

Christina M. Heckman			
<i>ENGL 302</i>	RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE IN MEDIEVAL ENGLISH LITERATURE		<i>Fall 2003</i>
<i>King 221</i>	T & Th 1:30-2:45 PM	Office Hours T & Th 3-4 PM	<i>Rice 26</i>
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DESCRIPTION:

We know that there is a difference between violence in the world and violence as represented in a literary text, or in any other form (film, music, art). We also know, however, that literary texts have an important impact on the world. Literature occupies a crucial space in the history of ideas about violence and religion as intersecting social practices. In this course, we will work through several major categories through which violence was represented in the literature of the English Middle Ages, including martyrdom, war, anti-Jewish violence, and heresy. Through our readings and class discussions, we will come to an understanding of the role of violence, religion, and literature in processes of identity formation.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- to recognize the historical complexity of the concepts of “violence” and “religion” in the context of medieval literature;
- to learn about reading and writing as cultural practices in the Middle Ages;
- to develop an informed understanding of literary texts in the context of biblical exegesis and Christian learned tradition;
- to learn about several important genres of medieval English literature, including romance, meditative and penitential poetry, heroic poetry, chronicle, legend, hagiography, and mystical literature;
- to develop a familiarity with important aspects of medieval culture, such as pilgrimage, martyrdom, heroism, crusade, monastic life, heresy, and mysticism;
- to learn about the literary representation of marginal figures, including women, Jews, and heretics, and to recognize their importance in the formation of medieval English identities;
- to think about literature in specific cultural and social contexts, and to recognize how writers can intervene in these contexts;
- to recognize the importance of thinking about the issues attending medieval religious violence within an historical framework;
- to develop familiarity with resources and research tools for studying the Middle Ages;
- to develop skills in the methodology of medieval literary criticism, both philological and theoretical.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Requirements include class participation, including small-group work inside and outside of class; one short paper (5-6 pages); one small-group project focusing on the translation of Middle English (7-8 pages, submitted for the group as a whole); and one final project (8-10 pages).

READING LIST:

Readings on Blackboard, ERES, or the web (see course schedule)
Jocelin of Brakelond, *Chronicle of the Abbey of Bury St. Edmunds* (bookstore)
Virgin Lives and Holy Deaths: Two Exemplary Biographies for Anglo-Norman Women
(bookstore)
Laurie A. Finke, *Women's Writing in English: Medieval England* (bookstore)

There are many useful online resources for medieval studies, such as *The Labyrinth: Resources for Medieval Studies* (www.georgetown.edu/labyrinth), the *Online Reference Book for Medieval Studies* (orb.rhodes.edu), the *Internet Medieval Sourcebook* (www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html), and the *Index of Christian Art* (available online through the library catalog). NOTE: your papers will require the use of printed sources. You will not be able to rely solely on the web to research your assignments. Many web-based sources are excellent, but they cannot substitute for the many years of scholarship available in the library. In addition to editions of primary texts and criticism on specific medieval topics, the library's print resources include many invaluable reference works which can help you increase your familiarity with religion and medieval culture. Recommended sources include *The Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, *The Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages*, *The Encyclopedia of Christianity*, *The New Catholic Encyclopedia*, *Medieval Jewish Civilization: An Encyclopedia*, *The New Encyclopedia of Judaism*, and *The New Encyclopedia of Islam*. The library also provides access to important reference works on language: *The Middle English Dictionary* (print and online), the *Oxford English Dictionary* (print and online), and the *Middle English Compendium* (online), among others. You will need to consult at least some of these resources to complete your first and second papers.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:	Class participation	25%
	Short paper	20%
	Group Translation Project	25%
	Final Project	30%

PROCEDURES:

You must read the material assigned for each class meeting by that class period. Classes will combine informal lecture and discussion. Around the third week of the course, you will be divided into small groups; you will work with your group both in class, in occasional small-group discussions, and outside of class when assigned. Your small group will work together to produce the Group Project due after the midterm. When you meet with your small group outside class, you will be expected to post a discussion question on Blackboard for the entire class to discuss together at the next class meeting. Further written instructions for group work and these postings will follow. You will also periodically receive study guides and study questions to help prepare you for class and focus your reading.

REGULATIONS:

You must participate in class. Your participation grade includes your preparation for class; active participation in class discussion, both in and out of your small groups; and completion of occasional brief tasks to be assigned for small-group work outside of class. These tasks will be considered part of your preparation for the next class day.

A record of your attendance will be kept via sign-in sheet. This will count as part of your participation grade and will be included in the calculation of your final grade. If you arrive late and do not sign in, you will be considered absent.

You are required to submit written work on the scheduled dates. Unless emergency conditions can be proved, extensions can be considered only if you speak with the instructor in advance. Papers will be considered late if you submit them after class on the due date or, if you miss class, before or during class time in my mailbox.

Papers handed in late will receive a deduction in the grade for the assignment. The grade will be lowered by one grade (for example, a B+ would be lowered to a B) for each day past the due date. No paper will be accepted five days after the due date (i.e., a paper due on Thurs. will not be accepted after Monday).

Academic honesty: all work submitted for this class is governed by the Oberlin College Honor Code. On each written assignment, you are required to write in full and sign the Honor Pledge: "I affirm that I have adhered to the Honor Code in this assignment." You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the Honor Code as outlined in the student handbook and on the Honor Code web page (www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html).

CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Tues Sept 2 Introduction to course: overview and timeline.

Thurs Sept 4 Backgrounds: biblical exegesis and learned tradition.

Readings on Christ's Passion from the Douay-Rheims translation of the Vulgate Bible (available on the web at www.scriptours.com/bible/): Matthew ch. 23-28, Mark 12-16, Luke 20-23, John 11-19; Paul's Epistle to the Philippians 2, Colossians 1, Hebrews 2 and 8-10.

Tues Sept 9 Christian Heroism: The Anglo-Saxon Context.
The Dream of the Rood (Blackboard).

Thurs Sept 11 Christian Heroism and Heroic Poetry.
The Battle of Maldon (Blackboard).

Tues Sept 16 Hagiography: Sainthood and Martyrdom.
Ælfric, "The Passion of St. Edmund" (Blackboard).
James Earl, "Monastic Non-Violence" (Blackboard).

Thurs Sept 18 Ælfric, "The Exaltation of the Cross" (Blackboard).

Tues Sept 23 The Monastery and the Cult of Saints.
Jocelin of Brakelond, *The Chronicle of Bury St. Edmunds*.

Thurs Sept 25 *The Chronicle of Bury St. Edmunds*.
Monastic Art: the Cloisters Cross (pictures on Blackboard).
** First Paper due **

Tues Sept 30 Female Sainthood: Clemence of Barking's *Life of St. Catherine*.
Virgin Lives and Holy Deaths, xi-43; Finke, introduction and ch. 1 (1-55).

- Thurs Oct 2 The body of the saint: the *Life of St. Catherine*.
- Tues Oct 7 The Life of St. Catherine (conclusion).
Brief informal group presentations on the saint's body in medieval art.
- Thurs Oct 9 Martyrs to Warriors: introduction to Christian perspectives on war.
Overview: Gill and Rempel, "Force, Violence, Nonviolence" (ERES).
Paul on the militia Christi, from the Douay-Rheims Bible
(www.scriptours.com/bible): Ephesians 6, Romans 12-13, 2 Timothy 2.
Commentaries on the just war: Augustine, Tertullian, Bernard of Clairvaux from
War and Christian Ethics (all on Blackboard).
- Tues Oct 14 Introduction to the Crusades and *Richard Coeur de Lion*.
The Oxford Illustrated History of the Crusades ch. 2, "Origins" (ERES).
Richard Coeur de Lion (in translation) (ERES).
- Thurs Oct 16 Chivalry and the Crusades.
Kaeuper, *Chivalry and Violence in Medieval Europe* 7-9, 30-39, 123-60 (ERES);
Historical Documents on the Third Crusade, from Brundage, *The Crusades: A
Documentary Survey* (ERES)
Introduction to Middle English and linguistic research tools.
- Tues Oct 21 No class. Fall Break.
- Thurs Oct 23 No class. Fall Break.
- Tues Oct 28 Chivalric Literature and the Romance
Richard Coeur de Lion (in Middle English), lines 241-656, 959-1118, 1243-1476
(ERES).
- Thurs Oct 30 *Richard Coeur de Lion* (in Middle English), lines 1661-2040, 2209-2232, 2465-
2682).
- Tues Nov 4 Christians and Muslims in the Third Crusade.
Richard Coeur de Lion (in Middle English), lines 2683-3771 (ERES); "Islam and
the Crusades 1096-1699," from the *Oxford Illustrated History of the Crusades*
(ERES).
- Thurs Nov 6 *Richard Coeur de Lion* (in Middle English), lines 5467-5912, 6723-7213 (ERES);
extracts from Francesco Gabrieli, *Arab Historians of the Crusades* (ERES).
- Tues Nov 11 *Richard Coeur de Lion* (conclusion).
Brief presentations on group translation project.
** Group Project due **
- Thurs Nov 13 Introduction: The Jews in Christian Tradition.
Paul on the Jews, from the Douay-Rheims Bible (www.scriptours.com/bible):
Romans 11, 2 Corinthians 3-6, Hebrews 3-9.
Augustine, *Reply to Faustus the Manichean*, Book XII ([www.ccel.org/fathers2/
NPNF1-04/TOC.htm](http://www.ccel.org/fathers2/NPNF1-04/TOC.htm)).
Jeremy Cohen, "Augustinian Foundations" and "The Doctrine of Jewish Witness"
(ERES).

Monastic Art: the Cloisters Cross (pictures in Blackboard).

- Tues Nov 18 English Jews in the Late 12th Century.
Internet Medieval Sourcebook: “Thomas of Monmouth: The Life and Miracles of St. William of Norwich, 1173;” Roger of Hoveden, “Persecution of Jews Following Coronation of Richard I, 1189;” Ephraim of Bonn, “On the York Massacre of 1189-90;” Richard I of England, “Charter by which Many Liberties are Granted and Confirmed to the Jews, 1190;” Innocent III, “Letter on the Jews: Toleration, 1199” (all available at the following web address: www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook1t.html#Jews%20and%20the%20State, or go to www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html and follow links under “Selected Sources” to “Jewish Life,” then to “Jews and the State” (England) and “Antisemitism”).
- Thurs Nov 20 Later Medieval Representations of the Past.
Geoffrey Chaucer, “The Prioress’s Prologue” and “The Prioress’s Tale,” from *The Canterbury Tales* (www.librarius.com/cantales.htm).
Sylvia Tomasch, “The Virtual Jew” (ERES).
- Tues Nov 25 Chaucer, “The Pardoner’s Prologue” and “The Pardoner’s Tale,” from *The Canterbury Tales* (www.librarius.com/cantales.htm).
- Thurs Nov 27 No class. Thanksgiving.
- Tues Dec 2 Mysticism and Heresy.
The Book of Margery Kempe, Introduction and lines 1-1205 (link at www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/tmsmenu.htm#menu); Finke on mystical literature and Margery Kempe, ch. 2; ch. 3 pp. 84-85, 125-31; and ch. 4 pp. 176-87.
- Thurs Dec 4 *The Book of Margery Kempe* lines 1445-2194.
- Tues Dec 9 *The Book of Margery Kempe*, lines 2255-4440.
- Thurs Dec 11 *The Book of Margery Kempe*, lines 4441-5245.
David Wood, “Identity and Violence” (ERES)
- Wed Dec 17 ** Final Projects due in my office by 2 PM **