

Fall 2015
RL 407/507 Medieval Romance
Prof. Psaki, Prof. Wacks

RL 407 CRN 17015
RL 507 CRN 17016
Tuesday, 4-7pm in Pacific 122

Description:

The medieval romance (i.e., novel) told the adventures of knights itinerant, righting wrongs and gaining fame in tournaments and in single combat. These fictions, cultivated in Francophone lands in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, took on a new significance in the Iberian and Italian peninsulas, where crusade, conquest, and conversion were all domestic issues, not distant imperial projects as for the French, English, and German territories. We will read a series of French, Italian, and Iberian romances (in full or in part) to examine how the romance genre:

- emerged and developed as the Romance vernaculars were entering written form;
- permitted authors and audiences to explore individual subjectivities and political identities; and
- expressed and interrogated roles associated with gender and class.

Undergraduates: This course satisfies “expertise in residence” and “elective” credits for majors and minors in ITAL, FR, SPAN, and for majors in RL when readings and written assignments are completed in the (modern) target language. We’ll work with you on the original (medieval) language, as you prepare a personal text to present to the class.

Learning objectives: By the term end, students will be able to:

- identify and analyze primary texts in light of social, historical, and political context
- summarize and critique secondary literature on primary texts
- apply analytical concepts from secondary literature to original analyses of primary texts
- summarize and analyze texts on the basis of close readings and argumentative essays grounded in textual example
- identify and catalog peer-reviewed publications in Modern Language Association format
- document a critical argument with primary sources and peer-reviewed secondary literature

Graduates: This course satisfies Period 1 requirement in French, Italian, and Spanish.

Events

- Romance Languages Opportunities Fair. Thursday, October 22nd, 12:00-3:00 pm, Gerlinger Hall Alumni Lounge
- Sharon Kinoshita, Public lecture. Monday, October 26th, 5:00-6:00pm, Lillis 112
- Caroline Jewers, Public lecture. Monday, Nov. 30th, 5:00-6:00, TBD

Texts: Kibler and Palmer, *Medieval Arthurian Epic and Romance*, is available for purchase in the UO Duck Store, and Gina Psaki has copies of the *Tristano Riccardiano* to lend. All other course readings are available on Canvas. Print out and bring readings to class meetings.

Tech: All electronic devices must be powered off and stowed before entering classroom. *Be here now.* Any student operating an electronic device during class will be asked to leave. See Canvas for URLs on why we’re this emphatic about this.

Requirements:

Undergraduates:

- 10% Participation, preparation, and attendance in seminar meetings
- 30% Response papers in target language, weeks 2-6 (300 words)
- 10% Presentation of additional romance not on the syllabus. 10-15 min., handout required (we provide a list of possible romances to present)
- 10% Annotated bibliography, in English, 7-10 items
- 30% Critical essay, 2500-3000 words
- 10% Presentation of essay in progress, in English, max. 5 minutes, handout required. No slides or prepared script (week 10)

Graduates:

- 10% Participation, preparation, and attendance in seminar meetings
- 30% Weekly assignment. MA students: close reading or article review. PhD students: article review, website review, book review, syllabus, other as assigned.
- 10% Presentation of additional romance not on the syllabus, or secondary text, 10-15 mins., slides or handout required (we provide a list of possible romances to present)
- 10% Annotated bibliography, in English, 10-15 items
- 10% Conference paper (preliminary presentation leading to critical essay)
- 30% Critical final essay

Readings:

Week 1: Geoffrey of Monmouth (Kibler & Palmer, 5-29);

Marie de France, *Lais*: Prologue, Lanval, Bisclavret (PDF on Canvas)

Week 2: Chrétien, *Perceval, The Story of the Grail* (lines 1–4712, and 6183–6478, in Kibler & Palmer);
Perlesvaus (Kibler & Palmer, selections TBA); *La Queste del Saint Graal*, selections
 TBA)

Week 3: *Silence* (PDF)

Week 4: *Tristano Riccardiano* (Loan)

Week 5: *Floire et Blanchefleur* (PDF); Sharon Kinoshita visit

Week 6: *Jaufre* (PDF)

Week 7: *Zifar* (selections, PDF)

Week 8: *Tirant* (selections, PDF)

Week 9: *Amadis* (selections, PDF) and *Giglan*; Caroline Jewers visit

Week 10: Presentations

Weekly reading: Each Tuesday evening we will post on Canvas a guide for the following week's reading and writing assignments. The Canvas site is skeletal for now, but material will be added to it regularly, so check it for responsibilities and resources.

Assignments: All assignments are to be completed individually unless assigned to a group or pair. Any evidence of collaborating with or plagiarizing from other students or sources is academic misconduct and will be reported (see below). Late assignments will be deducted 10 points (from 100) per calendar day.

Academic Misconduct: The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit

any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas). **Citing your sources is win-win: you get credit for independent research, and you get the credibility boost of good documentation. Concealing your sources is lose-lose. Trust us on this.**

If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the student's obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students.

Use correct MLA format in all assignments when citing sources:

<http://www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/citing/mla.html>

Documented Disability:

Appropriate accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability and require accommodation, arrange to meet with the course instructors within the first two weeks of the term. The documentation of your disability must come in writing from the Disability Services in the Office of Academic Advising and Student Services.

Disabilities may include (but are not limited to) neurological impairment, orthopedic impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, chronic medical conditions, emotional/psychological disabilities, hearing impairment, and learning disabilities. For more information on Disability Services, please see <http://ds.uoregon.edu/> or contact Hilary Gerdes, 346-1155. If you are not registered with Disability Services and would still like to share with us any limitations you may have in meeting course requirements please do not hesitate to do so: there's a solution for almost anything, especially with some lead time!

Collateral areas:

Undergraduates in this course should also consider the European Studies minor. This exciting, interdisciplinary program involves courses and faculty across the UO campus, and often overlaps with other requirements: it involves two Humanities electives, two Social Science electives, two core courses (GEOG 202 and a capstone seminar, The Idea of Europe), and language study (see <http://blogs.uoregon.edu/europe/>).

Medieval Studies, an interdisciplinary undergraduate program, is also a potential minor or major related to this course and to RL. A Medieval Studies minor requires 7 medieval courses in at least 2 departments; a major requires 12 medieval courses in at least 3 departments. Courses count if at least half their content is medieval (i.e., from the period 300–1500). If you like the medieval material this term, see whether you've already taken courses that count for the MDST minor or major, and talk to Gina Psaki.

Humanities, another interdisciplinary undergraduate program, is also a potential double major related to this course and to Romance Languages. Many courses you've already taken for the RL major fulfill HUM major requirements, which can be found at <http://blogs.uoregon.edu/humprog/checklist2/>. If you like exploring across disciplinary *and* chronological boundaries, talk to Gina Psaki.