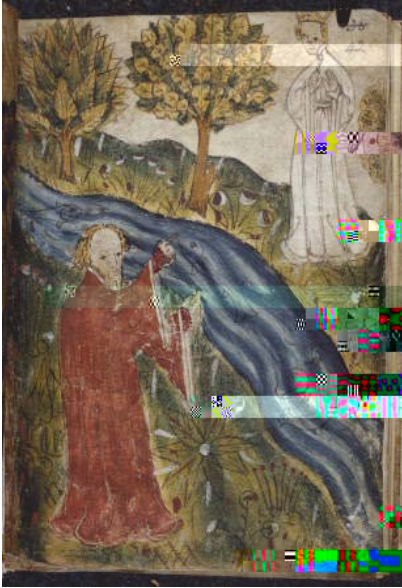
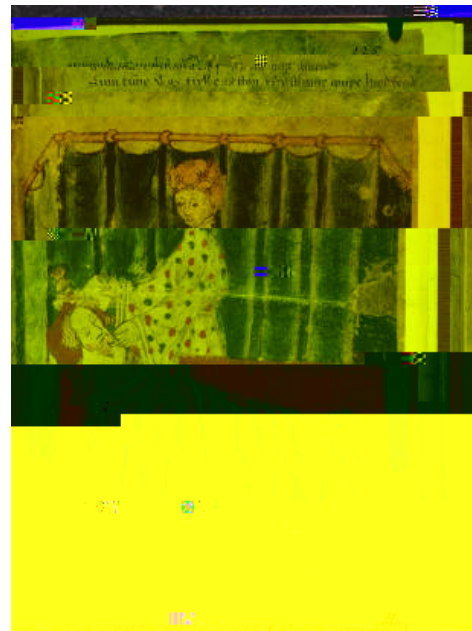


English 9153A  
Professor Anne Schuurman  
Fall 2017  
Mondays 12:30-3:30



This course will be an in-depth study of the four alliterative Middle English poems contained in British Library manuscript Cotton Nero A.x. Most scholars believe that the same author wrote *Sir Gawayne and the Green Knight*, *The Pearl*, and *Piers Plowman*, but we know very little about who this author might have been. Linguistic analysis of the poems suggests that both the author and the scribe who copied the manuscript were from the West Midlands of England, and lived and worked during the second half of the fourteenth century. The poems themselves are brilliant works of art, displaying





You will be expected to participate actively in every seminar by coming to class having read the assigned texts, by asking thoughtful questions and contributing to the class discussion. You will also be assigned the role of designated respondent for another student's oral presentation. As respondent, you may ask for clarification, formulate questions for discussion, or present counterpoints to the presenter's thesis.

(45%)

Your research essay must be between 18 and 20 pages in length. You may choose any topic or approach relevant to the course material.

Use MLA or Chicago style for formatting and documentation.

No laptops or electronic devices in class. You must purchase the specified editions of the two required textbooks and bring them to every class. Be sure to bring print copies of articles and supplementary readings.

Absences are inexcusable except in extenuating circumstances.

On plagiarism:

The Senate of the University of Western Ontario writes:

"Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever

October 9: Thanksgiving (no class)

October 16: class cancelled; read “The Historical Background” and “Feasts” (71-90 and 131-142)

October 23: ; “Narrative Form and Insight” ( 329-349)

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