

B.EP.401 Vertiefungsmodul: Peer Assisted Medieval English Studies

Term: Summer 2013–2014
Time: Thu 16–18 (weeks 1 and 3)
Room: KWZ 0.601
Credits: 8
Prerequisites: B.EP.301

Instructor: Dr P.S. Langeslag
Office: SEP 2.306
Phone: 0551/3919706
Office hours: Wed 2–3
E-mail: planges@gwdg.de

Course Description

In this course, students will write an independent research paper of 5,000 words on the subject of medieval English language, literature, and/or culture. Note that Dr Dirk Schultze teaches a separate section in which he will supervise primarily Middle English topics; this section is for primarily Old English topics. Please register for the appropriate section.

Assessment

Assessment rests solely on a research paper of 5,000 words, due Friday 29 August at midnight. However, the right to submit this paper is contingent upon the timely submission of an outline and a draft of 2,500 words, due Monday 30 June at midnight.

Required Texts and Resources

I have gathered a selection of relevant links and information at studium.langeslag.org/peer. You are also expected to work religiously with

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

I recommend that you purchase it: the SEP library has only one reference copy, as does the SUB.

Topics

It is recommended that essays fall within one of the following areas of research:

- The natural world
- Old Testament literature
- *Beowulf*
- Vikings / Old Norse
- Semantic fields
- MS Junius 11

Schedule

wk	date	topic	read	due
1	24 Apr	Finding a topic		
3	8 May	Composition	Turabian chs 1–2	Research question
8	9–13 June	Progress meetings (times TBD)	Turabian chs 5–7, 15; MLA Handbook § 1.8	Thesis statement; elevator pitch
11	30 June		Turabian chs 3–4, 9–12	Draft (2,500 words)
	5–8 Aug	Progress meetings (times TBD)	Turabian chs 20–5	
	29 Aug			Essay (5,000 words)

Requirements

The course's mandatory two-step submission trains students in the crucial skills of revision and responding to feedback. At the same time, it gives them an opportunity to correct mistakes and improve the end product.

Draft

The draft should be at least 2,500 words long and accompanied by a detailed **sentence outline** following the guidelines in the *MLA Handbook* (§1.8). It should deal with some aspect of medieval English language, literature, and/or culture, with reference to at least one text in the original language. Ideally, you will base your draft on your own ideas about the text, leaving (the bulk of) your secondary readings for the final version.

Final Paper

Your paper should be within a 10% margin of 5,000 words and refer to at least one text in the original language and at least two secondary sources. The following marking grid indicates the considerations used to mark papers for this course:

Aspect	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Argument										
Structure										
Close reading & analysis										
Structural use of primary sources										
Use of secondary sources										
Grasp of source language										
Cultural context										
Command of academic English										
Mechanics (style, referencing, formatting)										
Length										

Both assignments are to be submitted through StudIP in PDF, TeX, ODT, DOCX, or DOC format.