



Universidad
de Alcalá

GUÍA DOCENTE

LITERATURA
MEDIEVAL
INGLESA

MEDIEVAL
ENGLISH
LITERATURE

**GRADO EN
ESTUDIOS INGLESES**

**Curso Académico 2018/2019
Cuatrimestre 2º**

GUÍA DOCENTE

Nombre de la asignatura:	LITERATURA MEDIEVAL INGLESA // MEDIEVAL ENGLISH LITERATURE
Código:	251056
Titulación:	Grado en Estudios Ingleses
Departamento:	Filología Moderna
Área de Conocimiento:	Filología Inglesa
Carácter:	Obligatoria / optativa
Créditos ECTS:	8
Cuatrimestre:	1º
Curso:	3º
Profesorado:	Dr. Juan Manuel Camacho Ramos
Tutorías:	Se publicará una vez esté disponible el horario de clases
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Idioma en el que se imparte:	Inglés

1. COURSE SUMMARY

Medieval English Literature is a subject that intends to introduce students to the wide scope of outstanding literary texts produced in England throughout the mid 7th to the early 15th centuries of the current era. Consequently, our aim will be variably to analyse literature belonging to the Anglo-Saxon Period or Old English literature (mainly poetic texts such as Beowulf, The Wanderer, Wulf & Eadwacer and a few other of the Anglo-saxon elegies); the early Anglo-Norman period (mostly courtly romances reflecting the changes brought about in Europe as a result of West clashing with East during the Crusades); and the late Middle Ages (focusing principally on Chaucerian literature and William Caxton's first Arthurian editions). All texts will be considered in light of pertinent socio-historical elements and taking into account England's place within medieval Europe as subject to foreign cultural influences and, consequently, how such influences helped shape the form and content of its literary craft.

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course shall present a brief overview of Medieval English Literature. In so doing, other peripheral yet pertinent subject matter such as historical, social, political, and cultural backgrounds shall also be covered. A chronological and critical

approach shall be used, therefore, the course will broadly concentrate on analysing the production of literary manuscripts spanning the 7th–15th century time frame. Although emphasis shall be put on the poetic genre, prose and drama shall take their relevant places in the course outline. As is to be expected, other European Medieval Literatures shall be included and briefly studied to grant students a proper perspective of the nature and characteristics of Medieval English Literature.

Prerrequisitos y Recomendaciones / Prerequisites and recommendations:

- Students are expected to have a C1 English level or to be very close to it.

3. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is primarily threefold:

- To grant students an initial and general overview of Medieval English Literature
- To teach students the study and critical analysis of Medieval Manuscripts
- To further student knowledge in the field of English Philology

Generic competences:

Instrumental competences:

- Manuscript study skills
- Problem solving within the textual sphere
- Resource management

Interpersonal competences:

- Critical and self-critical abilities
- Group work & collaborative learning skills

Systemic competences:

- Application of knowledge to practice
- Understanding historical philology
- Project design and management within the literary domain

Specific competences:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a general understanding of the different aspects related to Medieval English Literature.
- Identify key issues associated with the study of Medieval Manuscripts.
- Critically analyse at least three specific Medieval Texts.

- Identify the major European literary influences on the literary production of England in the Middle Ages.
- Read one full excerpt in Middle English of a primary Medieval Manuscript.
- Design a coherent outline for a final essay.

4. COURSE CONTENTS

Units	Hours
1. The Anglo-Saxon Period 1.1. The Exeter Book. 1.2. The Scôp: origin and role. 1.3. Anglo-Saxon Poetry: epic and elegy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 hours
2. Anglo-Norman cultures in England: the rise of <i>fin 'amor</i> 2.1. The Crusades 2.2. Eleanor D'Aquitaine & the troubadours 2.3. Chrétien de Troyes & the Arthurian Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 hours
3. Alliterative English Poetry 3.1. The Pearl Poet 3.2. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight MS. 3.3. Pearl MS.	
4. Geoffrey Chaucer & the Estate Satire 4.1. The Canterbury Tales MS. 4.2. The Knight's Tale 4.3. The Prioress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 hours
5. John Gower & the 'dream vision' 5.1. Confessio Amantis MS.	
6. King Arthur and his Knights 6.1. Medieval Arthurian texts	
7. William Caxton & the printing press 7.1. Sir Thomas Malory's Morte D'Arthur MS.	

*Manuscript texts will be provided at the start of and throughout the course.

5. METHODOLOGY AND CLASS ACTIVITIES

5.1. Student workload (200 hours)

Class contact hours:	54 contact hours: 45 hours of class sessions 4 workshops 2 group tutorials for project (30 min. each) 2 individual tutorials for paper (30 min. each) 3 hours for debate forums
Independent study hours:	146 hours: Includes studying lecture notes, reading texts & manuscripts, research, working with group peers toward final paper
Total hours:	200

5.2. LEARNING ACTIVITIES, MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

Learning Activities

Face-to-face hours	<p>Lectures provide an introduction and overview of the topic under discussion.</p> <p>Seminars explore the issues in more detail through analysis and discussion of selected works.</p> <p>Workshops: students will have two workshop sessions in groups (up to eight students) over the semester. The purpose of these workshops will be to assist students to prepare the research paper, and also to carry out designed activities related to the topics dealt with in their classes</p> <p>Tutorials are specific research-oriented sessions, conducted under the supervision of the teacher. There will be one meeting of the tutorial group (up to six students) over the semester, which will include training activities in oral and written presentation of research results.</p>
	<p>Guided reading of the set texts.</p> <p>The reading journal invites reflection on</p>

Reading Journal	<p>the literature students are reading.</p> <p>Each reading will prepare students for active discussion and further reflection in an associated seminar.</p>
Optional Assignments	<p>Close readings. Students can pick up a text they may not have seen before and write a critical analysis of it, without the use of secondary sources. The length of these papers should be between 2 and 3 double-spaced pages.</p> <p>Literature reviews. Students may submit personal responses to the literary works in English that they have read throughout the course. The length of these papers should be between 2 and 3 double-spaced pages.</p>

Materials & Resources

A wide range of literary texts in English will form the basis of the literary analysis and discussion in seminars and tutorials. Copies of all material and compulsory readings will be provided by the teacher at the start of the term.

A list of 'compulsory readings' (as given in the Bibliography section below) will have to be followed during lectures and in private study.

Students may be supported through an e-learning platform (Blackboard), which will be used:

- as a supplement to the module
- as a tool for self-study activities and independent revisions of module materials
- for class communication

6. EVALUACIÓN / ASSESSMENT

Assessment criteria:

Following the guidelines issued by the Department of Modern Philology, students are expected to have a good working knowledge of English, that is, **a C1 level or above (Common European Framework)**. This will be taken into account in the assessment of assignments and presentations.

Students will be expected to demonstrate:

- A thorough knowledge and understanding both of the themes and of the individual texts/manuscripts studied.
- An ability to respond to literary texts critically, sensitively and in detail, using appropriate terminology and textual evidence, and coherent, accurate written expression.
- An appreciation of the similarities and differences between literary works from different ages, genres and cultures.
- Detailed critical understanding in analysing the ways in which structure, form and language shape meanings in literary texts, considering different approaches to texts and alternative interpretations.
- Understanding of the significance and influence of the social, cultural and historical contexts in which literary texts are written and received.
- A considerable level of class participation, which will be assessed in all the learning activities.
- High standards of presentation and of written and oral English in all submitted coursework.

Details about the marking of the reading journal and the research paper will be provided by the teacher.

*Students are warned that plagiarism will not be tolerated. The ideas from other sources, regardless of whether they are quoted, summarized or paraphrased, must be documented adequately. According to *Article 34 of the University Regulation on Evaluation*, any plagiarism found in the final version of a paper will be penalised and could result in the failure of the module/course. The teacher will provide students with assessment cover sheets for written work, which certify that their submitted work is entirely their own or appropriately referenced.

Grading criteria

- Outstanding (MH): Students display an outstanding grasp of the aims and contents of the module. All assessment criteria have been achieved to an exceptionally high level. Written assignments and Reading Journals show that students have read and thought at a level well beyond what is expected in the module. Students attend lectures and are always well-prepared for discussion in seminars.
- Excellent (Sobresaliente): Students display an excellent grasp of the aims and contents of the module. All assessment criteria have been achieved to a very high standard and most at an exceptionally high level. Written assignments and Reading Journals show all or most of the appropriate characteristics expected for this type of work. Students

attend lectures are practically always well-prepared for discussion in seminars, with almost no absences.

- Very Good (Notable): Students display a very good grasp of the aims and contents of the module. All assessment criteria have been met fully and many have been achieved at a good or very good standard. Written assignments and Reading Journals show a good knowledge of the primary texts and the relevant context; they have a good foundation in the prescribed reading and build on ideas put forward in lectures and seminars. Students attend lectures and seminars, with few absences, and have done most of the preparation.
- Satisfactory (Aprobado): Students show a satisfactory grasp of the aims and contents of the module. All assessment criteria have been met, but some barely exceed the threshold standard to pass the module. Written assignments and Reading Journals show some of the appropriate characteristics in relation to content, illustration, organisation and expression. Students are present in lectures and seminars, with few absences, and occasionally contribute to discussions.
- Fail (Suspenso): Students show an unsatisfactory grasp of the aims and contents of the module. Some assessment criteria do not reach the threshold standard to pass the module. Written assignments and Reading Journals show limited understanding of the primary texts and/or minimal research. Students have multiple absences and when they come, they are often not prepared or they do not say much.

Assessment procedures

Course assessment is continuous and based on the following components:

- Active Participation
- Written assignments
- Reading journal
- Oral presentations

Written assignments may include a full-length research paper, as well as other tasks, such as unseen text(s) for comments and short personal responses.

Final exam

In accordance with the University Regulation on Evaluation, for those students who are not able to follow the continuous assessment scheme there will be one final summative two-hour written exam over the material covered during the course. This exam may include objective test questions, short answer questions and discussion questions.

There will be a resit opportunity at the end of the second semester. This will also take the form of a two-hour written exam, with a similar format to the above-mentioned final examination, which will constitute 100% of the resit mark.

IMPORTANT:

- **Final assessment.** Should a student, for any reason, need to opt for final assessment (Final Exam), s/he will have to ask for permission in writing to the Director of the Programme of Study.
- **Academic honesty.** Students are expected to practise academic honesty. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in automatic failure of this course.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compulsory readings

- Excerpts from the following texts will be provided and commented in class:

Arthurian Romances. Chrétien de Troyes. Transl. D.D.R. Owen. Everyman: Vermont.

Asbridge, Thomas (2005) *The First Crusade: A New History: The Roots of Conflict between Christianity and Islam.* Oxford University Press: Oxford.

Bennett, Matthew (2001) *Campaigns of the Norman Conquest.* Osprey Publishing: Oxford.

Brewer, Derek (1997) *A Companion to the Gawain-Poet.* D.S. Brewer: Cambridge.

----- (1998) *A New Introduction to Chaucer.* Longman: London & New York.

Caie, Graham (2008) *Medieval Texts in Context.* Routledge: London & New York.

Calin, William (1994) *The French Tradition and the Literature of Medieval England.* University of Toronto Press: Toronto.

Camacho Ramos, Juan Manuel (2009) *Las elegías anglosajonas.* Quiasmo Editorial: Madrid.

Campell, James (1982) *The Anglo-Saxons.* Penguin Books: London.

Chronicles by Jean Froissart. Ed. Geoffrey Brereton. Penguin Classics; Reprint edition (1978).

- Dubin, Nathaniel E. & Bloch, R. Howard (2013) *The Fabliaux*. Liveright: New York.
- Eisner, Martin (2013) *Boccaccio and the Invention of Italian Literature (Cambridge Studies in Medieval Literature)*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- Gantz, Jeffrey (1982) *Early Irish Myths and Sagas*. Penguin Classics; Reprint edition: New York.
- Herlihy, David (1997) *The Black Death and the Transformation of the West*. Harvard University Press: Massachusetts.
- Hull, Caroline (2005) *Historical Atlas of the Medieval World*. Penguin Books: London.
- Klinck, Anne L. (2001) *The Old English Elegies*. McGill-Queen's University Press: Canada
- Krueger, Roberta L. (2000) *Medieval Romance*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- Lacy, Norris J. (1988) *The Arthurian Handbook*. Garland Publishing Inc.: New York.
- Le Morte D'Arthur*. Facsimile Edition of J.M. Dent's & Sons. Studio Editions: London (1990).
- Lerate, Jesús & Luis (1999) *Beowulf y otros poemas anglosajones*. Alianza Editorial: Madrid.
- Leslie, R.F. (1988) *Three Old English Elegies*. University of Exeter Press: Exeter.
- Mann (1973) *Chaucer and Medieval Estates Satire*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.
- Marsden, Richard (2004) *The Cambridge Old English Reader*. Cambridge University Press: London.
- Mayer, Hans E. (1972) *The Crusades*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.
- Pearl*. A new verse translation by Marie Borroff. Yale University: New York.
- Pearl*. An edition with verse translation by William Vantuono. University of Notre Dame Press: Indiana (1995).
- Shepherd, Stephen H. A. (1995) *Middle English Romances*. W.W. Norton & Company: New York.

- Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Transl. & Ed. Marie Borroff. W.W. Norton and Company: New York.
- Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Transl. & Ed. William Vantuono. University of Notre Dame Press: Indiana (1999).
- Stenton, Frank (1971) *Anglo-Saxon England*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.
- Strubel, Armand, et.al. (2000) *El arte de amar en la Edad Media*. Medievalia: Paris.
- Tasker, Joan (2002) *Tristan and Isolde: A Casebook*. Routledge: New York.
- The Anglo-Saxon World: An Anthology (Oxford World's Classics)*. Ed. Kevin Crossley-Holland. Oxford Paperbacks: Oxford (2009).
- The Arabian Nights*. Ed. Muhsin Mahdi. Transl. Husain Haddawy. W. W. Norton & Company: New York (2008).
- The Art of Courtly Love*. Andreas Capellanus. Ed. John Jay Parry. Columbia University Press: New York.
- The Canterbury Tales*. Geoffrey Chaucer. Ed. V.A. Kolve. W.W. Norton & Company: New York (2013).
- The Decameron* by Giovanni Boccaccio, Transl. Wayne A. Rebhorn. W. W. Norton & Company: New York (2014).
- The Lais of Marie de France*. Ed. Glyn S. Burgess. Penguin Books: London (1986).
- The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*. Ed. Michael Clanchy. Transl. Betty Radice. Penguin Books; Revised edition: New York (2004).
- The Riverside Chaucer*. Ed. Anthony Burgess. Oxford university Press: Oxford (1987).
- The Roman of the Rose*. Guillaume de Lorris & Jean de Meun. Transl. Charles Dahlberg. Princeton university Press: New Jersey (1971).
- The Saga of the Volsungs*. (Penguin Classics) Ed. Jesse L. Byock. Penguin Classics: New York (2001).
- Tristram and Yseut*. Bérout. Ed. Guy R. Mermier. Peter Lang: New York.
- Weston, Jessie L. (1914) *The Chief Middle English Poets*. Houghton Mifflin Co.: Boston.

----- (1993) *From Ritual to Romance*. Princeton University Press: New Jersey.

Further readings

Archibald, Elizabeth (2000) *A Companion to Malory*. D.S. Brewer: Cambridge.

Burgess, Glyn S & Pratt, Karen (2009) *The Arthur of the French: The Arthurian Legend in Medieval French and Occitan Literature (Arthurian Literature in the Middle Ages)*. University of Wales Press: Wales.

Burrow, J.A. (2004) *A Book of Middle English*. Wiley-Blackwell: London.

Brown, Peter (2009) *A Companion To Medieval English Literature and Culture c. 1350 - c. 1500*. Wiley-Blackwell: London.

Camacho Ramos, Juan Manuel (2009) *Sir Orfeo*. Quiasmo Editorial: Madrid.

De Casas, Felicia (1997) *Fabliaux: Cuentos franceses medievales*. Cátedra: Madrid.

Eco, Umberto (1986) *Art and Beauty in the Middle Ages*. Yale University Press: New Haven.

Entwistle, William J. (1975) *The Arthurian Legend in the Literature of the Spanish Peninsula*. Phaeton Press: New York.

Fraser, Antonia (1975) *The Lives of the Kings and Queens of England*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson: London.

Gibbs, Marion & Johnson, Sidney M. (2002) *Medieval German Literature: A Companion*. Routledge: New York.

Gies, Frances (1984) *The Knight in History*. Harper & Row. Publishers: New York.

Greenblatt, Stephen and Christ, Carol T. (2013) *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Major Authors, 9th Edition*. W. W. Norton & Company: New York.

Hainsworth, Peter & Robey, David (2003) *The Oxford Companion to Italian Literature*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.

Hindman, by Sandra & Bergeron, Ariane (2014) *Flowering of Medieval French Literature: Au parker que m'aprist ma mere*. Paul Holberton Publishing: London.

Horobin, Simon (2007) *Chaucer's Language*. Palgrave Macmillan: London.

Ker, W.P. (1931) *Epic and Romance: Essays on Medieval Literature*. MacMillan & Co. Ltd.: London.

- Lees, Clara A. (2013) *The Cambridge History of Early Medieval Literature*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- Lewis, C.S. (1936) *The Allegory of Love*. Harper One: New York.
(1962) *The Discarded Image*. Harper One: New York.
- Liuzza, R.M. (2002) *Old English Literature: Critical Essays*. Yale University Press: New Haven, Connecticut.
- Manion, Lee (2014) *Narrating the Crusades: Loss and Recovery in Medieval and Early Modern Literature*. Cambridge U.P.: Cambridge.
- Mayer, Hans E. (2001) *Historia de las Cruzadas*. Istmo: Madrid.
- Mayhew, A.L. (2011) *A Concise Dictionary of Middle English: from A.D. 1150 to 1580*. Create Space Independent Publishing Platform: London.
- Mitchell, Bruce (2011) *A Guide to Old English*. Wiley-Blackwell: London.
- Power, Eileen (2015) *Medieval English Nunneries*. Create Space Independent Publishing Platform: London.
- Roman de la Rosa*. Guillaume de Lorris & Jean de Meun. Ed. Juan Victorio. Cátedra: Madrid (1998).
- Sisam, Kenneth (Editor), Tolkien, J.R.R. (Editor) (2005) *A Middle English Reader and Vocabulary*. Dover Publications: Oxford.
- Steiner, Emily (2009) *Documentary Culture and the Making of Medieval English Literature (Cambridge Studies in Medieval Literature)*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- The Divine Comedy by Dante (The Inferno, The Purgatorio, and The Paradiso)*. Ed. John Ciardi. NAL: New York (2007).
- The Mabinogion*. Transl. Jeffrey Gantz. Penguin Books: London (1976).
- Wallace, David (1999) *Medieval English Literature*. Cambridge University Press: London.
- Williams, Mark A. E. (2013) *Essential Latin Vocabulary: The 1,425 Most Common Words Occurring in the Actual Writings of over 200 Latin Authors*. Sophron: Cambridge.

