

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 609 L02 Topic 61

Winter 2014

Instructor: Dr. Murray McGillivray

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Office hours: Tuesday, 1:00 to 2:00, Wednesday, 1:00 to 2:00, or by appointment

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**Course description:**

This course takes advantage of the instructor's funded research into the Cotton Nero A.x. manuscript, which contains the important Middle English poems *Pearl*, *Cleanness*, *Patience*, and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. In particular, students will learn manuscript studies/book history and digital humanities approaches to study of these Middle English literary texts by engaging in projects that make use of the high-definition digital manuscript photographs, or the electronic texts produced by the project, or both. More traditional critical study will also be a focus of the course conversation, and in addition to creating a brief annotated bibliography of very recent work on the poems, students will have the option of presenting either a traditional critical term paper or a continuation of their manuscript studies/digital humanities project as a final product. Students do not need to read Middle English or have a digital humanities background to succeed in the course: these skills will be taught and practiced.

**Texts and Readings:**

Most readings will be online, including the texts, editions, and commentaries currently under development in the Cotton Nero A.x. Project, which will be provided in a Dropbox folder accessible to registered students. In addition, the following text is available in the Bookstore:

Andrew, Malcolm, and Ronald Waldron, eds. *The Poems of the Pearl Manuscript: Pearl, Cleanness, Patience, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Exeter UK: U of Exeter P, 2007.

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

Digital edition project

30% of course grade

Each student will prepare a digital edition of a few pages of one of the poems in the manuscript, beginning with description of the manuscript pages, transcription of the text and authoring of paleographical notes, and proceeding to development of a critical textual edition with textual and explanatory notes and glossary. In the course of this work, students will learn critical editing concepts and the following manuscript studies and digital humanities skills: manuscript description including elementary codicology, paleography and paleographic description, TEI XML authoring, XSL for transformations, HTML hypertext, and CSS including @font-face for Web publication.

Annotated bibliography

20% of course grade

Each student will prepare an annotated bibliography of eight to ten recently-published critical articles on the poems in the manuscript. In the course of this work, students will learn or hone skills in bibliographical research and abstracting.

Class participation

20% of course grade

We will read through the poems of the manuscript during the course of the term and discuss them. Students who enter the course without Middle English will be able to use the translations provided on the Andrew and Waldron accompanying CD-ROM to ease the task of preparation in the early weeks, but will gradually learn to read the Middle English itself. The participation grade is not awarded for the volume of contributions to class discussion alone, but is particularly based on the acuity, clarity, helpfulness, relevance, critical acumen, and intellectual rigor of those contributions.

Final project

30% of course grade

The final project can either be an expansion or development of the work presented in the digital edition project (i.e. a further digital edition project incorporating the results obtained in the first project but going significantly further in some way to be negotiated with the instructor), or an essay. Essay projects will be contributions to current critical dialogue suitable, in length, style, and awareness of the critical environment, for presentation as a conference paper at a professional conference, but they will include MLA-style references and a Works Cited page rather than being a pure script for oral presentation. The final class will consist of oral presentation of essays or demonstrations of digital editions by all students.

There is no Registrar-scheduled final examination in this course.

All assignments must be completed in order to obtain a passing grade in the course.

**Grading system:**

Grades are calculated according to the 4 point scale used in the *Graduate Calendar*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-e-1.html>

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted towards Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	
F	0.00	

Split grades on assignments are also calculated according to the *Graduate Calendar* grading system, e.g., an A/A- is a 3.85; a B/B- is a 2.85. Also note that the *University Calendar* states that the instructor has the "discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average . . . is between two letter grades."

The instructor may assign grades between points on the official grading system, such as "A-/B+." Grades of this kind will be calculated into your final grade as the mathematical average of the two grade-point figures (for example, A- has a grade-point equivalent of 3.7, and B+ has a grade-point equivalent of 3.3, so a grade of "A-/B+" will be calculated as 3.5).

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

Please note that grades below B- are indicative of failure in graduate courses.

**Plagiarism:**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

**English Department Website:**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/graduate>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

**Writing support:**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

**Library and Research Support:**

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact:

[maboyd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboyd@ucalgary.ca)

Find *The English Pages* research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

**Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:****Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Department of English's graduate website for courses, departmental deadlines, and other related program information at

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/node/245>. Consult the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar for university and faculty regulations, dates, deadline, fees, and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar is <http://grad.ucalgary.ca>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Barbara Howe at 403 220 5484 or visit her in Social Sciences Tower 1148 in the first instance.

For program planning and advice, contact Barbara Howe at [howe@ucalgary.ca](mailto:howe@ucalgary.ca) to make an appointment with Dr. Jacqueline Jenkins, Graduate Program Director.

**Grade appeals:**

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that "mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision."

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

**Deferral of term work and final examinations:**

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

**Academic Accommodation:**

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at [www.ucalgary.ca/access](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access).

**Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

**"Safewalk" Program:**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

**Contact for the Graduate Student Association:** <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>

**Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

**Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):**

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not.

Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

### **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>) "The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.