



**ENG 34001 Section 700 CRN: 18779**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS (Updated: 1/27/2024)**

**Dr. Carol L. Robinson**

Email: [clrobins@kent.edu](mailto:clrobins@kent.edu)

Website: [cyberspacerobinson.org](http://cyberspacerobinson.org)



**Office Hours:**

Sign up for a [conference appointment](#) to meet with me via [KSU Google Chat](#).

**First Day of Classes:** January 16, 2024

**Last Day to Add a Full Term Class or Change**

**Sections:** January 22, 2024

**Last Day to Drop:** January 29, 2024

**Midterm Grades Available:** March 4, 2024

**Spring Break (No Classes):** March 25–31, 2024

**Last Day to Withdraw ("W" grade):** April 1, 2024

**SEE The Solar Eclipse:** April 8, 2024

**Remembrance Day:** May 4, 2024

**Last Day of Classes:** May 5, 2024

**Final Exam Week:** May 6-12, 2024

**COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

Medieval literary themes, genres, and authors studied in their historical and cultural contexts. Selections from Anglo-Saxon and Middle English literature.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Students will demonstrate understanding through discussion and writing about English literature of the British Middle Ages.
- Students will be able to classify and examine poetry and prose, as it develops in the English language.
- Students will be able to identify important works and writers of British medieval times.
- Students will learn about the evolution of the English language.
- Students will learn how elements of the medieval still exist today (medievalism).

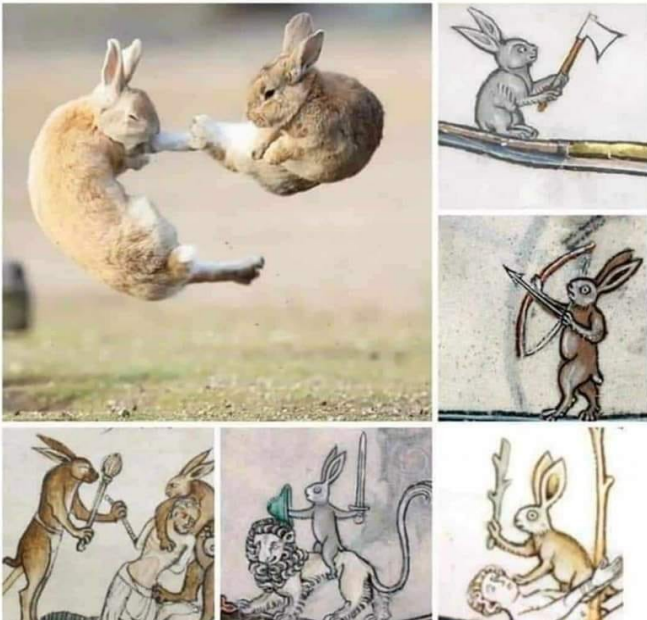
**COURSE DESCRIPTION IN DETAIL**

*This course is 100% online and asynchronous.* This course makes use of the following online spaces.

- The lessons and many of the assignments are located on my private server space: <https://cyberspacerobinson.org/ENG34001/>. All the course lessons are housed here. All of the course readings are either housed or linked from here. Most of the assignments are also kept here. The lessons are password protected; **the password is located in the Start Here module in Canvas.**
- KSU Canvas (located through KSU Flashline – <https://login.kent.edu/>): This is the official KSU home for the course. The above course home and other materials and assignments are linked to or located in this site. You can find your grades for assignments here.
- **The UNICORN Castle Medieval Time Warp Carnival**, which is a Task Force project of **The UNICORN Castle**. This particular space is a pre-constructed setting to which I will be adding objects to be explored, as a part of some of the course lessons. (Some day, I hope to use a space that I'm building myself, but that day isn't today, or even this year.) You will also have an opportunity (if you wish—this is not a requirement) to build up a space for the Castle (*see Assignments, below*).
- **KSU Google Drive:**

- We will be using KSU Google Chat for online conferences. These conferences will use the text-chat feature, only (no video or voice). The reason for that is because our discussion will be automatically saved, so you can go back and look at it for reference.
- If your Special Project (see below) becomes too large to share via email, I will ask you to use KSU Google Drive to share it with me. You can always open up your KSU Google Drive account through Flashline (<https://login.kent.edu/>).
- [WeJoinIn.com](https://www.wejoinin.com/): This is an online sign-up sheet for making an appointment to meet with me, for Mandatory Conferences.

## Taking away their weapons at the end of the Middle Ages just made bunnies more proficient in hand-to-hand combat



Did you know that the pronoun "they" was first used as a singular pronoun in the Middle English story "William and the Werewolf" (1375)? This course covers medieval literary themes, genres, and authors studied in their historical and cultural contexts. Students will study English literature created between 500-1500 C.E., will learn to read Middle English, and (by the end of the semester) should be able to recite "How much wood can a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood" in Old English. In addition to "William and the Werewolf," we will read *Beowulf*, Old English riddles and charms, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, narrative poetry by Geoffrey Chaucer, selections from the *Book of Margery Kempe*, and numerous other works. This course is reading British medieval literature within historical context: Medieval England was a conglomerate of literary cultures that directly engaged with three major language groups: English, Celtic language, and Anglo-Norman French. The topics of literature crossed national borders: from as far northeast as what is today known as Sweden and Norway to as far south as France and Italy. This course covers British Literature written prior to 1500 C.E., exploring medieval British literary themes, genres, and authors studied within their relevant historical and cultural contexts

(religion, politics, gender and other social codes, and science and technology). Readings for this course include a wide range of pieces of literature, ranging from conservative religious orthodoxy to items that are essentially dirty jokes.

**ATTENTION ENGLISH MAJORS:** ENG 34001 (Medieval Literature) counts as a Category C (Early Period) English historical literature elective.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** There is no required purchase of texts. All works will be provided for you within the password-protected course lessons.

### INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY AND RESPONSE TIME

- *I'm here for you. If you work hard, I will work hard to help you.*
- My office hours are online and by appointment. Feel free to sign up for an online conference appointment; if none of the appointment times work for you, please email me with times that you are available. See the sign-up sheets available online, linked to the course site.
- Feel free to email me whenever you have questions or concerns (clobins@kent.edu). As a rule, I respond rather quickly to emails, often within the same hour. If you email me over the weekend (Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon), I am likely to respond less quickly, but will do so by the end of the weekend. *Please allow for at least 72 hours response time.*



- I am frequently available for online conferences (text-chat) via KSU Google Chat. Feel free to sign up for a conference appointment; you do not have to wait for your mandatory conference appointment to meet with me. To find the sign-up sheets, go to the [Online Conference Appointments](#) page, located at the off-Canvas course site.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

### Discussion Board 15% (150 Points)

This is your source for support and communicating on potential group or partner projects. There is a participation grade for this discussion board, but I will not be evaluating the quality of your contributions—except in terms of relevance to the topics, and except for the first “Greetings” topics, all topics will be relevant to the study of medieval literature. **You must post at least once-a-week, and your post must be at least 100 words long.** How long that post is does not at all matter, as long as it contributes to or initiates discussion of a relevant topic.

What counts:

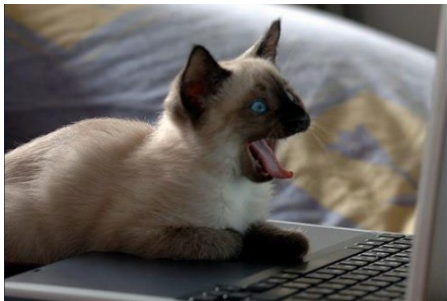
- Questions about the items we are studying.
- Comments about the items we are studying. (And it’s okay if you want to express how much you hate something— you have a right to have your own tastes (no matter how lousy they may be) in literature.)
- Questions and comments about assignments or lessons.

What doesn’t count:

- Simple, slightly vague or insignificant short (underdeveloped) comments, such as
  - “Sounds good!”
  - “I don’t understand.”
  - “I’m board.”
  - “I completely agree with you.”
- Complaints about the course.
- Compliments about the course.
- Advertisements
- Comments or questions not directly relevant to the course content

A Few Words about Alarming Student Writing:

Think about what you are writing. Writing therapy is good, and everyone should express themselves that way,



but consider the effect of such writing upon others. Check your writing to be sure that you truly want your words to be read by a general public audience, much less by another individual.

Students should be aware that writing, by its very nature, can be misunderstood. In addition, students should know that their instructors are responsible for reporting any evidence of a student’s possible intent to harm themselves or to harm others.

Therefore, please avoid putting in writing anything that could be taken out of context, regardless of the intent, which would

necessitate an instructor’s taking action to clarify the matter or to protect the student or others from harm.

### Exams 45% (450 Points)

- **Exam One 10% (100 Points):** Medieval Literature, Language, and Poetics
- **Exam Two 15% (150 Points):** Medieval Literature, Language, Poetics, Culture, and Identity
- **Final Exam 30% (300 Points):** Medieval Literature, Language, Poetics, Culture, Identity, and Medievalism

These exams will be “open books/open notes”. They will contain some short answer questions, some short essay questions, and require you to somehow record your reading aloud of samples of medieval language literature (there will be options for this part). Except for the reading aloud of language part, I am not at all interested in

recitation of the lessons: I will be evaluating your ability to put concepts of particular lessons together to analyze and show an understanding of larger concepts (of the “big picture”). These exams are structured to allow you to fumble around in the beginning of the semester, without ruining your course grade. If you do not do so well on the first exam, in other words, you will have an opportunity to significantly raise your exam grades with the next two exams.

**Special Project 30% (300 Points)**

You will have a choice as to the form/medium in which you wish to present your project:

- As a standard researched paper (roughly 2,000-2,500 words long, or 8-10 pages long).
- As a video (roughly 15-20 minutes long).
- As a constructed space in the UNICORN Castle (equivalent in size to 3-5 “booths” of the Medievalism Time Warp Carnival, or 3-4 walls and the center of a standard meeting room).
- As a combination of these three media.

You may work with other students to create parts of a larger project. So, for example, you may work together with a group of students to create numerous booths in your own carnival setting. For another example, you may work with a single partner to create a 30-40 minute video. For a final

example, you may work with two other partners: one would create something in the UNICORN Castle, another would create a video, and the third would generate a standard researched paper—in this case, each part must have content that contributes to the larger whole (not a repeat of same information in three different formats).

This project is divided up into several parts:

- Part I: Project Proposal (50 Points)
- Part II: Mandatory Conference #1(25 Points)
- Part III: Project Outline/Storyboard/Plan (50 Points)
- Part IV: First Draft of Project (50 Points)
- Part V: Mandatory Conference #2 (25 Points)
- Part VI: Final Draft of Project (100 Points)

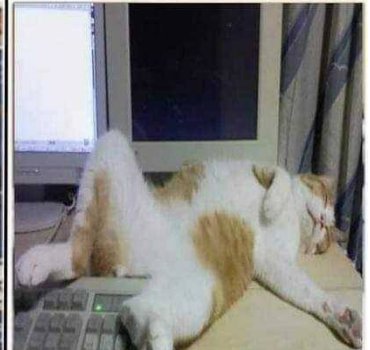
**Cats in Middle Ages:**

- hard working
- went to church
- walked on hind legs
- contributed to society



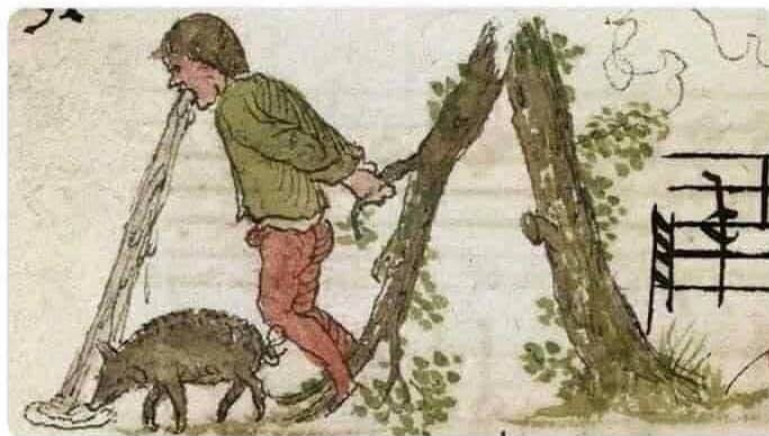
**Cats now :**

- lazy and ungrateful
- atheists
- too lazy to walk on hind legs



monk: just a normal letter 'M' please

scribe:



**GRADES**

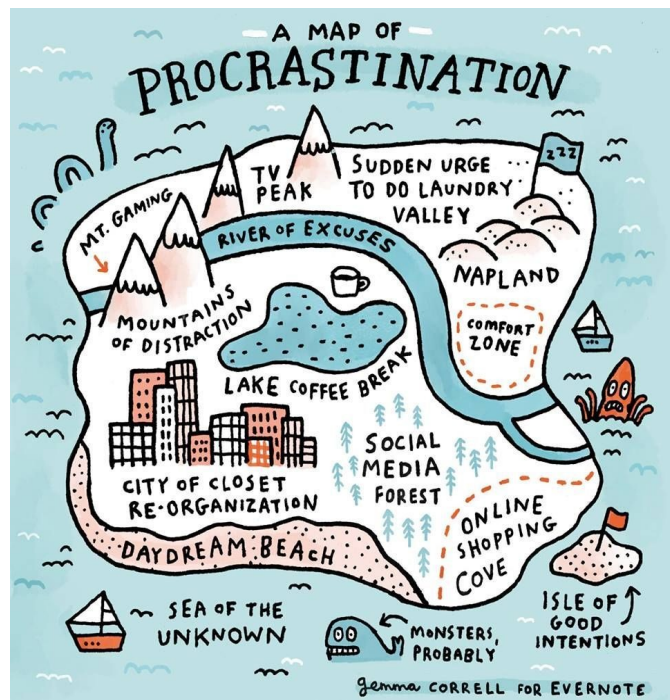
All assignments will be weighted according to the percentage value. All assignments will be evaluated on a 100 point scale as follows:

LETTER GRADE	200 Point Scale	150 Point Scale	100 Point Scale	50 Point Scale	FINAL GRADE Conversion
A	200-190	150-143	100-95	50	4.0
A-	189-180	142-135	94-90	46	3.7
B+	179-174	134-130	89-87	44	3.3
B	173-170	129-127	86-85	42	3.0
B-	169-160	126-120	84-80	41	2.7
C+	159-154	119-115	79-77	39	2.3
C	153-150	114-112	76-75	37	2.0
C-	149-140	111-105	74-70	36	1.7
D+	139-134	104-100	69-67	34	1.3
D	133-130	99-97	66-65	33	1.0
D-	129-120	96-90	64-60	31	***
F	110	82	55	27	0.0

**NOTES:** No grade ever goes above the highest possible points; likewise, no graded work ever goes below the lowest possible points; however, if an assignment is never submitted, or is submitted too late to be graded, it will receive ZERO points.

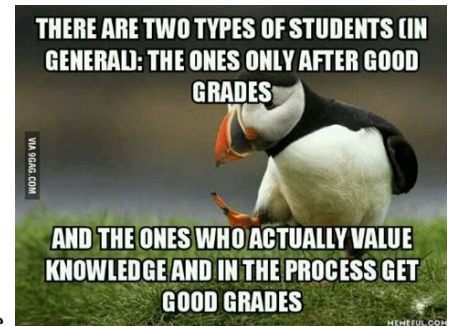
**A FEW WORDS REGARDING LATE WORK**

- **Discussion Board entries** posted after the deadline will not be considered for credit. All discussion board entries must be posted by 11:59pm (Ohio time) on Saturdays—except for the first week (see the Course Plan).
- **Research Project work** will be accepted after the deadlines; however, for each day a work is late, the score for that part of the work will be reduced by 0.5% of its total grade.
- **Exams** may not be made-up or submitted late for any reason other than a documented illness, documented family death, or documented official school event in which you are expected to participate; you must provide me with documentation prior to the make-up exam. In other words, with few exceptions, **EXAMS SUBMITTED LATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- **NEVER EXCUSED:** Computer malfunctions, internet disruptions, and similar technological difficulties are not forms of excuse for late and/or missing work. If you have technical difficulties, you are responsible for working around them—or, in the case of using the UNICORN Castle, reaching out to me for technical help at least 72 hours prior to the due date.



**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Enrollment:** University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking their class schedule (using Student Tools in Flashline) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.



**Academic Engagement Verification:** In compliance with federal regulations, the University is required to report that enrolled students have participated in at least one academically related activity. If no academic activity is submitted by the end of the fourth week of the semester (for a full-term course) then a grade of NF (Never attended F) will be assigned. The NF mark will count as an F in computing grade point averages. Students who have received an NF mark will lose their access to Canvas.

To avoid an NF mark, students must participate in at least one academic activity as soon as possible and no later than the end of the fourth week. Examples of some of the acceptable academically related activity are: physically attended the course (does not apply to online courses), submitted an academic assignment, completed an interactive tutorial, initiated contact with the instructor to ask a question about the academic subject matter, submitted an exam or quiz, participated in an online discussion about academic matters.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Kent State University is committed to inclusive and accessible education experiences for all students. University Policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to course content. Students with disabilities are encouraged to connect with Student Accessibility Services as early as possible to establish accommodations. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on a disability (including mental health, chronic medical conditions, or injuries), please contact Elaine Shively at [eshively@kent.edu](mailto:eshively@kent.edu) or at 330.675.8932.

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

University policy 3-01.8 deals with the problem of academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism. None of these will be tolerated in this class. The sanctions provided for in this policy will be used to deal with any violations. If you have questions, please read the policy at <http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/administrative-policy-regarding-student-cheating-and-plagiarism> and/or ask your instructor.



## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

*Endorsed by Faculty Senate, 2/14/2022*

Kent State University is committed to the creation and maintenance of equitable and inclusive learning spaces. This course is a learning environment where all will be treated with respect and dignity, and where all individuals will have an equitable opportunity to succeed. The diversity that each student brings to this course is viewed as a strength and a benefit. Dimensions of diversity and their intersections include but are not limited to: race, ethnicity, national origin, primary language, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, mental and physical abilities, socio-economic status, family/caregiver status, and veteran status.

The University welcomes individuals from all different faiths, philosophies, religious traditions, and other systems of belief, and supports their respective practices. In compliance with University policy and the Ohio Revised Code, the University permits students to request class absences for up to three (3) days, per semester, in order to participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or other religious or spiritual organization. Students will not be penalized as a result of any of these excused absences. The request for excusal must be made, in writing, during the first fourteen (14) days of the semester and include the date(s) of each proposed absence.

or request for alternative religious accommodation. The request must clearly state that the proposed absence is to participate in religious activities. The request must also provide the particular accommodation(s) you desire. You will be notified by me if your request is approved, or, if it is approved with modification. I will work with you in an effort to arrange a mutually agreeable alternative arrangement. For more information regarding this Policy, you may contact the Student Ombuds ([ombuds@kent.edu](mailto:ombuds@kent.edu)).

The KSU Trumbull Campus [Building Black Leaders Program](#)'s mission is to "Enrich and empower Black, Biracial, and Multi-racial students to become leaders in the classroom, community, and in the lives of others." For more information, contact Tiffany Tyree ([ttyree@kent.edu](mailto:ttyree@kent.edu)).

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Endorsed by Faculty Senate 10/10/2022*

We acknowledge that the lands of Kent State University were the previous homes of people who were removed from this area without their consent by the colonial practices of the United States government. Before removal, these groups created networks that extended from Wyoming to the Florida Coast and Appalachia and to the northern reaches of Lake Superior. These societies included people of the Shawnee, Seneca-Cayuga, Delaware, Wyandots, Ottawa and Miami. We honor their lives – both past and present – and strive to move beyond remembrance toward reflection and responsibility through honest accounts of the past and the development of cultural knowledge and community.

## SOCIAL SERVICES

- If you are in need of mental health assistance, please know that the University provides several resources. [Step Up & Speak Out](#) is a suicide prevention campaign with one of the most comprehensive lists of resources available for students, including [campus-specific information](#). You can also find a list of resources, including domestic violence at [Mental Health Help](#). Kent State also offers [Psychological Services](#), including teletherapy.
- If you are struggling with attaining food, please contact Nancy Barker ([nbarker4@kent.edu](mailto:nbarker4@kent.edu)), who runs the campus Care Closet. Additionally, you might qualify for assistance from the [Ohio Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) or from the [Ohio Foodbanks Organization](#).
- If you are struggling with housing and other basic care needs, please contact the [Trumbull County Homeless Shelters and Social Services](#), the [Ohio Homeless Shelter Directory](#), or [Beatitude House](#).
- These sites also provide information for women in need of shelter, but if you are a victim of domestic violence (regardless of gender), you can also contact the [Ohio Domestic Violence Network](#), [Domestic Shelters of Ohio Directory](#), or even the [Kent State Women's Center](#).



## SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING STRESS:

If you become stressed or find yourself not doing well in the course, don't "disappear" from the class. Instead, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am here for you. If you work hard, I will work hard to help you do as well as possible in the course. However, if you stop doing the course work, I will have no choice than to assume that you have given up on the course, and I will begin to give up on you. Even then, however, if you make the effort to reach out to me for help, as long as it is not too late, I will do what I can to help you succeed.

***No work will be accepted after  
May 11, 2024 (11:59pm, EST)!***

