

COURSE DETAIL

MIDDLE ENGLISH POPULAR LITERATURE

Country

New Zealand

Host Institution

University of Auckland

Program(s)

University of Auckland

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

English

UCEAP Course Number

117

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

MIDDLE ENGLISH POPULAR LITERATURE

UCEAP Transcript Title

MIDDLE ENGL POP LIT

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course introduces the study of medieval popular narrative in a new vernacular, English, centred on tales by Chaucer, the greatest English poet of the 14th century and one of the finest narrative poets in the language. In addition to Chaucer, students study a number of short romances, mostly anonymous, that display the narrative possibilities of the genres as well as textual practices employed by poets in a manuscript or performance culture. Students also read works of popular religion including tales by Chaucer, but also lyrics and especially plays drawn from a burgeoning medieval theater. The course ends with narrative poems that embody various senses of the popular in medieval culture, but also install a traditional subject of modern popular fiction, tales of Robin Hood. The exploration of popular medieval literature aims to raise questions about elite and popular cultures today, at both conceptual and experiential levels.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

ENGL 264

Host Institution Course Title

MIDDLE ENGLISH POPULAR LITERATURE

Host Institution Campus

Auckland

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

English

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