



Medieval and Renaissance English Literature

BBNAN11000 D5 – Földváry Kinga

Time: Wednesdays 8.15–9.45
Place: BTK D 204
Availability: By e-mail appointment: foldvary.kinga@btk.ppke.hu
Readings: on MS Teams

Schedule:

Week 1 (11 Sep) Introduction, discussion of requirements, The story of Caedmon
Week 2 (18 Sep) Old English poetry (*The Battle of Maldon*, *The Wanderer*, *The Seafarer*) (R)
Week 3 (25 Sep) Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales* (The Prologue, The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale) (T)
Week 4 (2 Oct) *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (R)
Week 5 (9 Oct) Medieval Drama: *Everyman* (R)
Week 6 (16 Oct) **Pázmány Day – NO CLASS**
Week 7 (23 Oct) **National holiday – NO CLASS** Deadline for 1st essay
AUTUMN BREAK
Week 8 (6 Nov) Tudor Fact and Fiction: Thomas More: *Utopia* (Book II) (T)
Week 9 (13 Nov) The Elizabethan sonnet: Wyatt, Spenser, Shakespeare (R)
Week 10 (20 Nov) Shakespeare: *Much Ado about Nothing* (R)
Week 11 (27 Nov) Shakespeare: *Richard III* (R)
Week 12 (4 Dec) Shakespeare: *Macbeth* (T) – Deadline for 2nd home essay
Week 13 (11 Dec) Literature on film: discussion; conclusion, evaluation

Assessment is based on the following components:

- Weekly reflections (R) on the readings (except when there is a short test) – 6x3%
- Short in-class tests (marked with a (T) above) – 3x5%
- Two short home essays (one on a Medieval [weeks 1–5], one on a Renaissance [weeks 6–11] topic) – 60%
- Active participation: if you never speak in class, you will not get a 5! – 10%
- Optional: presentation (may replace one of the essays), or review of a theatre performance or film adaptation of a medieval or renaissance work

You must **not miss more than three seminars**, and even if you missed a class, you must **come prepared** for the next one. You should always read the piece to be discussed in class, and write a reflection: approx. half a page on what you think about it (as an Assignment in MS Teams), unless there is a short test on that class. **If you miss a test, write a reflection instead!**

The **home essays** must be at least 1500 words long, handed in **by the 23rd of October and 4th of December**, typed and **uploaded to Teams** (double or 1,5-spaced, font size 12, Times New Roman), about some aspect(s) of a medieval or renaissance English literary work of art, using at least **three academic sources** in each – suggestions are available on Teams. If you are not sure about your topic, discuss it with me. If you feel you need help with the essay, submit your first draft at least a week before the deadline, and based on the feedback, you can revise and resubmit it. **Any source you use in your work must be referenced, otherwise you fail the course!**



BRIEF GUIDELINES FOR REFERENCING (more details on the department website)

- Main idea: **acknowledge all sources** you used (printed, online, journal or book, even if not the words, only the idea comes from someone else). **Otherwise you are guilty of plagiarism, and you will fail the course!**
- If you use more than a few words in an unchanged form, use "quotation marks".
- At the end of the paper, list your **Works Cited / Bibliography**, in which you include all the publication data of your primary source as well as the secondary sources.
- All titles of books must be *italicised* (independent volumes, novels, plays, long poems, films, etc, primary and secondary sources as well) in the text, footnotes and the bibliography as well.
- Titles of essays/chapters must be given "in quotation marks".
- In your footnotes and bibliography, provide all the information available about the edition you used (author/editor, full title, publisher, place and year of publication).
- Always give the precise page numbers when you quote from a source (p. 4, pp. 4-6), line numbers for poetry, act/scene/line numbers for drama (l. 34, ll. 34-42; 3.2.24/Act III, Sc. 2, l. 24).
- You don't need to find a source for commonly known information (e.g. "William Shakespeare was a dramatist", "*Hamlet* is a tragedy by Shakespeare"), but anything that comes from a source other than yourself should be referenced, and whenever you are in doubt, give the source – better to be safe than sorry!
- Helpful sites: our [Institute's thesis writing guide](#); [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#) (Purdue OWL)

Sample references in the MLA style

In the text:

- When Lady Macbeth refers to her husband as one "too full o'th' milk of human kindness" (1.5.17), her words are particularly chilling because...
- In an essay on *Othello* adaptations we can find the idea that the image of the murderous moor is in fact a cultural stereotype (Lanier, 2004).
- Douglas Lanier in his essay on *Othello* adaptations argues that "the sheer intensity of the *Othello* narrative and the identification it encourages with Othello work to blur the boundary between reality and fiction" (199).

Bibliography/Works cited (in alphabetical order):

Primary sources:

Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Secondary sources:

Cartelli, Thomas and Katherine Rowe. *New Wave Shakespeare on Screen*. Cambridge and Malden, MA: Polity, 2007.

Lanier, Douglas. "Murdering Othello." *A Companion to Literature, Film, and Adaptation*, edited by Deborah Cartmell, Blackwell, 2012, pp. 198-215.