

ENG 34001 (CRN 17972—SEC 700)



This is Kent State University Trumbull Campus Course that is 100% online and asynchronous.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Dr. Carol L. Robinson

Email: clrobins@kent.edu

Website: cyberspacerobinson.org

Office Hours:

Sign up for a conference appointment to meet with me via KSU Google Chat. I am typically available at least five hours each week.

First Day of Classes: January 12

Last Day to Add a Full Term Class or Change Sections: January 18

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No Classes): January 19

Spring Break (No Classes): March 9-15

Last Day to Withdraw ("W" grade): March 29

Midterm Grades Available: after March 1

Last Day of Classes: May 3

Final Exams Week: May 4-10

Final Grades Available: on or after May 13

At any time during the semester, please feel free to stop by my office (during my office hours), email me (clrobins@kent.edu), or [sign up for an appointment](#) to meet with me via [KSU Google Chat](#), if you have questions or concerns!

HINTS:



→ This **Course Syllabus** is your handbook to this course!

Every question about requirements, lessons, struggles, help, and comfort is in this document.

→ The **Course Plan** is your ultimate illusion of control over this course!

All the due dates for all the things you must do to succeed in this class are on this document.

Read each of these carefully, and keep them handy!

Course Catalog Description

Medieval literary themes, genres, and authors studied in their historical and cultural contexts. Selections from Anglo-Saxon and Middle English literature. Prerequisite: ENG 21011 or HONR 10297.

Attention English Majors: ENG 34001 (Medieval Literature) counts as a Category C (Early Period) English historical literature elective.



Course Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate understanding through discussion and writing about the time period of Anglo-Saxon, Early Middle English, and Middle English literature.
- Students will be able to classify and examine Anglo-Saxon poetry and prose.
- Students will be able to classify and examine Early Middle English and Middle English poetry and prose.
- Students will be able to identify important works and writers of this period.
- Students will learn about the time period of Anglo-Saxon (Old English), Anglo-Norman/Early Middle English, and Middle English literature.

More Course Description

This course covers British Literature written prior to 1500 C.E., exploring medieval British language, literary themes, genres, and authors studied within their relevant historical and cultural contexts (religion, politics, gender and other social codes, and science and technology). You will be sharing questions, ideas, and other thoughts with students in Dr. Carol Jamison's Early British Literature class at Georgia Southern University. While the classes are not identical in structure and content, both classes are reading several identical works. Finally, instead of a final exam, you will be actively participating in (what we hope will be) an international online undergraduate student conference on medieval studies: The UNICORN Castle Student Congress.

Required Course Materials & Structure

This course is 100% online and asynchronous. It requires a great deal of reading and writing.

You must have consistent use of a reliable personal computer and Internet access.

(Smartphones are not ideal for this class, especially for writing papers.) Computers are freely available for your use on your campus: check the Library and the Computer Center.



There are no books to be purchased. All reading materials are linked to the lessons (and are free to use).

This course makes use of the following online materials:

1. **KSU Canvas** (located through KSU Flashline – <https://login.kent.edu/>): This is the university's home for the course. You can find all your grades for assignments here. However, course materials (lessons, readings, and other assignments) are not located here!
2. **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.
 - **All your essay work must be done in KSU Google Documents.** Do not upload a paper written in another word processor! I want to be able to see your writing process, as well as your re-writing process, in action. I have tried to provide a link in this document; there is also a direct link on the

Course Plan. You can always open up your KSU Google Drive account through Flashline (<https://login.kent.edu/>).

3. **All course materials** (lessons, readings, and other assignments) **are located on my private server space. There are two locations:**
 - **The Course Home Page**
<https://cyberspacerobinson.org/ENG34001/>
Most of the lessons and assignments are located here. Most of the reading assignments are located here. This is your class “home” space.
 - **The Shared Course Space**
<https://unicorn-castle.org/earlybritlit/>
All Discussion assignments are located on this second website. The final lesson, which the two classes share, is also located at this second website.
 - **The course materials are password protected; the password is located in the Start Here module in Canvas.**

Course Assignments

Journal Work (14.5%, 415 points)

- Journal Entries for the Lessons and Readings (30%, 300 points): There will be fifteen journal entries; each is worth 20 points (2% of the total grade).
- Journal Entries for the online UNICORN Castle Student Congress (11.5%, 115 points): There will be four journal entries, each worth 20 points (2% of the total grade), and one more entry that is worth 35 points (3.5% of the total grade).

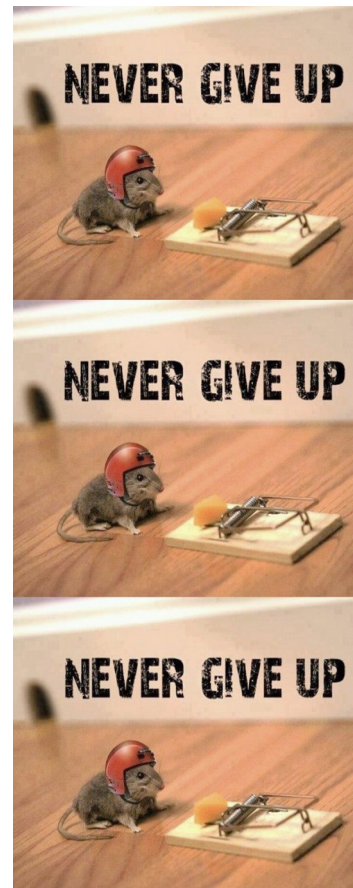
Online Discussion (21%, 210 points): There will be seven discussions (seven topics) held during the semester. Each discussion is worth 30 points.

Digital Project (35%, 350 points): Your project may be scholarly or it may be creative, but it must be relevant to the course lessons and readings—specifically, medieval English literature.

- Project Proposal (5%, 50 points)
- Annotated Bibliography (10%, 100 points)
- Rough Draft (5%, 50 points)
- Final Draft (15%, 150 points)

Mandatory Online One-on-One Conference (2.5%, 25 points): You are required to meet with me—just once—for a live text-chat conference via KSU Google Chat. Sign-up sheets for appointments will be provided on the Course Home Page

(<https://cyberspacerobinson.org/ENG34001/>). During this meeting, we will discuss your Digital Project work and any other questions or concerns you may have for the course. If you miss this meeting, you will lose 25 points from your total course grade; if you attend this meeting, you will earn the full 25 points. You may also sign up for additional text-chat meeting (for additional help, not additional points).



Plagiarism & Cheating

We no longer live in the Middle Ages—when copying wasn't so much a right as it was a duty (usually by a member of the clergy) and when cheating was usually punished in the afterlife. Bottom line: do not do either. Yes, it is possible to plagiarize and not understand that you are doing so. Part of the focus of this class is to learn how to avoid violating copyright laws. This is not cheating; it's learning to comply with the law. 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.

Notice of Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

Any intellectual property displayed or distributed to students during this course (including but not limited to web pages, videos, notes, quizzes, examinations) by the professor/lecturer/instructor remains the intellectual property of the professor/lecturer/instructor. This means that the student may not distribute, publish or provide such intellectual property to any other person or entity for any reason, commercial or otherwise, without the express written permission of the professor/lecturer/instructor.

AI Use is Permitted—but Limited

Some students have been taught how to use AI whereas others are not sure where to begin. Guidance for students on which tools, writing productive prompts, and the limitations of the tools has been provided in the assignments.

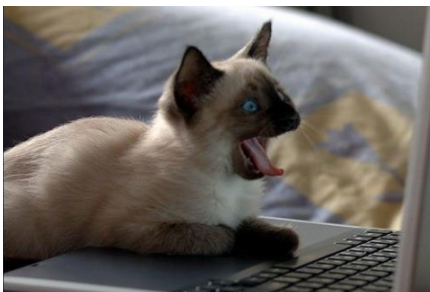
A Few Words Regarding Attitude

You do not have to like what you are reading and writing about. You are, however, required to think critically and rationally about what you are reading and find ways to gracefully articulate your thoughts, including your opinions. 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.



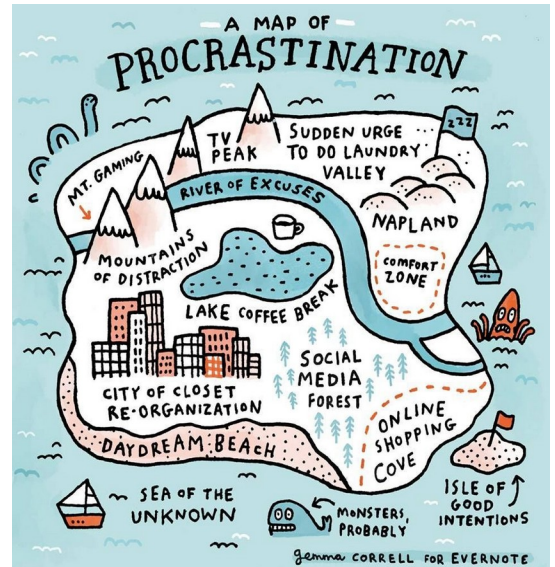
A Few Words about Alarming Student Writing

Think about what you are writing. Writing, by its very nature, can be easily misunderstood. 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. 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 into 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.



Regarding Missed, Late, or Incomplete Work

- With the exception of the Mandatory Meeting, late work will be accepted for a period of time after the due date; however, points will be deducted for late submissions. For each day the work is late: 3% (for example, 1.5 out of a possible 50 points or 3 out of a possible 100 points) will be deducted from the grade. No late work will be accepted after **May 9, 2026**.
- **Missed Mandatory Meeting:** If you fail to hold your meeting appointment with me during the Mandatory Meeting Period, you will earn 0 points; if you meet with me, you will earn full points—you are not being evaluated during our session. If you miss your meeting appointment, and the period has not ended, feel free to sign up for another appointment.




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 (meeting) 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 home site.
- Feel free to email me whenever you have questions or concerns (clrobins@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.*



Professor's Philosophy

Each of these assignments is designed to help you improve your understanding of medieval British literature. I believe that *everyone has something to state about everything*, and YOUR voice is just as important as anyone else's voice! The challenge is to strengthen your reading to think process in order to make your written thoughts easy to follow by others, because no two brains are alike, and everyone struggles (at some level) to understand everyone else. While it is certainly possible to earn an "A" in this class, my philosophy is that there is no such thing as "perfect" thinking (perfect learning)—*and that's okay!* Even "A" level work (see the Rubrics) can benefit from further improvement. Your reading and writing processes involve the development of your ideas (the critical thinking and analysis) tied to the readings/viewings, the research,, and the ways that you organize and coherently develop that thinking. (By the way,  that's a picture of 12-year-old me, in the 1970s.)



Grade Point Distribution

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

LETTER GRADE	150 Point Scale	100 Point Scale	50 Point Scale	30 Point Scale	20 Point Scale	FINAL GRADE Conversion
A	150-143	100-95	50	30	20	4.0
A-	142-135	94-90	46	28	-	3.7
B+	134-130	89-87	44	27	-	3.3
B	129-127	86-85	42	26	17	3.0
B-	126-120	84-80	41	25	-	2.7
C+	119-115	79-77	39	24	-	2.3
C	114-112	76-75	37	23	15	2.0
C-	111-105	74-70	36	22	-	1.7
D+	104-100	69-67	34	21	-	1.3
D	99-97	66-65	33	20	13	1.0
D-	96-90	64-60	31	19	-	***
F	82	55	27	17	11	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.

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.

SAS: Student Accessibility Services

University policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for

necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (visit <https://www.kent.edu/trumbull/student-accessibility-services>) for more information on registration procedures.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

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.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA sets forth requirements regarding the privacy of student records. FERPA governs both the access to and release of those records and the information they contain. Under FERPA, faculty have a legal responsibility to protect the confidentiality of student records even from parents and guardians. For additional information about FERPA, please visit the university Registrar's webpage.

Societies, Socializing, and Social Services

- **If you are struggling with housing and other basic care needs:**

- [Trumbull County Homeless Shelters and Social Services](#)
- [Ohio Homeless Shelter Directory](#)
- [Second Harvest Food Pantry](#)
- [United Way 2-1-1](#)
- [Trumbull County Job & Family Services \(Food, Cash, Medical\)](#)
- [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#)
- [Feeding America Online Search Tool](#)
- [Ohio Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#): If you are struggling with attaining food, you might qualify for assistance.
- [Ohio Foodbanks Organization](#): If you are struggling with attaining food, you might qualify for assistance.
- [Kent State University at Trumbull Care Closet & Food Pantry](#): Food pantry, personal items, clothing & much more! Please stop by the Student Services office to access the Care Closet during regular office hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. You may also arrange an appointment by email: KSUTRUMBULLUSG@listserv.kent.edu or by phone, please call 330-675-8963. Located in the Student Service Building, past the Fitness Center in Room 144.
- [Kent State University at Trumbull Emergency Grant](#)
- USDA National Hunger Hotline at 1-866-348-6479 or (1-877-842-6273 for Spanish)



- **If you are a victim of domestic violence (regardless of gender):**
 - [Ohio Domestic Violence Network](#)
 - [Domestic Shelters of Ohio Directory](#)
 - [Kent State Women's Center](#)
 - [Kent State LGBTQ+ Center](#)
- **If you are considering harming yourself, having anxiety attacks, suffering from depression, or just don't feel right::**
 - Kent State also offers [Psychological Services](#), including tele-therapy.
 - You can also find a list of resources, including domestic violence at [Mental Health Help](#).
 - [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](#).
 - [Kent Trumbull Recovery Community](#):
Barbara Ozimek, MA; LPCC-S, CDCA
330-675-7603
bozimek@kent.edu
Location: 102C, Technology Building (Trumbull Campus)
 - [Campus Counseling Services \(Free\)](#)
 - [Kent Trumbull Recovery Community](#)
 - [Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#)
 - [United Way 2-1-1](#)

Request for Religious Accommodations

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).

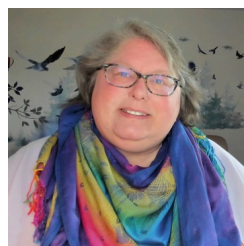
Remember:

At any time during the semester, please feel free to email me (clrobins@kent.edu), or to sign up for an appointment to meet with me via KSU Google Chat, if you have questions or concerns!



By the way, this is my dog, Betty Zing (a six-year-old basset hound).

She's the course mascot.



Dr. Carol Robinson

If you work hard, I will work hard to help you succeed!

***No work will be accepted after
May 9, 2026 (11:59pm, EST)!***