able to (1) Recognize the major characteristics of literary genres; (2) Discuss literature, orally and in writing, with assurance; (3) Appreciate literary works which are encountered; (4) Understand the different ways in which literary theme may be treated in literature. To reach these goals, the student is expected to: (1) Read poetry, prose fiction, and drama; (2) Investigate various methods of approaching and understanding literature; (3) Write papers, including themes and essay examinations; (4) Read a variety of literary works in which a chosen theme is dominant.

About This Section of English 210:

This section of English 210 will provide an introduction to the literature, language, and historical settings of Medieval England. There will be significant emphasis on heroic verse and the Arthurian Tradition in poems, lais, and tales. Medieval readings are chronological, beginning with the Old English poem *Beowulf* and ending with Chaucer’s Arthurian “Wife of Bath’s Tale.” Students will build their critical reading skills by studying and discussing Aristotle’s *Poetics*, noting how the patterns laid forth in classical thought inform literary works of the Middle Ages. In addition, the course will then explore implications of the Arthurian tradition in contemporary treatments of Medieval and Arthurian tales in film and the media.

Attendance: If you miss class, get notes and assignments from a classmate. You will be given an excused absence when acting as an official representative of the university, provided you give prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event. All other absences are unexcused. The maximum number of absences allowed for this class is six (6) unexcused absences. Students who exceed six unexcused absences in this course will receive a failing grade (as per university policy, students who miss six class meetings *before midterm* will receive an “FA” and be automatically dropped from the course).

Students who consult with me *well in advance* (48 hours) of known *legitimate* conflicts or hardship will be given consideration on a case-by-case basis. Serious efforts to attend and to complete the work for this class will be given fair consideration, especially in cases of earnest dedication and hard work. You are advised to manage your allotted absences wisely in case of real illness or emergencies. Note: Weddings and vacation trips do *not* constitute “conflicts, hardships, or emergencies.”

Class Meetings: Sophomore level courses are conducted under the assumption that students are well-versed in the conventions of college classrooms and academic environments:

- ❑ Power down or silence *ALL* electronic communication devices (cell phones, ipods, iphones, blackberries, etc.).
- ❑ Come to class prepared: keep up with daily reading and writing assignments.
- ❑ Be courteous/helpful to disabled students (i.e., if a wheelchair is blocked, get up and *move* something ☺)

- ❑ Arrive on time and remain in class for the entire period. Time your “comfort breaks” before and after class.
- ❑ Take notes. Ask questions. Form a study group.
- ❑ Familiarize yourself with the glossaries and other helpful tools provided in the textbooks.
- ❑ Re-read difficult material. I expect even the most experienced readers to re-read many of the assigned works.
- ❑ Meet deadlines.
- ❑ Participate in class discussion and activities.
- ❑ Remain engaged with the materials for the entire class period.
- ❑ Develop good academic habits; it will pay off.

Contacting the Instructor:



Please do not jam your instructors’ inboxes with personal issues and excuses concerning attendance and course work. If you are experiencing extreme hardships/circumstances please phone or talk with me privately during Office Hours.

Contact your instructor when...

- you don’t understand the assignment;
- you want to clarify some point from class reading or discussion;

- ❑ you want to make an appointment to meet out of class;
- ❑ you have drafted a written assignment and would like some feedback early in the process;
- ❑ your Mom has been kidnapped by terrorist spies, and you must leave the country to rescue her.

Electronic communications among students and instructors shall remain mature, polite, and appropriate to the context of the class and the college setting. “Flaming” or harassing instructors or classmates in electronic mail or other forums will not be tolerated. Issues and concerns of a sensitive nature should be dealt with *person-to-person*, not in email, as state institutions have archival jurisdiction over electronically transmitted messages (translation: email is not necessarily “private”). Be courteous. Be thoughtful. Be excellent.

Disabilities: Any student in this course who has a disability that prevents the fullest expression of abilities should contact the MWSU Special Needs Office as soon as possible so that we can discuss alternative ways to satisfy class requirements.

Written Work:

Papers will be written in MLA format. Use 1” margins all around, and 12-point, New Times Roman typeface if at all possible. Double space and place page numbers in the upper-right corner on all but the first page:

<p>Jeney ENG XXX-XX</p>	<p>Your Full Name Date Submitted</p>
<p>Title</p>	
<p>As you can see, there is one space above and below the title, which is centered on the page. Each new paragraph is indented. Your ENG 108 text-book includes many examples of formal papers written in both APA and MLA format.</p>	
<p>evaluate the thinking of others in order to discover, develop, and test</p>	

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GRADED COURSE WORK

20% Exam #1

20% Exam #2 Midterm

20% Exam #3 Final Exam.

10% Paper #1

10% Paper #2

20% Attendance and In-Class Participation (discussion, discussion questions; quizzes, in-class exercises, etc.)

100% Total Grade

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE*

JANUARY		
14	M	Introduction; syllabus; policies; survey
16	W	Middle Ages <i>Longman</i> 3-26.
18	F	Film: Schama "Beginnings" <i>History of Britain</i> series
21	M	MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY—NO CLASS MEETING
23	W	Middle Ages <i>Longman</i> 3-26
25	F	Film: <i>Birth of a Language</i>
28	M	<i>Beowulf</i> 27-51: "Before the Norman Conquest"; "I.Grendel"
30	W	<i>Beowulf</i> 27-51: "Before the Norman Conquest"; "I.Grendel";
FEBRUARY		
1	F	<i>Beowulf</i> 51-74: "II. Grendel's Mother"
4	M	<i>Beowulf</i> 51-74: "II. Grendel's Mother";
6	W	<i>Beowulf</i> 74-92: "III. "The Dragon"
8	F	<i>Beowulf</i> 74-92: "III. "The Dragon"
11	M	<i>13th Warrior</i> —Film
13	W	<i>13th Warrior</i> —Film (cont.)
15	F	<i>13th Warrior</i> —Film (cont.)
18	M	PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY—NO CLASS MEETING
20	W	Exam #1
22	F	Aristotle <i>Poetics</i> 3-25
25	M	Aristotle <i>Poetics</i> 3-25; Aristotle <i>Poetics</i> 26-48
27	W	Aristotle <i>Poetics</i> (cont.)
29	F	"The Dream of the Rood" 115-119
MARCH		
3	M	"The Dream of the Rood" 115-119 (cont.); Anglo-Saxon Chronicle 134-135
5	W	Film <i>Conquest!</i> (Schama series—Hastings 1066 & Domesday Book)
7	F	"The Wanderer" 153-156; "Wulf and Eadwacer" & "The Wife's Lament" 156-158
10	M	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS MEETING
12	W	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS MEETING
14	F	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS MEETING
17	M	"The Wanderer" 153-156; "Wulf and Eadwacer" & "The Wife's Lament" 156-158 (cont.)
19	W	Exam #2: Midterm
21	F	Arthurian Myth in the History of Britain 163-177
24	M	Arthurian Myth in the History of Britain 163-177; Marie de France "Prologue," "Lanval" 181-198
26	W	Film Arthurian Legends & Legacy; Marie de France "Prologue," "Lanval" 181-198 (cont.)
28	F	Marie de France "Prologue," "Lanval" 181-198 (cont.); Assign Paper #1

31	M	Film: <i>King Arthur</i>
APRIL		
2	W	Film: <i>King Arthur</i>
4	F	Film: <i>King Arthur</i>
7	M	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> 200-258
9	W	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> 200-258
11	F	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> 200-258; Arthurian Film & Media Paper #1 Due
14	M	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> 200-258; Arthurian Film & Media; Assign Paper #2
16	W	Sir Thomas Malory <i>Morte Darthur</i> 259-289
18	F	Sir Thomas Malory <i>Morte Darthur</i> 259-289
21	M	Sir Thomas Malory <i>Morte Darthur</i> 259-289
23	W	Geoffrey Chaucer: The Wife of Bath's Prologue & Tale 375-403
25	F	Geoffrey Chaucer: The Wife of Bath's Prologue & Tale 375-403
28	M	Geoffrey Chaucer: The Wife of Bath's Prologue & Tale 375-403; Paper #2 Due LAST DAY OF CLASSES
Friday, May 2 11:30 a.m. - 1:20 p.m. FINAL EXAM		

*Schedule may change in response to semester needs and events