

**EL 201.01**

**Class Times/ Places: Tues 10-10:50 (M 2171)/Fri 11-12:50 (TB 490)**

**Office Hours (by appointment): Tues 14-15:00 / Fri: 13-14:00**

**Email: [j.kismetbell@boun.edu.tr](mailto:j.kismetbell@boun.edu.tr)**



Anonymous, *Representation of the Four Humors & Temperaments*, late 15<sup>th</sup> century

### Course Description

This course will introduce students to a wide range of medieval literary and natural philosophical texts, with Geoffrey Chaucer our primary focus. In addition to recognizing and appreciating medieval (Middle English) forms and genres, literary conventions and strategies, themes, plots, and characters, we will read a number of texts focused on an often-confusing medieval “style of thought.” Throughout, we will draw our attention to various aspects of English life in the Middle Ages, including feudal structures and courtly culture, the diversity of religious experiences and the development of a standard English vernacular. This background information will offer students a fuller understanding of Chaucer’s legacy as well as help students recognize and appreciate medieval sensibilities, which began to change during and after the renaissance.

### Texts and Resources

The course packet and selections from Geoffrey Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales* (Oxford) will be available in electronic form on either Moodle or other means for download. You can get a hard copy from the library copy shop. Supplemental information will be available on Moodle or my website: [www.jamesonkismetbell.com](http://www.jamesonkismetbell.com)

### Course Requirements

Your final course grade will be based on the following distribution:

**\*Participation and Attendance: 10%**

In order to participate, you need to be present; therefore, full attendance is expected.

Short quizzes will be used during lectures. Those who do not attend 75% of the class will not be allowed to submit a final paper.

**\*Assignments: 30% (2 response papers)**

**\*Midterm exam: 30%**

**\*Final Exam: 30%**

## **Assignment Expectations**

**Attendance, Participation, Responses, Quizzes:** Announced and unannounced quizzes and response papers will be used during lectures to ensure students participate in readings outside of class as well as give me an opportunity to offer feedback. Attendance is mandatory: students who miss more than 75% of lectures will fail the course. Please communicate any issues as soon as possible.

**Writing Assignments:** Students will offer two essays analyzing medieval texts. Grades will be between 1 (low) and 5 (excellent). Those who exceed the expectations with a unique point of view can receive a 6 or 7. More information will be available on my website or Moodle. Essays will be submitted using Turnitin.com: <http://www.turnitin.com/>

If you have difficulty writing clearly, you should visit the BU online writing lab (<http://www.buowl.boun.edu.tr/>) or the YADYOK website (<http://www.yadyok.boun.edu.tr/index.htm>) for help.

**Exams:** Midterm and Final exams/essays will allow for further exploration of topics found in readings and lectures. Exams will occur face to face during scheduled times.

## **Academic Integrity**

All submitted work must be solely your own. In the event that you use someone else's ideas or information, or if you use wording that is not your own, you **MUST** provide a citation with a consistent style (MLA, Chicago, etc.). Representing someone else's work as your own is plagiarism and is a breach of academic integrity. (When in doubt, cite!) Plagiarism will automatically receive an F on the assignment. Depending on the severity, student may possibly fail the course. Repeat offenders will be referred to the department and faculty disciplinary committees. **Plagiarism includes the use of Artificial Intelligence to write all or portions of essays for you.**

To encourage academic honesty and communication, all writing will be submitted through <http://www.turnitin.com/>

## Semester Schedule

### Week 1      **Introduction** (Sept 29)

Fri    Introductory lecture  
      Reading: William Manchester, *from* “A World Lit Only By Fire”

### Week 2      **Introduction (cont.)**. (Oct 4 & 6)

Tues   William Manchester (cont.)  
Fri    Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy* (Book II) (6<sup>th</sup> c.)

### Week 3      **Philosophy and Allegory** (Oct 10 & 13)

Tues   Boethius, cont.  
Fri    Boethius, cont.

### Week 4      **Body, Allegory, Natural Philosophy, Gender** (Oct 17 & 20)

Tues   Anonymous, *Physiologus* (2<sup>nd</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Fri    Marie de France, *Chevrefoil* (12<sup>th</sup> c.)

### Week 5      **Body, Allegory, Natural Philosophy** (Oct 24 & 28)

Tues   Anonymous, *The Regimen Sanitatis Salernitanum* (12<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Fri    Anonymous, *The Regimen Sanitatis Salernitanum*, cont.

## First Response paper on Turnitin.com

### Week 6      **Breton Lays, Romance** (Oct 31 & Nov 3)

Tues   Anonymous, *Sir Orfeo* (14<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Fri    cont.

### Week 7      **Women Writers/Ecstatic Visions** (Nov 7 & 10)

Tues   Hildegard v. Bingen, *Liber Divinorum Operum* (Book III) (12<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Fri    Hildegard, cont.

### Week 8      **Women Writers/Ecstatic Visions** (Nov 14 & 17)

Tues   Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margerie Kempe* (Book I) (15<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Fri    —Midterm— (IN CLASS)

### Week 9      **Medieval Drama** (Nov 21 & 24)

Tues Anonymous, *Everyman* (15<sup>th</sup> c.)  
Fri cont.

**Week 10** **Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales* (15<sup>th</sup> c.)** (Nov 28 & Dec 1)

Tues “Prologue”  
Fri cont.

**Second response paper on Turnitin.com**

**Week 11** **Geoffrey Chaucer cont.** (Dec 5 & 8)

Tues “The Miller’s Tale”  
Fri cont.

**Week 12** **Geoffrey Chaucer cont.** (Dec 12 & 15)

Tues “The Wife of Bath’s Tale”  
Fri cont.

**Week 13** **Geoffrey Chaucer cont.** (Dec 19 & 22)

Tues “The Pardoner’s Tale”  
Fri cont.

**Week 14** **Geoffrey Chaucer cont.** (Dec 26)

Tues “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale”

**TBA Final Exam**