Elizabeth Bryan, Instructor Office: 70 Brown Street, Room 302

Semester II, 2013-2014 Office Hours: T, Th 10:30 -12:00

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**ENGL1360F: Quest, Vision, Diaspora: Medieval Journey Narratives**

**Syllabus**

Week

1 W 1/22 Introduction. Middle English. *Translatio imperii et studii* [Receive handout].

2 W 1/29 Brutus, Britain, and the diaspora of Troy: Geoffrey of Monmouth, *History of the*

*Kings of Britain [Historia regum Britanniae]* and Laȝamon, *Brut* [*Hystoria*

*Brutonum]*. [Excerpts in Garbáty pp. 122-126 and 53-56 plus handouts]

3 W 2/5 Arthurian conquest and diaspora's return: Geoffrey of Monmouth, *History of*

*the Kings of Britain [Historia regum Britanniae]* and Laȝamon, *Brut* [*Hystoria*

*Brutonum*]. [Excerpts in Garbáty pp. 126-140 and 56-91 plus handouts]

4 W 2/12 World exploration: Mappa Mundi and *The Travels of Sir John Mandeville*.

5 W 2/19 romance quest and conquest:  *Havelock the Dane* and *King Horn* [Garbáty pp.

142-253]. Receive handout on "liminality."

6 W 2/26 romance quest, Breton lai, and liminality: *Sir Orfeo* and Marie de France, *Lais* [Garbáty pp. 349-364 and all twelve of Marie's lais, with emphasis on "Yonec,"

"Guigemar," "Bisclavret," "Lanval," "Les Deus Amanz," "Chevrefoil," "Eliduc"]

7 W 3/5 Arthurian romance quest: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* [Garbáty pp. 254-

332]. Middle English oral readings scheduled.

8 W 3/12 Crusades romance quest: *Richard the Lionheart*.

**Midterm Paper due Friday 3/14** [in Prof. Bryan's faculty mailbox by 5 p.m.]

9 W 3/19 Visions of paradise and hell: *Pearl* [Garbáty pp. 721-753] and *St. Paul's Vision,*

*or the Eleven Pains of Hell*

Spring Break, 3/22 - 3/30

10 W 4/2 Pilgrimage: *The Book of Margery Kempe* and Mary Carruthers' *The Book of*

*Memory* (excerpts, handout)

11 W 4/9 Vision of social consciousness: *Piers Plowman* by William Langland [excerpts

in Garbáty pp. 676-720]

12 W 4/16 Round Table *aventure*: *Le Morte d'Arthur* by Sir Thomas Malory

13 W 4/23 Grail Quest: *Le Morte d'Arthur* by Sir Thomas Malory

**Final paper due by Monday 4/28** [in Prof. Bryan's faculty mailbox by 5 p.m.]

Reading period April 25 - May 6.

Texts at Brown Bookstore: [A few supplemental texts, as well, will be supplied.]

*Medieval English Literature*, ed. by Thomas J. Garbáty

*The Travels of Sir John Mandeville*, ed. Moseley (Penguin)

Marie de France, *Lais,* 2nd edition, translated by Glyn Burgess and Keith Busby (Penguin)

*The Book of Margery Kempe*, ed. Lynn Staley (Norton)

Sir Thomas Malory, *Le Morte d'Arthur*, introd. Elizabeth J. Bryan (Random House, Modern Library)

Course requirements:

1. Two substantial papers (10-15 pages, double-spaced) due on March 7 and April 28.

2. Oral reading of a passage in Middle English. The object is for you to demonstrate your grasp of Middle English pronunciation and meaning. You select and prepare a passage, which should be long enough for a three-minute reading. Readings will take place in my office the week of March 5.

3. Several short prep papers (1 to 2 pages) as assigned (graded S/NC)

Class policies

-on late papers: I expect papers to be handed in on time. If a paper is late, its return to you will be delayed, it may come back without comments, and your grade may be penalized.

-on attendance: More than 2 absences from the weekly seminar will result in a lowering of your final grade.

-on evaluation: The final course grade will be based on a combination of papers and class commitment. My judgment of how your work reflects an achieved understanding of medieval journey literature will determine your grade rather than a strict mathematic formula, but you may take as a general guideline that the 2 long papers will count for a majority of the course grade, and the various kinds of participation and commitment in the class (including prep papers, oral reading, and class participation) will account for the rest.