

## EN 121: Medieval to Renaissance Literature

Module Convenor: **Dr Christiania Whitehead** term 1/ **Dr Paul Botley** terms 2 and 3

Seminar Tutor: **Dr Máté Vince** (Mate.Vince@Warwick.ac.uk; warwick.ac.uk/MateVince)

Office Hour: **Tuesday, 11–12, H 537.**

### Plan of the Module

#### Autumn Term 2013

Middle English Arthurian Romance

Week 2 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Fitt 1

Week 3 Fitt 2

Week 4 Fitt 3

Week 5 Fitt 4

Reading week (please read Chaucer's *General Prologue* to the *Canterbury Tales*)

Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*

Week 7 Chaucer, *The Miller's Tale* and *The Reeve's Tale*

Week 8 *The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale*

Week 9 *The Merchant's Tale*

Week 10 *The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale*

**Essay** of around 2000-2500 words on *The Canterbury Tales* and/or *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* to be handed in in week 10 of term 1.

**Middle English Translation test** – week 10. Time and date to be confirmed. One passage from *SGGK* for translation, over 40 minutes.

#### Spring Term 2014

Renaissance humanism

Week 1 Intro to Renaissance/Reformation. More's *Utopia* bk 1 (Norton Anthology)

Week 2 More's *Utopia* bk 2

Renaissance short poetic forms

Week 3 Renaissance Love and Desire: sonnets and lyrics (Norton Anthology, pp. 1000–23)

Week 4 Henrician court poetry: Sir Thomas Wyatt (Norton Anthology, pp. 646–61)

Week 5 Sir Philip Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella* (Norton Anthology, pp. 1084–1102)

Assignment: a choice of **Renaissance poetry/prose commentaries**. To be handed in Week 7.

Week 6 Reading week

Renaissance Poetic Theory

Week 7 Sir Philip Sidney, *The Defense of Poesy* (Norton Anthology, pp. 1044–84)

Renaissance long poetic forms: epic and epyllia

Week 8 Edmund Spenser, *Faerie Queene*, 'A Letter of the Authors', Book 1, cantos 1-6 (Norton Anthology, pp. 775–855)

Week 9 *Faerie Queene*, Book 1, cantos 7-12 (Norton Anthology, pp. 855–934)

Week 10 Epyllia: Marlowe's *Hero and Leander* (Norton Anthology, pp. 1107–26) and Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis*

**Vacation essay** of 2–2,500 words on Renaissance literature. To be handed in in week 1 of term 3.

#### Summer Term 2014

Week 1 or 2 Revision seminar (see seminar tutor for details)

### Texts to buy

- J.A. Burrow (ed.) *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, (Penguin) It is very important that you buy this edition and not any other.
- L. D. Benson (ed.) *The Riverside Chaucer* (Oxford)
- S. Greenblatt et al. (ed.) *The Norton Anthology of English Literature. The Sixteenth Century and Early Seventeenth Century. Volume B* (rev. 9th edition, Norton, 2012)

### Module Requirements

1. Attend lectures, seminars and textual classes (copied from UG Handbook, for details, see Handbook)
  - Attendance at lectures is expected.
  - Seminar group attendance is compulsory and a register is taken at each meeting
  - If you miss a seminar through illness you must contact the seminar tutor with an explanation. The tutor may ask you to provide a medical note to support your claim.
  - If you are absent for personal reasons other than illness you should inform the seminar tutor as well as your personal tutor of your absence. If the reasons for your absence are likely to affect your academic work you may wish to be considered as having Special Circumstances.

#### for first year students

2. Written work:
  - Term 1 Week 10: Unassessed essay of around 2000-2500 words on *The Canterbury Tales* and/or *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
  - Term 2 Week 7: unassessed commentary
  - Term 3 Week 1: Unassessed essay of 2-2,500 words on Renaissance literature
3. Exams
  - Term 1 Week 10: Middle English Translation test: One passage from SGGK for translation, over 40 minutes.
  - Term 3 (date tba): Final examination of three hours (100% examined)

#### for Honours level students and whole year visiting students:

2. Submit two assessed essays of 3,000 words (60%) and one unassessed commentary. (Second-year students will choose two unassessed essay topics to do in assessed form; they will submit essays at the times specified by tutors for unassessed essays).
3. Exams
  - Term 1 Week 10: Middle English Translation test: One passage from SGGK for translation, over 40 minutes.
  - Term 3 (date tba): Write final examination of 1 1/2 hours (40%) (answering questions 1 and 2 from exam paper)

#### Part-year visiting students

2. 3000 word essay for each term that they are resident; to be submitted by Tues, 12 noon, week 10, of the term in question.
3. Term 1 Week 10: Middle English Translation test: One passage from SGGK for translation, over 40 minutes.

### Examination

- 1 translation from *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, 12 marks
- 1 commentary from a choice of 4 medieval and renaissance seen and unseen poems and prose extracts, 24 marks
- 2 essays (one medieval, one renaissance), 64 marks