

## **FRT4421: FRENCH MEDIEVAL LITERATURE AND CULTURE (3 credits)**

T/Th 10:30-11:45, Colbourn Hall 204

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### *War, Love, and Laughter in the French Middle Ages*



#### **DESCRIPTION:**

Through stirring accounts of battle, poetic musings on courtly love, and bold comic inversions of the highest literary forms, this course will explore the fascinating, and often surprising, literature and culture of 11<sup>th</sup>- to 15<sup>th</sup>-century France. We will examine texts representing the range of genres known in this period, with each work contextualized in the historical and artistic developments of its time. Organized along the thematic threads of war, love, and laughter, this course will offer insights into times and perspectives far different from our own in so many ways, yet often more familiar than one might expect.

“French Medieval Literature and Culture” is an elective course open to all UCF students and fulfills the requirements for French majors and minors. The prerequisite for this course for French majors and minors is FRW 3810 “Introduction to French literature.” All readings and discussions will be in English. Texts will be available in French for French majors and minors. French majors and minors will complete the final paper in French.

#### **MINOR IN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES:**

This course fulfills a requirement for UCF’s Interdisciplinary Minor in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Students interested in earning a minor in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, or merely learning more about the program, should consult the website, <http://medieval.cah.ucf.edu/>, or contact Dr. Tison Pugh, Department of English, [tison.pugh@ucf.edu](mailto:tison.pugh@ucf.edu), for more information.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Michel Zink, *Medieval French Literature, An Introduction*. Trans. Jeff Rider. Binghamton, NY: Medieval & Renaissance Texts & Studies, 1995.

*The Song of Roland*, Oxford World's Classics. Trans. Simon Gaunt and Karen Pratt. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Chrétien de Troyes, *Arthurian Romances*. Trans. William Kibler. NY: Penguin, 1991.

Additional texts scanned and available through Webcourses, or available online via links indicated below.

French versions:

*Chanson de Roland* [http://elg0002.free.fr/pdf/bedier\\_chanson\\_roland.pdf](http://elg0002.free.fr/pdf/bedier_chanson_roland.pdf)

*Roman de la Rose* (Old French alternating with Modern French)

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/16816/16816-h/16816-h.htm>

*Lancelot* <http://biblioteka.kijowski.pl/chretien%20de%20troyes/lancelot-wsp.pdf>

*Aucassin et Nicolette* <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015008974696;view=1up;seq=65;size=150>

All others scanned and available through Webcourses.

**BOOKS ON RESERVE**

Simon Gaunt and Sarah Kay. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval French Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Denis Hollier, ed. *A New History of French Literature*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001.

**COURSE GOALS**

By the end of this semester, students will be able to

- identify and analyze key themes found in medieval French literature
- discuss the relationship between literary works and their historical context
- demonstrate familiarity with a range of key authors and works from this time period
- explain the significance of the evolution of literary genres in this period

**METHODOLOGY**

The course is organized around three thematic threads: war, love, and laughter. Primary texts will be supplemented by a variety of materials regarding historical context and literary trends. This course will be conducted in a seminar style, with the texts serving as a springboard for wider discussion and analysis.

**CLASS PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION**

Students are expected to come to class:

- having read all the assigned material
- having answered assigned pre-discussion questions online (when applicable)
- prepared to ask pertinent and informed questions
- ready to engage in critical analysis and discussion

**ASSESSMENT**

1. Active participation (contribution to class discussion, evidence of preparation, thoughtful questions, responses to pre-discussion questions when assigned): 10%
2. In-class presentation (background information on time period or author): 10%
3. Two interim exams: 2 x 15% = 30%
4. Final Essay, 8-10 pages (5-7 pages for those in French): 30% (5% for topic proposal, 10% for initial draft, 15% for final version that incorporates feedback)
5. Final exam: 20%

**ATTENDANCE**

Regular attendance is expected. You are responsible for all announcements and information presented in class, whether you are present or not. Please follow up with other students in the event that you are not present for class. You are allowed a maximum of 2 absences in addition to regular university holidays, religious holidays, or official UCF sporting events in which you are a participant. Any absences beyond the 2 allowed will result in a 3-percent deduction from your OVERALL final grade for the course. Exceptions will be made only in the cases of serious illness (doctor's note required), or an extreme family emergency—in such cases, you must speak to me in advance if at all possible, or immediately upon your return. Any related documentation must be submitted immediately upon your return as well.

**MISSED AND LATE WORK**

Presentations are carefully aligned with course content. Therefore, failure to present on your agreed-upon date will result in a 0 for the presentation. The same goes for exams. For the essay, every day late for any phase of the project will result in 3-percent deduction from the overall grade of the final essay. Exceptions will be made only in the cases of serious illness (doctor's note required), or an extreme family emergency.

**LESSON LIST** \*\*Schedule is subject to change at the discretion of instructor.

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|---|------|---|
| 1 | 8/22 | Orientation to course structure and content<br>Zink, pp. 1-17 |
|---|------|---|

**War**

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|---|------|---|
| 2 | 8/24 | The Epic: <i>La Chanson de Roland/The Song of Roland</i><br>Zink, 18-33<br><i>Song of Roland</i> , laisses 1-68 |
| 3 | 8/29 | <i>Song of Roland</i> , laisses 69-127  |
| 4 | 8/31 | <i>Song of Roland</i> , laisses 128-177   |
| 5 | 9/5  | <i>Song of Roland</i> , laisses 178-298   |
| 6 | 9/7  | <i>La Prise d'Orange/The Capture of Orange</i> (scanned)<br>pp. vii-xvi and sections 1-29                       |

- 7 9/12 *The Capture of Orange*, sections 30-62
- 8 9/14 The Warrior-King  
Joinville: *La Vie de Saint Louis/The Life of Saint Louis* (extracts, scanned)
- 9 9/19 Froissart: *Chronicles*  
Zink, pp. 116-119  
Froissart, Book III, "Voyage to Béarn" (extract, scanned)
- 10 9/21 Women Warriors—Amazons  
Christine de Pizan, *The Mutability of Fortune* (extract, scanned)
- 11 9/26 Exam 1

### Love

- 12 9/28 Orientation: lyric poetry, romance, "courtly" love  
Zink, pp. 34-45
- 13 10/3 Marie de France: *Lais* (scanned)
- 14 10/5 Guillaume de Lorris: *The Romance of the Rose* (scanned)  
Zink, pp. 90-100  
*Romance of the Rose*, lines 1-2042
- 15 10/10 *Romance of the Rose*, lines 2043-4056
- 16 10/12 Chrétien de Troyes: *Lancelot or The Knight of the Cart/*  
*Le Chevalier de la charrette*  
Zink, pp. 53-57  
*Lancelot*, pp. 207-237
- 17 10/17 *Lancelot*, pp. 238-261
- 18 10/19 *Lancelot*, pp. 262-294
- 19 10/24 Chrétien de Troyes: *Yvain or The Knight with the Lion/*  
*Le Chevalier au lion* (selected passages)
- 20 10/26 Lyric poetry (selected poems)
- 21 10/31 Lyric poetry
- 22 11/2 Exam 2

### Laughter

- 23 11/7 Role reversals: *Aucassin and Nicolette*, pp. 15-45

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/23227/23227-h/23227-h.htm>

- 24 11/9      *Aucassin and Nicolette*, pp. 46-77
- 25 11/14      Bawdy tales: the fabliau  
Zink, 83-85  
Selected texts (scanned)
- 26 11/16      Rustic humor: Pastourelles (scanned)
- 27 11/21      In the tavern: Adam de la Halle, *The Play of the Bower [The Play of Madness]/  
Le Jeu de la Feuillée* (scanned), pp. 213-233
- 8 11/28      *The Play of the Bower*, pp. 234-254
- 29 11/30      Gritty poems: Rutebeuf, Villon  
Zink 112-114  
Rutebeuf  
[http://sedulia.blogspot.com/sedulias\\_translations/2005/12/the\\_poverty\\_of\\_.html](http://sedulia.blogspot.com/sedulias_translations/2005/12/the_poverty_of_.html)  
Villon (scanned)

Final exam day/time determined by University final exam schedule.

<http://exams.sdes.ucf.edu/2017/fall>

## UCF POLICIES AND RESOURCES

### Accessibility:

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. A student who needs accommodations must contact his/her professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss the particulars. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to make the request, and the student must be registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#) before requesting accommodations from the professor.

It is my goal that this class be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students, including those with disabilities that may impact learning in this class. If anyone believes the design of this course poses barriers to effectively participating and/or demonstrating learning in this course, please meet with me (with or without a Student Accessibility Services accommodation letter) to discuss reasonable options or adjustments. During our discussion, I may suggest the possibility/necessity of your contacting SAS (Ferrell Commons 185; 407-823-2372; sas@ucf.edu) to talk about academic accommodations. You are welcome to talk to me at any point in the semester about course design concerns, but it is always best if we can talk at least one week prior to the need for any modifications. Any student having difficulty accessing the instructional media and materials for this class should contact me to discuss other options.

### Academic Honesty:

Every student is expected to do his/her own work in its entirety. Presenting another's ideas, arguments, words or images as your own, using unauthorized material, or giving or accepting unauthorized help on assignments or tests - contradict the educational value of these exercises. Students who attempt to obtain unearned academic credentials that do not reflect their skills and knowledge can also undermine the value of the UCF degrees earned by their more honest peers. Please feel free to ask what is acceptable and what is not.

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment may result in an "F" for that assignment, may (depending on the severity of the case) lead to an "F" for the entire course, and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule [http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/2e\\_Rules.html](http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/2e_Rules.html) for further information. Your instructor will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of the University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity.

The use of electronic translators or human assistance to complete your work is a violation of UCF's academic honesty policy. If you have any doubts about what is acceptable assistance and what is not, please ask your instructor. Any work submitted that contains phrases, structures, or tenses not studied in the course or that in any way indicates that electronic or human assistance has been used may result in an "F" for the assignment, an "F" for the course, and referral to UCF's Office of Student Conduct.

You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with these rules of conduct and abiding by their precepts.

#### **Student Conduct:**

UCF faculty support the UCF Creed. Integrity is the first tenet of the UCF Creed. This is in part a reflection of the second tenet, Scholarship. Course assignments and tests are designed to have educational value; the process of preparing for and completing these exercises will help improve your skills and knowledge. Material presented to satisfy course requirements is therefore expected to be the result of your own original scholarly efforts.

The UCF Creed	
Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.	
Integrity	I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
Scholarship	I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.
Community	I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
Creativity	I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.
Excellence	I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

Academic integrity will be appraised according to the student academic behavior standards outlined in The Golden Rule of the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook. See <http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/> for further details.

#### **Title IX:**

Title IX's implementing regulation provides that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. The University receives federal financial assistance so Title IX applies to UCF's programs – and, by extension, provides protections to UCF students. <http://www.eeo.ucf.edu/documents/new/Discrimination-Descriptions,Prevention-TitleXOverview.pdf>

**Financial Aid Statement:**

As of Fall 2014, all faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the Syllabus Quiz on Webcourses by the end of the first week of classes. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

**Diversity and Inclusion:**

The University of Central Florida recognizes that our individual differences can deepen our understanding of one another and the world around us, rather than divide us. In this class, people of all ethnicities, genders and gender identities, religions, ages, sexual orientations, disabilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, and nationalities are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. If you feel your differences may in some way isolate you from UCF's community or if you have a need of any specific accommodations, please speak with the instructor early in the semester about your concerns and what we can do together to help you become an active and engaged member of our class and community.

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at [www.shield.ucf.edu](http://www.shield.ucf.edu) and <http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/>. If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement, please notify the instructor as soon as possible and/or contact Student Accessibility Services.

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

Title IX – EO/AA - <http://www.eeo.ucf.edu/> & [askanadvocate@ucf.edu](mailto:askanadvocate@ucf.edu)

Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services - <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> & [sas@ucf.edu](mailto:sas@ucf.edu)

Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events – [www.diversity.ucf.edu](http://www.diversity.ucf.edu)

Student Bias Grievances – Just Knights response team - <http://jkrt.sdes.ucf.edu/>

UCF Compliance and Ethics Office - <http://compliance.ucf.edu/> & [complianceandethics@ucf.edu](mailto:complianceandethics@ucf.edu)

Ombuds Office - <http://www.ombuds.ucf.edu>

**Religious Observances:**

Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith. Click here for a list of the major religious holidays in a number of faiths. For more details about these and other holidays, go to <http://www.fctl.ucf.edu/TeachingAndLearningResources/CourseDesign/MajorReligiousHolidays/> or contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives at 407-823-6479.

**Deployed Active Duty Military Students:**

If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact your instructor to discuss your circumstances.

**UCF Cares:**

During your UCF career, you may experience challenges including struggles with academics, finances, or your personal well-being. UCF has a multitude of resources available to all students. Please visit [UCFCares.com](http://UCFCares.com) if you are seeking resources and support, or if you are worried about a friend or classmate. Free services and information are included for a variety of student concerns, including but not limited to alcohol use, bias incidents, mental health concerns, and financial challenges. You can also e-mail [ucfcares@ucf.edu](mailto:ucfcares@ucf.edu) with questions or for additional assistance. You can reach a UCF Cares staff member between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 407-823-5607. If you are in immediate distress, please call Counseling and Psychological Services to speak directly with a counselor 24/7 at 407-823-2811, or please call 911.

**Email Policy:**

In this class our official mode of communication is through email. All communication between student and instructor and between student and student should be respectful and professional. As of 2009, Knightmail is the only official student email at UCF. Class rosters list Knightmail addresses rather than external email addresses, and all official class communications will be sent only to the Knightmail addresses. Students are responsible for checking their Knightmail accounts regularly. See [www.knightsemail.ucf.edu](http://www.knightsemail.ucf.edu) for further information.

**University Writing Center:**

Colbourn 105, 407-823-2197, <http://uwc.ucf.edu/>

Satellite Locations: Main Library, Rosen Library & Online

The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to UCF students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Trained peer consultants provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC's purpose is not merely to fix papers or to make better writers, but to teach writers strategies to navigate complex situations for writing, both in and outside the University. Consultations are available for individuals and small groups. To make the best use of the UWC, visit far enough before your due date to allow yourself time to revise after your consultation, browse the writing resources on our website, and arrange a regular weekly appointment if you'd like long-term help. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by phone or by using the TutorTrac scheduler on our website; walk-in consultations are also available. In addition, the UWC seeks graduate and undergraduate tutors from all majors; contact the UWC to learn more about peer writing consulting and ENC 4275/5276: Theory & Practice of Tutoring Writing, our three-credit tutor-education course.

**Courtesy:**

Please use your electronic devices for class work only and silence your phone. Failure to follow this basic courtesy policy will result in a lowering of your participation grade.

**SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**