Title of the Course: IED 272 (01) British Poetry and Prose I
Instructor: Associate Prof Dr. Huriye Reis
Year and Term: 2010-2011 Spring
Class Hours: Thursday: 10:00-12:45  ZNG
Term Dates: 24 February 2011- 26 May 2011
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I.Aim and Contents: This course aims to cover the major writings of the Old English period and major writers of the Middle English period, Chaucer, Langland, the Gawain poet, Margery Kempe to study the genres and literary conventions of the English Middle Ages. Religious poetry, epic, dream convention, romance, allegory and frame tale will be covered within this framework.

II.Course Outline:

Week I&II: (24 February, 3 March) Introduction to the early Medieval period and the Middle English period: society, the heroic ideal, the church, historical events: The period up to the Norman conquest, the Norman Conquest, the Black Death, the Peasants’ Revolt
Introduction to the literary genres and the conventions of the Medieval period: language and literature, continental influences.

Week III: (10 March) Beowulf, The Dream of the Rood,

Week IV: (17 March) Middle English Literature, romance, Lancelot, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Week V: (24 March 2011 Thursday MIDTERM I

Week VI: (31 March) Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Week VII: (7 April) Medieval Women’s writing, From The Book of Margery Kempe

Week VIII: (14 April) Chaucer, frame tale narrative and dream vision poetry. The General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales

Week IX: (21 April) Chaucer continued

Week X: (28 April) William Langland, from The Piers Plowman

Week XI: (5 May) from The Piers Plowman

Week XII: 12 May 2011 Thursday MIDTERM II

Week XIII: (19 May) No class
Week XIV: (26 May) Medieval lyrics


IV. Method of Instruction: There will be introductory lectures on the historical and literary background of the Middle Ages; however, the classes will mainly be conducted through textual analysis and critical reading of the primary texts. Students should read the secondary material as they are expected to display a considerable knowledge of the social and literary background as well as the primary texts.

V. Requirements: Attendance is obligatory. More than 11 (eleven) hours of absence will result in F1. Students should obtain and read the texts assigned for the class discussions. Students will be guided through questions (written and/or oral) in their reading of the texts. Assessment: In the grading of examination papers up to 25% of the total mark will be taken off for grammatical and writing mistakes. There will be two mid-term examinations which will carry 50% of the total grade. The final examination will carry the remaining 50%. (Please note that regardless of your semester average, you need to get at least 50 points in the final exam to pass the course) Students should demonstrate that they have read the relevant secondary material and have done independent research. Students should present their arguments clearly and should display the ability to think independently. They should also demonstrate a good knowledge of the poets and the poems that the course covers.

Attendance, class participation and assignments will contribute to the final assessment.

VII. Relevant reading


