

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**Medieval Studies 1022**

M.J. Toswell

2015-2016

Mondays 4:30-5:30, Wednesdays 4:30-6:30

This foundation course will over the year introduce civilization and thought in Europe and the Mediterranean between 400 and 1500, with emphasis on the medieval roots of many modern institutions and attitudes, including philosophy, technology, law, governance, courtly love and attitudes to women, warfare, art and archaeology, Christianity and Islam, literature, music and coinage.

Antirequisite(s): Medieval Studies 1025F/G, 1026F/G 3 hours, 1.0 course

**Course Organization**

In this its fourth year, the course still does not have a background and basic text, though it does this year have a few works that we will be reading in more detail. Once a week, to establish a clear sense of our progression through the Middle Ages, the teaching team will be posting summaries of the class discussion that will give students a sense of the significant points made during the course. These summaries will not be exhaustive, and you can expect to be asked questions on the mid-terms and final examinations that are not covered in the writeups, but they will offer you a clear guideline for your studying and learning.

The detailed syllabus will offer a set of websites for most classes, as well as an introductory paragraph or two situating the topic of the day. You should go through all of the websites and readings before the class, thinking about the material presented, taking notes as necessary, and engaging closely with the material. Classes will largely be run as discussions, not lectures, after a preliminary mini-lecture. This means that your engagement with the material, and your willingness to discuss it in class, will be a significant feature of the course. You will not be sufficiently engaged with the course if you just come to class and take notes from the class discussion. At the same time, you should use your discretion; some of the websites are very full and detailed, with more detail than is necessary for you at this level. Others are quite short clips, and still others are extended but user-friendly videos. Some effort has been made to provide different kinds of material each week, to appeal to different learning preferences.

The focus of the course this year will be issues of travel and landscape in the European Middle Ages.

**Official Course Outline**

The course outline posted to the Sakai website will be the definitive version. This has all the required information from Senate and the home department for this course, as well as the detailed version of the course websites and course organization.

**Required Textbooks**

Connie Willis, *The Doomsday Book*. (New York: Bantam Spectra, 1993).

*The Lais of Marie de France*. Trans Glyn S. Burgess and Keith Busby. (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1986).

Terry Jones and Alan Ereira, *Terry Jones' Medieval Lives* (St Ives: BBC Books, 2004).

## Course Evaluation

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Mid-term 1 - November	20%
Mid-term 2 - February	25%
September Test	5%
Online Assignment 1 - December	5%
Online Assignment 2 - March	5%
Final Examination	40%

Participation Marks - Bonus Up to 5%

Please note that the two mid-terms are scheduled for the classes on November 4 and February 3. University regulations apply in the event that you are unable to attend class on these days. The final examination in April will be scheduled by the registrar's office; it is your responsibility to determine the date and time of the examination, and to be present for it. The two mid-terms and the final examination will have short-answer and identification questions amounting to about 40% of the total, and essay questions whose value will be about 60% of the total. Sample midterms and final examinations will be posted as study aids.

**Online Assignments:** These assignments will address issues of travel and landscape in Medieval Europe. Details to follow.

**Participation:** This grade will be awarded for attendance (to the entire class meeting), for evidence of having completed the class preparation, and for good contributions to class discussions. Good contributions need not be lengthy or frequent; they should however be respectful of the class environment, engaged with the material, investigative in nature, and relevant to the issue currently under discussion.

## Teaching Team

M.J. Toswell, Old Ivey 1G40

Office Hours: Mondays 10:30-11:30 and Wednesdays 10:30-11:30

Tutorial Assistant: tba

Office Hours: tba

## Course Syllabus

September *Medieval Lives*; late antiquity the beginning of the Middle Ages

October the rise of Christianity, the rise of Islam, material culture, Charlemagne

November monasticism and asceticism, life in the early medieval court and monastic establishments: worship, education, leisure, work, music, food

December: pilgrimage, celebrations

January medieval manuscripts and coins; the first millennium, the eleventh century

February the twelfth century: the *lais* of Marie de France, courtly love, the Crusades

March The thirteenth and fourteenth Centuries: castles and conflicts; The fifteenth century: tournaments, the end of Byzantium, city-states, medieval glory and excess

April *Doomsday Book*; medievalism