

Hauptseminar: Literary Environments of Middle English Poetry

Term:	Summer 2016	Instructor:	Dr P. S. Langeslag
Time:	Tue 10–12	Office:	SEP 2.306
Room:	Verfügungsgebäude 1.105	Phone:	0551 3919706
Credits:	6 (incl. lecture for some modules)	Office hours:	Wed 2–3
Prerequisites:	B.EP.204	E-mail:	planges@gwdg.de

Course Description

In the wake of the spatial turn and two waves of ecocriticism, it is time to take stock of the functions and effects of physical settings in Middle English poetry. We will read a range of chivalric romances and a couple of visions, but we will also explore critical thought on the role of landscape, ecology, and the place of humankind in the medieval literary environment.

Aims

Students will improve their understanding of, and learn to engage with:

- Middle English verse
- Critical approaches to literary landscape and environment
- Theoretical perspectives on humankind's place in its ecological context

Assessment

- Students in the Basismodul (M.EP.02b/-L) have a choice of assessment: one final exam or one 5,000-word term paper.
- Students in the Aufbaumodul (M.EP.05b) write a 7,500-word term paper.
- Undergraduate students (B.EP.11b) write a 7,500-word paper.
- Comparative Literature (M.Kom.05) students write a 48,000-character paper.

The Basismodul exam runs 90 minutes and includes open questions based on the associated lecture course (33% of assessment) as well as an essayistic examination of the literature and its themes as discussed in class and in secondary readings. All students are expected to complete up to three ungraded preliminary assignments as an entry requirement into the assessment stage (see the Debates and Presentations handouts for week one); paper writers are furthermore required to report on their paper topic and submit an outline.

Paper Submission

Term papers are to be submitted via turnitin.com. All paper writers are required to create a Turnitin account and register for class ID 12472019 (password k%#321b) prior to starting their draft. Since Turnitin uses a plagiarism checker, signing up for the class on turnitin.com means agreeing to the use of a plagiarism checker. Students may also choose to use Turnitin's revision assistant with its prewriting mode for automated feedback on early drafts; just don't let the limited formatting options of the online drafting environment dictate your final layout.

**BECAUSE A PLAGIARISM REPORT IS FILED AUTOMATICALLY UPON SUBMISSION,
BE EXTREMELY DILIGENT TO CITE EACH ONE OF YOUR SOURCES CORRECTLY.**

Lateness Policy

Essays are due by email by the end of Friday, 26 August 2016. Wait for my written confirmation of receipt, which constitutes proof of submission. Essays may be submitted up to seven days late without penalty. After the end of Friday, 2 September 2016 and on every third day thereafter, 0.3 points will automatically be subtracted for papers submitted past that point. The system is thus fully autonomous and an extension is already built in. Further extensions should not be requested except in

demonstrable cases of medical impediment that render a student unable to write for at least seven days in the second half of August.

All students must sign up for their choice of examination in good time, including those who write the term paper. Regulations do not allow instructors to submit grades for students who have not signed up in time.

Diversity Statement

This course is run with the understanding that students bring a variety of backgrounds into the classroom in such domains as socioeconomic, appearance, culture, religion, disability, gender, age, family situation, and sexual identity. With different backgrounds come different needs. If you feel your needs or those of a fellow student require special attention or are being compromised, please feel free to make this known to me by whatever channel seems most appropriate. (For more serious concerns, the Department, Faculty, and University each have their own points of contact as well.) I will treat all requests seriously and with confidentiality, and will seek to make accommodations within my abilities and reason. At the same time, you too owe it to your fellow students to treat them with respect regardless of their background and identity. University should be awesome — for everyone.

Required Texts and Resources

Several of our primary readings are available online at d.lib.rochester.edu/teams; everything else will be made available via StudIP. Course reserves have been set up in the Central Library, Reading Room 1 (directly above the staircase). Handouts, lecture slides, and lists of key concepts will be made available at studium.langeslag.org/env16, so bookmark this site.

The schedule on the next page indicates the length of each set text; it is your own responsibility to plan smart and keep ahead of your readings. Also remember to plan extra time ahead of your assignment weeks (outlines and presentation).

Schedule

Sess.	Date	Theoretical Theme and Readings	Literary Theme and Readings
1	12 Apr	Ecocriticism Ganim, "Landscape and Late Medieval Literature" (12 pp.) White, "The Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis" (5 pp.)	Nature Openings Materials provided in class (130 ll.)
2	19 Apr	Wilderness Saunders, "The Origins of the Romance Forest" (24 pp.)	The Forest and the Court <i>Sir Launfal</i> (1044 ll.; eds. Laskaya & Salisbury)
3	26 Apr	Deep Ecology Fromm, "From Transcendence to Obsolescence" (10 pp.) Manes, "Nature and Silence" (12 pp.)	The Book of Nature Emerson, "Nature" (45 pp.)
4	3 May	Dreamscapes Kruger, "Dreaming" (18 pp.)	Dreams and Visions <i>The Parliament of Fowls</i> (699 ll.; ed. Benson)
5	10 May	Nature and Culture Bonnemaison, "The Revival of the Cultural Approach" (37 pp.)	Exile and Paradise <i>Sir Orfeo</i> (604 ll.; eds. Laskaya & Salisbury)
6	17 May	The City Nolan, "Chaucer's Poetics of Dwelling in <i>Troilus and Criseyde</i> " (19 pp.)	<i>Troilus and Criseyde</i> Selections from <i>T&C</i> (ed. Benson): Book I, lines 155–392; Book II, lines 498–686; Book III, lines 505–1253 (1173 ll. total)
7	24 May	Relativism and the Other Kearney, "Aliens and Others" (18 pp.) PAPER TOPICS DUE	The Forest Castle <i>Sir Gawain and the Carl of Carlisle</i> (660 ll.; ed. Hahn)
8	31 May	READING WEEK; NO CLASS	I recommend you read all of <i>SGGK</i> (2530 ll.) this week!
9	7 June	The Chronotope Gurevich, "Medieval Chronotope" (14 pp.)	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> <i>SGGK</i> fitt 1 (lines 1–490; ed. Garbáty)
10	14 June	Pathetic Fallacy Putter, "The Landscape of Courtly Romance" (41 pp.)	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> <i>SGGK</i> fitt 2 (lines 491–1125; ed. Garbáty)
11	21 June	Boundaries of the Self Evernden, "Beyond Ecology" (12 pp.) George, "Gawain's Struggle with Ecology" (10 pp.)	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> <i>SGGK</i> fitt 3 (lines 1126–1997; ed. Garbáty)
12	28 June	Landscape Symbolism Langeslag, <i>Seasons in the Literatures of the Medieval North</i> , 193–204 (section on <i>SGGK</i>) PAPER OUTLINES DUE	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> <i>SGGK</i> fitt 4 (lines 1998–2530; ed. Garbáty)
13	5 July	NO CLASS — exam prep session TBD	
14	12 July	Transcendental Environments Adams, "Transactions of Satisfaction and Visions of the Otherworld" (37 pp.)	Heaven and Hell <i>The Vision of Tundale</i> (at least lines 1–874 and 2291–2380; ed. Foster)
15	19 July	EXAM (NB in VG 3.101!)	
	26 Aug	PAPERS DUE	

References and Further Reading

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