



**School of English, Film, Theatre, and Media Studies  
English Programme**

**ENGL 322 – Middle English Language  
ENGL 406 -- Medieval Studies: Middle English to Early Modern English**

**Trimester 2 2009**

13 July to 15 November 2009

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October

Study week: 19 to 23 October

Examination/Assessment period: 27 October to 15 November.

Students who enrol in courses with examinations should be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

**Name and contact details**

Christine Franzen, course co-ordinator: VZ 919, 463-6805, christine.franzen@vuw.ac.nz.

I am always happy to see students: email me for an appointment.

**Class times and locations; course delivery**

Tuesday 9-10 and Friday 9-11 in VZ 106. All classes are conducted as seminars.

**Communication of additional information**

Any changes to the course programme or additional information will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

**Course content**

The course aims to give students a good reading knowledge of, and ability to differentiate, dialectal varieties of Middle English between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries and firm understanding of the development of the English language during this period. The emphasis will be on textual analysis with some translation, especially of early texts.

**Learning objectives**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- translate the set texts demonstrating a good standard of accuracy and comprehension;
- demonstrate a good grasp of Middle English grammar in its various manifestations;
- recognise, describe, and differentiate the dialect features of the texts;
- assign unseen texts to a dialect area;
- demonstrate an understanding of the morphological and phonological development of the English language in this period;
- demonstrate an understanding of semantic development in the language in this period;
- demonstrate an understanding of the development of the standard written language;
- demonstrate proficiency in using the major research tools for the period such as *OED*, *MED*, *Linguistic Atlas*, Early English Text Society, etc.;

**above all, work to a high standard of accuracy, consistency, and attention to detail; and**

**demonstrate good work habits to complete assignments within an allotted time frame.**

## Expected workload

Students in 322 should expect to spend about 18 hours per week on this course including class contact hours. Students in 406 should expect to spend about 24 hours per week. This work consists of weekly translation and exercises as specified in the Class Notes Book and preparation for assessed tests and assignments.

## Readings

### Essential texts:

J. A. W. Bennett and G. V. Smithers, eds. *Early Middle English Verse and Prose*, 2nd edn. 1968.

Kenneth Sisam and J. R. R. Tolkien, eds. *A Middle English Reader and Vocabulary* (Dover); previously published as Kenneth Sisam, ed. *Fourteenth Century Verse and Prose* (Clarendon). Either is fine.

ENGL 322/406 Middle English Language Class Notes

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

## Assessment requirements

The course assessment consists of:

1. A **three-hour final examination** (not open book) **worth 40%**. It will cover texts and dialects studied in the final eight weeks of the course (excluding ones included in the second project): translation, comprehension, dialect identification, significant language features, style, orthography, and grammar.
2. **In-term work, worth 60%**, consisting of
  - a. **One test worth 20%** on East Midlands and Northern texts and dialects, on **Tuesday, 11 August, in class**. It is designed to check progress on translation and comprehension, dialect identification, and recognition of significant factors in Middle English grammar (morphological, phonological, orthographical, and semantic).
  - b. and c. **Two short projects, worth 20% each**, to be handed in on **Monday, 14 September** and **Monday, 28 September, at 12:00 pm**.

Details on the projects will be distributed later. Both will involve detailed language work and a range of skills, editorial, translation, analysis, and critical. Both projects are intended to develop independent research skills which will be invaluable in post-graduate courses and many jobs. The projects for 406 students will be longer and more demanding; the test and exam will also be more demanding. Accuracy and attention to detail are the skills which will be most valued in all assessed work in both courses. All work must be produced in accordance with the School's *Guidelines for SEFT Students*; note particularly the attached statement on plagiarism.

### **Penalties and extensions**

If work is handed in late, then one grade is subtracted and no comments are offered.

If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date and submit it to the Course Co-ordinator. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate.

### **Mandatory course requirements**

1. You must complete all the in-term written work above.
2. You must attend a minimum of 70% of the classes.
3. You are expected to come to class having prepared the assignment for the session, and able to contribute. ENGL 406 students will be asked to present one or two topics.

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **General University Policies and Statutes**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC(Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>

## ENGL 322/406: Course Schedule

Texts will be covered in the following order, though some adjustments to the schedule may be necessary as the course proceeds. **The specific extracts and exercises to be prepared week by week are given in your ENGL 322/406 Class Notes book.**

Week 1	July 14, 17	Bennett & Smithers XVI	<i>The Peterborough Chronicle</i>
Week 2	July 21, 24	Bennett & Smithers XIII	<i>The Ormulum</i>
Weeks 3-4	July 28, 31, August 4, 7	Class Notes Bennett & Smithers XIV Sisam & Tolkien X	Chaucer's 'The Reeve's Tale' <i>Cursor Mundi</i> Barbour's <i>Bruce</i>
Week 5	<b>August 11</b> August 14	<b>in class TEST</b> Bennett & Smithers XVII	<i>Ancrene Wisse</i>
Weeks 6-7	August 18, 21, September 8, 11	Sisam & Tolkien V Sisam & Tolkien VIII (A) Sisam & Tolkien XIII (B)	<i>Gawayne and the Grene Knight</i> <i>Piers Plowman</i> Trevisa's translation of Higden's <i>Polychronicon</i>
Week 8-9	<b>September 14 First project due (12 pm)</b> September 15, 18, 22, 25	Bennett & Smithers I Sisam & Tolkien III	<i>The Owl and the Nightingale</i> <i>The Ayenbyte of Inwyt</i>
Week 10	<b>September 28 Second project due (12 pm)</b> September 29, October 2	Class Notes	Chaucer's 'The Reeve's Tale' (a second look)
Weeks 11-2	October 6, 9, 13, 16	Sisam & Tolkien XI (A) Class Notes Class Notes	Wiclif on translating the Bible London documents Paston letters