This class is an introduction to the literature of medieval England and the methods of studying earlier literature. We will look at linguistic developments, historical backgrounds and cultural context. All texts (except Njal’s Saga) will be read in their original language. Not to worry! These forms of Middle English can be mastered with just a modest effort at learning some new grammatical features.

Work will focus on transcription, prose analysis and translation. This course has recently been revamped from 3 units to 4 and the assignments reflect the increased units. Many of these texts will be useful to you when you take the M.A. Reading Exam, Part One.

Required Texts:

Barratt, Alexandra, *Women’s Writing in Middle English*, Longman Annotated Texts
Beidler, Peter, ed., *Chaucer, The Wife of Bath: Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism*
*Njal’s Saga*, Penguin

Grading:

- Pisan Transcription First Draft 10%
- Pisan Transcription Final Draft 20%
- Malory Prose Analysis First Draft 10%
- Malory Prose Analysis Final Draft 20%
- Translation Exam 20%
- Reading Response to *Njal’s Saga* 20%

Late Policy: In the case of genuine and compelling emergencies beyond your control, late work can be accepted up to one week late. There will be a full grade penalty.
Schedule of Classes:

Aug 23    Introduction to Transcription and Editing of Medieval Texts
Aug 30    Read Christine de Pisan pp. 137-162, *Women’s Writing in Middle English*
Sept 6    Transcription Workshop. Bring a draft of your preliminary work.
Sept 13   Malory, 3-40 and *Sankgreal*, 462-506  **Transcription First Draft DUE**
Sept 20   Malory, *Sir Launcelot and Guinevere*, 588-645
Sept 27   Malory, *Dethe of Arthur*, 646-698  **Transcription Final Draft DUE**
Oct 4     Workshop on prose analysis (Bring your chosen passage)
Oct 11    Margery Kempe, 177-204, *Women’s Writing in Middle English*  
First Draft of Prose Analysis DUE
Oct 18    *Lay le Fresne*, 40-48, *Women’s Writing in ME*; Wife of Bath, Prologue and Tale
Nov 1     *Troilus and Criseyde*, Books Two and Three
Nov 8     *Troilus and Criseyde*, Book Four  **Final Prose Analysis DUE**
Nov 15    *Troilus and Criseyde*, Book Five  **Translation Exam**
Nov 22    Thanksgiving Break
Nov 29    *Njal’s Saga*
Dec 6     *Njal’s Saga*

Mon, Dec 18, 1715-1930 (5:15 – 7:30 pm)  **Reading responses to *Njal’s Saga* DUE** (1000 words)

(n.b. This is our regularly assigned Final Exam time but you will present your paper informally and we will discuss your responses to *Njal’s Saga*)