New Course Request

Indiana University

South Bend Campus

Check Appropriate Boxes: Undergraduate credit [✓]  Graduate credit [ ]  Professional credit [ ]

1. School/Division: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  2. Academic Subject Code: ENG

3. Course Number: 1 306  (must be cleared with University Enrollment Services)  4. Instructor: Robert Meyer-Lee

5. Course Title: Middle English Literature

   Recommended Abbreviation (Optional) - (Limited to 32 Characters including spaces)

6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): Fall 2010

7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from _________ to _________

8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes [ ] No [✓]

9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes [ ] No [✓]

10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication: A survey of Middle English lyrics, drama, and romance, with special attention to Langland, The Pearl-poet, and Gower, designed to acquaint the student with the language and literary development of England from 1066 to 1500.

11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from _________ to _________

12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 0 or Variable from _________ to _________

13. Estimated enrollment: 20 of which 0 percent are expected to be graduate students.

14. Frequency of scheduling: biannually  Will this course be required for majors? [ ]

15. Justification for new course: Fills a significant gap in coverage; draws on expertise of new faculty. Part of the English program at other campuses, such as BL, IU East, and Fort Wayne.

16. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? [ ]

17. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials. [attached]

18. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant. N/A - complements ENG-7L305 Chaucer, which focuses on the Canterbury Tales.

19. A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by: Robert Meyer-Lee

Department Chairman/Division Director

Date 10/15/09

Dean of Graduate School (when required)

Approved by:

Rebecca Bashwick

Date 11/13/09

Chancellor/Vice-President

Date

University Enrollment Services

Date

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to University Enrollment Services for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.

UPS 724

University Enrollment Services—White; Chancellor/Vice-President—Blue; School/Division—Yellow;
Department/Division—Pink; University Enrollment Services Advance—White
ENG L306 - Middle English Literature

A survey of Middle English lyrics, drama, and romance, with special attention to Langland, The Pearl-poet, and Gower, designed to acquaint the student with the language and literary development of England from 1066 to 1500.

Preparation for Course
P: ENG L202 or equivalent.

Cr. 3.
Eng-L 306: Middle English Literature — 3 Credit Hours
Focus: Late Medieval English Pseudo-Autobiographical Writing

Professor R. Meyer-Lee
rmeyerle@iusb.edu
520-4275

Office: DW 3163
Office Hours: Tu 9:30 - 12:30
Th 11:30 - 1:30

Description and objectives

This course is, most basically, a survey of some of the most important literary works of the late medieval period, excluding those works of Chaucer covered in Eng-L 305. Its aim is to provide a broad introduction to the critical study of medieval English literature. Like many literature courses, this one will be deeply interested in how the multiple layers of literary meaning intersect with various historical contexts—biographical, political, religious, social, and cultural, for example. In addition, this course has a special topical and theoretical focus: the relationship between life and literature as this appears in late medieval texts that have been called pseudo-autobiographical, and how this relationship in those texts differs (or does not differ) from our contemporary understanding.

In any period, the relationship between life and literature is fundamental to the literary experience, but—as the one twentieth-century work we will read illustrates—it may also be quite complicated and intractably ambiguous. Each of the texts we will read deploys this relationship in an artistically sophisticated manner, but also in a manner that is historically distant from what we are used to: thus these texts will at times seem truly strange—even alien. We will use this strangeness to give us critical distance in respect to what we are used to, so that we can see in a new light—so that we can defamiliarize—our current understanding of the relation of life and literature. In the process, you will achieve a firm grasp of the variety and complexity of medieval English literature, a solid knowledge of the particular texts under study, and a foundation for the critical analysis of early English texts more generally.

Required texts

- Paul Auster, *City of Glass*
- William Langland, *Piers Plowman: The C Version*
- *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight / Patience / Pearl*
- Geoffrey Chaucer, *Dream Visions and Other Poems*
- Thomas Hoccleve, "My Compleinte" and *Other Poems*
- *The Book of Margery Kempe*
- A Course Pack containing some critical essays

Requirements and grading

Each of the following requirements contributes the given percentage to the overall course grade. Everything will be given a letter grade, including quizzes and the final.

- A short essay in which you will analyze your own autobiographical writing (5%)
A short essay in which you will closely analyze the language of a passage in one of the Middle English texts (10%)

- An informational report which will support our discussion for a particular class meeting, copies of which you will distribute to the entire class (10%)
- A research paper (12 pages) on a topic of your choice involving one or more of the assigned medieval texts (25%)
- Constructive participation in discussion and in-class exercises (15%)
- Many short quizzes (20%)
- A synthetic final (15%)

Attendance

The official English department attendance policy is the following: “The Department of English requires students to attend class. Academic success depends on awareness of the sequence and deadlines of class assignments, preparation for class, and participation in class, whether as an attentive listener and note-taker or as an active discussant of the content and methodology of the course. The department recognizes that occasional absences from class may be unavoidable. However, academic success depends on regular attendance. More than three absences are excessive. The department expects each student to know the attendance policy, to accept its provisions, and to be responsible for all work assigned and for material covered during absence.”

The following is how this policy will be implemented in this course:

- Because I like to assume the best intentions on the part of others, I will assume that, if you miss a class, you have a good reason. I will therefore make no distinctions between excused and unexcused absences, so you need not provide an excuse if you miss a class. But it is nonetheless a good idea to stay in communication with me, letting me know ahead of time, if possible, about any class you must miss, and contacting me afterward to follow up.
- Lateness to class by more than 10 minutes will count as an absence. Lateness under 10 minutes counts against your participation grade.
- Missed quizzes or responses because of absence or lateness can’t be made up, but will not count against you for up to three instances. They will count against you after that.
- After three absences, additional absences will lower your course grade by 1/3. More than six absences will result in automatic failure of the course.
- If you miss or are late for a class, you are responsible for obtaining notes, handouts, and information about assignments, due date changes, etc. Do not assume everything on the course calendar will remain the same (in fact, I can almost guarantee that it will change, perhaps several times). Find out what the assignments are for the next class and what, if anything, has changed. “I didn’t know” will not be an acceptable excuse.

Academic honesty

- All work in this course—daily work, as well as exams and papers—must be original to you and solely your work unless otherwise allowed and documented.
• All work must also be original to this course. This means, for example, that you may not reuse work completed for another course, unless you have discussed this with me and received my permission.
• All cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Academic Support Services.
• The usual penalty for any violation of academic honesty is failure of the course.
• For plagiarism specifically, this course follows the definition of plagiarism and the policy described in “The Department of English Statement of Plagiarism” in the Supplemental Handouts available on the English department website. In addition, students will be held to the guidelines about what constitutes plagiarism in A Pocket Style Manual by Diana Hacker.
• All written work that you submit may be checked, utilizing the Turnitin.com service, for plagiarized material copied from the web, other student papers, and selected online databases.
• You are responsible for enrolling into TurnItIn for the course at www.turnitin.com.

Accommodations for religious observances

If you require academic accommodations for religious observance, please provide me with a written request to consider a reasonable modification for that observance by the end of the second week of the course.

Disabilities

If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. Contact the Director of Disabled Student Services (Administration Building, Room 149, 520-4832) as soon as possible to work out the details. Once the Director has provided you with a letter attesting to your needs for modification, bring the letter to me. For more information, see www.iusb.edu/~sbdss/services.shtml.

Schedule of Readings

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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| 1    | Introduction: Autobiography and the Middle Ages  
      In-class reading: "Borges and I"  
      City of Glass |
| 2    | City of Glass |
| 3    | Laurence de Looze, "Medieval Autobiographical Writing" |
| 4    | Piers Plowman |
| 5    | Piers Plowman |
| 6    | Piers Plowman |
7 Chaucer's *House of Fame*

8 Chaucer's *House of Fame*

9 George Kane, "The Autobiographical Fallacy in Chaucer and Langland Studies,"

10 *Pearl*

11 *Pearl*

12 Thomas Hoccleve, "Male Regle"
   Thomas Hoccleve, "Complaint"

13 Thomas Hoccleve, "Dialogue"
   John Burrow, "Autobiographical Poetry in the Middle Ages: The Case of Thomas Hoccleve"

14 *The Book of Margery Kempe*

15 *The Book of Margery Kempe*