

San José State University
English Department
English 216, Medieval Literature, Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Nancy Stork
Faculty Office	Faculty Offices Building 218 and ZOOM
Email:	Nancy.Stork@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	T 9 - 10 am, Thursday 12 noon - 1 pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Thursday, 4:00-6:45
Classroom:	ZOOM link is available on CANVAS

Course Description

This class is an introduction to the literature of medieval Europe and the methods of studying earlier literature. We will look at linguistic developments, historical backgrounds, textual history and cultural context. Chaucer will be read in the original Middle English. Not to worry! Middle English can be mastered with just a modest effort at learning some new grammatical features.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Use the history of the Middle Ages to make informed analyses of medieval texts.
Learn how to read and translate Middle English.

Required Texts/Readings

Beowulf, trans. Roy Liuzza Broadview
The Canterbury Tales: A Selection, ed. Boenig and Taylor, Broadview Press
Njal's Saga, Penguin
The Letters of Heloise and Abelard, Penguin

Course Requirements and Assignments

Reaction Paper to <i>Beowulf</i>	10%
Reaction Paper to <i>Njal's Saga</i>	10%
Reaction Paper to <i>Letters of Heloise and Abelard</i>	10%
Chaucer Translation Quiz	20%
Oral presentation	10%
Final Paper	40%

Final Paper of 3,000 words is a major research project that incorporates linguistic, literary, cultural and historical research and theory into a significant problem of medieval scholarship.

Late Policy:

In the case of a documented, genuine and compelling emergency beyond the student's control, late work can be accepted up to one week late. For missed deadlines, there will be a full grade penalty and work must be submitted within one week. Any work later than one week can only be accepted with a two full grade penalty.

The usual percentages apply:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>		96 to 100%
<i>A</i>		93 to 95.9%
<i>A minus</i>		90 to 92.9%
<i>B plus</i>		86 to 89.9 %
<i>B</i>		83 to 85.9%
<i>B minus</i>		80 to 82.9%

University Policies (Required)

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>". **Make sure to visit this page, review and be familiar with these university policies and resources.**

ENGLISH 216 Medieval Literature, Fall 2021

Course Schedule

Week (Optional)	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)
1	Aug 19	Introduction to course and first 3 sections of <i>Beowulf</i> Please read all the supplementary materials in addition to the text.
2	Aug 26	<i>Beowulf</i> , Sections 4-23 <u>REACTION PAPER TO BEOWULF</u>
3	Sep 2	<i>Beowulf</i> , Sections 24-43
4	Sep 9	Chaucer, <i>General Prologue</i> 1-100 (Knight), 118-162 (Prioress), 285-330 (Clerk), 669-714 (Pardoner) <i>Knight's Tale</i>

Week (Optional)	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)
5	Sep 16	Chaucer, <i>Clerk's Tale</i>
6	Sep 23	Chaucer, <i>Pardoner's Tale</i>
7	Sep 30	Chaucer, <i>Nun's Priest's Tale</i>
8	Oct 7	<u>MIDDLE ENGLISH TRANSLATION QUIZ</u> <i>Njal's Saga</i> , Chapters 1-44
9	Oct 14	<i>Njal's Saga</i> , Chapters 45-130 <u>REACTION PAPER TO NJAL'S SAGA</u>
10	Oct 21	<i>Njal's Saga</i> , Chapters 131-159
11	Oct 28	Heloise and Abelard, <i>Historia Calamitatum</i> <u>REACTION PAPER TO HELOISE AND ABELARD</u>
12	Nov 4	Heloise and Abelard, <i>Letters 2 - 6</i>
13	Nov 11	No Class - Veteran's Day
13	Nov 18	Oral Presentations of your final topics
14	Nov 25	No Class - Thanksgiving
15	Dec 2	Oral Presentations of your final topics
		Final Papers DUE, December 13, 2021 midnight