

GER 426H F Introduction to Medieval German Language and Culture
M 5-6, T 4-6 Lillian Massey Building (LI) 301
Markus Stock

Office location

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Course objectives: The course is an introduction to the German language and literature of the Middle Ages. The reading and translation of exemplary Middle High German texts will provide an insight into epochal cultural concepts like courtly love and chivalry as well as courtly and clerical designs of identity. We will tackle foundational texts like the first love poems in the German language as well as an early example of a German romance on King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table. No previous exposure to medieval culture required!

Course requirements:

Class participation (10%); assignment (10%); two tests (translation, historical grammar and semantics; 20% each); one term paper of 1500 words (40%).

Required:

Hartmann von Aue: Gregorius. Der arme Heinrich. Iwein, ed. VOLKER MERTENS. Frankfurt a.M.: Deutscher Klassiker Verlag, 2008 (DKV Taschenbücher 29). ISBN: 978-3-618-68029-1 (available at the Victoria Bookstore)..

Sep 14/15, 2009

Introduction: What is Middle High German and why studying it?

Translation training: Der Kürenberger: ‚Ich zôch mir einen falcken‘; Dietmar von Eist (5)

Sep 21/22

Middle High German and New High German. MHG pronunciation and standard spelling

Manuscript Culture

Hartmann von Aue: *Gregorius* 171-272

Minnesang: Anonymous 8, Dietmar von Eist (9)

Sep 28/29

Strong verbs and Ablaut

The hero's parents: *Gregorius* 273-334.

Minnesang: Der Kürenberger (10-20)

Oct 5/6

Weak verbs and i-mutation; MHG syntax

The first crossing: *Gregorius* 699-766.

Oct 12 Thanksgiving: no class

Oct 13 **Thomas Fisher Rare Books Library**: Facsimiles of Medieval German Manuscripts

Oct 19/20

MHG nouns: some special cases; i-mutation (review)

Minnesang: Heinrich von Morungen (72)

Chivalry. Hartmann von Aue: *Gregorius* 1359-1648; 2165-2177

Oct 26 **mid term exam**

Oct 27

Minnesang: Heinrich von Morungen (71)

Nov 2/3

Gregorius on the stone. *Gregorius* 3086-3136.

Hartmann von Aue: *Iwein* 1-104.

Nov 9/10/11

Minnesang. Pastourelle and Dawn Song: Walther von der Vogelweide (103, 104), Wolfram von Eschenbach (115, 116), Gegensang: Neidhart (128), Steinmar (140)

Nov 16/17

Courtly identities. The Arthurian knight. The lady.

Hartmann von Aue: *Iwein*, 520-542; 999-1129; 1301-1369; 2044-2050

Nov 23/24

Crisis: Defining the Arthurian knight.

Hartmann von Aue: *Iwein*, 2763-2955; 2956-3596.

Nov 30 **final exam**

Dec 1 Middle High German Christmas Singalong (!)