

Department of English & Writing Studies

**English 3316E (001)**  
**Love in the Middle Ages**  
Fall/Winter 2023-24

**Antirequisites:** The former English 3116E.

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

Love may seem like a universal emotion, but as Chaucer notes:

Ek for to wynnen love in sondry ages,  
In sondry londes, sondry ben usages.

If people express their love differently in different ages and lands, does it follow that they also *feel* love differently? This course will explore a variety of expressions and experiences of love in the medieval period, including romantic, erotic, familial, divine, and platonic. Focusing on the literature of late medieval England, we will place this English literature within a broader European context. We will also consider the historical context of the Middle Ages.

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Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

#### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 unexcused hours for a full course), the instructor reserves the right to refer the student to the Dean's Office for possible suspension or withdrawal from the course.



Timetable

(Subject to change)

**Sept 7: Fall Term Classes Begin;** Chaucer, “Merciless Beauty” (handout, DV); “Adam Sciveyn” (handout, DV) (read together in class)

Week 1 (Sept 12-14): *General Prologue* (CT)

Week 2 (Sept 19-21): *The Knight’s Tale* (CT)

~Our class on Tuesday, Sept 19, will be held in Special Collections in the Weldon Library~

Week 3 (Sept 26-28): *The Miller’s Tale* (CT)

October

Week 4 (Oct 3-5): *The Reeve’s Tale, The Cook’s Tale* (CT)

**Oct 9: Thanksgiving**

Week 5 (Oct 10-12): *Lai le Fresne* (CW)

(CT) e7:0A7Y@HWQs2f07DOH7DO7LP

Week 18 (Feb 6-8): *Legend of Dido, Legend of Cleopatra* (DV)

Week 19 (Feb 13-15): *Parliament of Fowls* (DV)

**Feb 19-23: Winter Reading Week**

Week 20 (Feb 27-29): *The Nuns' Priest's Tale* (CT)

Week 21 (Mar 5-7): *The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale* (CT); McAlpine, "The Pardoner's Homosexuality and How it Matters" (OWL)

Week 22 (Mar 12-14): Excerpt from *The Book of Margery Kempe* (CW); Hsy, "Be More Strange and Bold: Kissing Lepers and Female Same-Sex Desire in *The Book of Margery Kempe*" (OWL)

Week 23 (Mar 19-21): Medieval love on film

~Bibliography for Essay 2 due Thursday, Mar 21~

Week 24 (Mar 26-28): Essay SOS

~Essay 2 due on Friday, March 29~

Week 25 (Apr 2-4): Exam review, course wrap-up

**Apr 8: Winter Term Classes End**

Apr 11-30: Final Exam Period