

MA English: Medieval and Renaissance Literature

Department of English, University College Cork



Programme Handbook 2025-2026



MA: Medieval and Renaissance Literature

Welcome to the MA: Medieval and Renaissance Literature. This MA offers you the opportunity to explore Old English, Middle English, and early modern literature in all its rich variety and contexts. The MA examines canonical and lesser-known texts, forms, and authors from the islands of Britain and Ireland, ranging from the earliest works in English, such as riddles, elegies, and wisdom poetry, to the proliferation of texts and genres in Middle English writing of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, including Chaucer, to the cheap print of the sixteenth century and the popular plays of Shakespeare. We take a particular interest in interrogating conventional boundaries between periods (including between Old and Middle English, and between medieval and Renaissance texts), between genres, and between media (from oral to written traditions, from page to stage, and from text to screen).

Under the guidance of the MA's expert scholars, who have published widely on many of the topics covered on the course, you will explore key conceptual and critical issues in Old, Middle, and Renaissance English literature; the historical, cultural, and material contexts of this literature; and the afterlives and legacies of this literature across time and media (transmission, reception, adaptation, appropriation). This MA will introduce you to the discipline-specific skills that are required for postgraduate study of earlier English (palaeography, codicology, linguistic analysis, use of databases and bibliographies) and foster transferable skills that are invaluable in a range of careers.

MA programme structure

The MA: Medieval and Renaissance Literature is 90-credit programme, consisting of 50 taught credits and a research dissertation of 40 credits.

In your taught component, you will take EN6009: Literary Research: Skills, Methods and Strategies (10 credits) in both semester 1 and 2. All MA students in the School of English take this module. (A separate timetable and syllabus will be issued for this module.)

The remaining modules are your core Medieval and Renaissance modules. In semester 1, students take EN6052: New Histories of the Book: Theories and Practices of Earlier Writing, **AND** EN6053: Old English Literature. In semester 2, students take EN6054: Renaissance Literature **AND** EN6051: Middle English Literature.

Semester 1:	New Histories of the Book EN6052 <i>Compulsory</i>	Old English EN6053	Contemporary Research: Skills, Methods, Strategies EN6009 <i>Mandatory for all MAs</i>
Semester 2:	Middle English EN6051	Renaissance English EN6054	
Summer (semester 3): April-late August	EN6017: Dissertation of 15,000-17,000 words Due the first Friday in September 2026		

With the agreement of both MA Programmes Directors, students may opt to substitute a module from the MA Modernities in place of EN6051, EN6053, or EN6054.

Students may not replace **EN6052** (New Histories of the Book) with another MA module. Modules from the MA in Creative Writing cannot be chosen.

The seminars for the taught component of the MA consist of two 2-hour sessions per week, over ten weeks. Each meeting will concentrate both on close reading of primary texts and on contextual elements, considering authors and texts along with key secondary criticism concerning matters of genre, history, politics, culture, and art. We will examine some of the major literary influences on Medieval and Renaissance texts, and take account of Medieval and Renaissance theories of authorship and translation, as well as modern theoretical approaches to pre-modern texts. Worksheets outlining preparatory reading, issues for discussion, and topics for short exercises (e.g. presentations) will be provided for these sessions a week in advance (usually via Canvas pages or via email).

Assessment

The core Medieval and Renaissance modules are assessed by one 3,000-word essay assigned at the end of each semester. For each module, the essay accounts for 80% of the marks and Contribution and Participation in-class accounts for 20% of the marks.

Submission of written work

Essays are to be submitted online on Canvas.

Short **extensions** are normally only allowed on grounds of extenuating circumstances; contact the MA Programme Director – Dr Semple.

Progression to the Dissertation requires completion of all module essays (by April / May).

The MLA referencing style must be used in all essays and MA theses. (For info and guidance, please see the EN6009: Contemporary Research module.)

Marking scale

First Honours:	70+
Second Honours grade 1:	60-69
Second Honours grade 2:	50-59
Pass:	40-49

Plagiarism

Plagiarised work will be treated under the rules of the School of English “Plagiarism Policy” and UCC’s regulations. Any instances of plagiarism will result in penalties, including an automatic fail mark for the assignment. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, how to reference correctly, or which referencing system to use, please consult a member of staff.

Module descriptions

EN6052: New Histories of the Book: theories and practices of earlier writing (MA staff) 10 credits, Semester 1. (*Compulsory module*)

This module introduces students to how books were made and how texts were written and circulated in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. The class will gain experience of reading from manuscripts and from early printed books using facsimiles and electronic resources, and will explore the literary implications of reading medieval texts in their original textual environment. The course will also explore earlier theories of writing, authorship and audience.

EN6053: Old English Literature, to c. 1200 (OE staff) – 10 credits, Semester 1.

This module focuses on reading Old English poetry and prose in its literary, material and cultural context, placing canonical texts such as *Beowulf* and the elegies in dialogue with less-studied works. We will consider issues such as authorship and authority, genre and intertextuality, and the political and gendered inflection of the heroic, always keeping in mind connections between the rich literature of Early Medieval England and later traditions. This module will also consider the translation of Old English and (mis)appropriation of early medieval culture in the present day.

EN6051: Middle English Literature, 1200-1550 (KR) – 10 credits, Semester 2.

This module examines a fascinating period of change – linguistic, cultural, and literary - in English writing in England, Scotland, and Ireland. The course explores the generic and stylistic richness of the period, covering the development and diffusion of lyric poetry, romance, visionary texts, satire, drama, and writing for women, with close attention to how this writing engages with problems of society, power, identity, and belief in the later Middle Ages. Texts will include Arthurian and non-cyclic romance, together with some of the writings of Geoffrey Chaucer, and other authors of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

EN6054: Renaissance Literature, from c.1550 (ES and MB) – 10 credits, Semester 2.

This module explores a range of texts in different forms – a range of drama, 'cheap print', romance for example - as well as stimulating cultural contexts. The ability of the period's writers to reinvent and vivify older textual traditions is a recurring interest. Overall, the module reveals the extraordinary richness of the cultural production of the early modern period.

EN6017 Dissertation (MA staff) – 40 credits, Spring-Summer.

From April to September, students undertake to write a thesis on an approved topic, under the supervision of an appropriate member of staff. The thesis enables students to develop a research interest, produce a sustained piece of original research using advanced critical, theoretical, and methodological concepts, and contribute to existing debates within a specified field of study. Theses may be supervised by one or more members of the MA staff or staff from other MA programmes in the Department. The dissertation should be 15,000-17,000 words and must be submitted to the School of English Office by the first Friday in September 2025.

EN6009 Contemporary Research: Skills, Methods, and Strategies (MA staff) – 10 credits, Semesters 1 and 2. (*Compulsory module*)

Separate schedule and syllabus will be available for this module in September.

MA programme team and Research Interests

The MA team is available to discuss any aspect of the programme and to give general advice on postgraduate issues. We are also happy to discuss opportunities, including PhD study, beyond this year. Please email individual staff to make an appointment.

Dr Edel Semple (e.semple@ucc.ie) ORB 1.84 – *Programme Director 2023-2026*.

Early modern drama, esp. city comedies and Shakespeare; Shakespeare adaptations on screen and on stage; Shakespeare biofiction; gender and sexuality.

Dr Ken Rooney (k.rooney@ucc.ie) ORB 1.71

Death and eschatology in later medieval writing; Chaucer; the *Gawain*-poet; Middle English romance and hagiography; visionary literature; secular and devotional lyric poetry to the renaissance; the interaction of writing and iconography in earlier literature.

Dr Michael Booth (michael.booth@ucc.ie) ORB 1.77

Classical antecedents and influences in early modern writing; New World encounters and the age of discovery; lyric poetry; Shakespeare; conceptual blending in art and culture.

Dr Francesca Brooks (francesca.a.brooks@gmail.com) ORB 1.68

Old English literature and language; archives; identity, especially nationalism and regionalism; space and place; the translation and reception of medieval literature and culture; gender, sexuality and adaptation.

UCC's Skills Centre

UCC's Skills Centre, located in the basement of the Boole Library, provides a dedicated learning space for the enhancement of study skills and is committed to contributing to a positive and successful student experience here in UCC. The Skills Centre provides free, customised workshops and sessions to help students improve their study skills, writing technique, and presentation skills. Peer tutors and staff facilitate group sessions, one-to-one appointments, and drop-in sessions. The topics of these sessions include, for example, note-taking, how to approach an assignment, proof-reading, critical thinking, and presentation skills.

For more info, visit their website: <http://skillscentre.ucc.ie/>

Semester 1

Week Beginning (2025)	Old English (EN6053) Wed 4-6pm in ORB 1.65	Book History (EN6052) Thur 11am-1pm in ORB 1.65	Contemporary Research (EN6009) Wed 9-11am, various venues (see separate schedule, available in Sept.)
8 Sept	INTRODUCTORY MEETING Wednesday September 10th, at 4pm, ORB 1.65		
15 Sept Week ii	Visible Song & the “Origins” of Old English Poetry Cædmon’s Hymn and the (invented) origins of Old English literature; modern adaptations [FB in-person]	Elements of the Book 1 Materials, layout, binding, folding, quires, book production [FB]	
22 Sept Week iii	Riddles and Writing Technologies Selected riddles from the Exeter Book [FB in-person]	Elements of the Book 2 Scripts: book-hands and cursives, interpretation and transcription [FB]	
29 Sept Week iv	Who were the “Early English”? <i>The Battle of Brunanburh</i> , <i>Armes Prydein Vawr</i> and extracts from <i>Egil’s Saga</i> [online class]	Manuscript contexts of texts 1 The languages and genres of Harley 2253 [KR]	
6 Oct Week v	Authority, Authorship and Translation Cynewulf’s signatures; Alfred’s Preface to Gregory the Great’s <i>Pastoral Care</i> ; Ælfric’s Prefaces [online class]	Manuscript contexts of texts 2 The English lyrics of Harley 2252 [KR]	
13 Oct Week vi	Women’s Voices: Ambiguity and Transformation <i>Wulf and Eadwacer</i> , <i>The Wife’s Lament</i> , ‘The Life of Saint Eugenia’ [online class]	Orality, Literacy and Print Harriot’s <i>Brief and True Report</i> (1590) [MB]	
20 Oct Week vii	Reading Week – no classes		
27 Oct Week viii	Religion and Poetic Innovation <i>The Dream of the Rood</i> , the Ruthwell Cross, and the Brussels Reliquary Cross [online class]	Inventing the dramatic author Ben Jonson’s First Folio, <i>The Workes</i> (1616) [ES]	
3 Nov Week ix	Haunted Territories, Exiles & Outlaws Extracts from <i>Beowulf</i> , <i>Grettis saga</i> and the lives of Saint Guthlac; <i>the Beowulf</i> manuscript [online class]	Printing the author John Taylor, the Water Poet, <i>All the Workes</i> (1630) [ES]	
10 Nov Week x	Responses to Old English Selected texts and adaptations [in-person]	Early modern print, books, markets Visit to Special Collections, Library [ES]	
17 Nov Week xi	Old English: A Critical History Key approaches, developments and controversies; set topics to research and present to the class [FB in-person]	Conserving books Visit the Conservation Lab, Library [ES and Louise O’Connor, Conservator, Special Collections and Archives]	
24 Nov Week xii	Discussion of essay topics with staff Essays in semester 1 modules assigned. Essays due January 2026		
Week xiii	Study / Review Week		

Semester 2

Week beginning 2025	Renaissance English (EN6054) Wed 11am-1pm in ORB 1.65	Middle English (EN6053) Thurs 3-5pm in ORB_G42 (S)	Contemporary Research (EN6009) Wed 9-11am, various venues (see separate schedule)
13 Jan Week i	Staging the city and the martyr Munday, Chettle, Shakespeare, et al., <i>Sir Thomas More</i> [ES]	Chaucer our contemporary From Chaucer's <i>The Knight's Tale</i> to Helgeland's <i>A Knight's Tale</i> (2001) [KR]	
20 Jan Week ii	London's cony-catching pamphlets Greene, <i>A Notable Discovery of Cozenage</i> and other pamphlets (selections) [ES]	Chaucer's contemporaries and ours <i>Sir Gawain and The Green Knight</i> and <i>The Green Knight</i> (2021)	
27 Jan Week iii	Magic and Science 1 Marlowe, <i>Doctor Faustus</i> [MB]	Women and medieval life-writing Extracts from <i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i>	
3 Feb Week iv	Magic and Science 2 Greene, <i>Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay</i> [MB]	Women and romance Chaucer, <i>Troilus and Criseyde</i> , Books 1-3	
10 Feb Week v	Classical Sources: Shakespeare, <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> [MB]	Epics of Fate: announcing the author Chaucer, <i>Troilus and Criseyde</i> , Books 4 & 5	
17-21 Feb Week vi	Reading Week – no classes		
24 Feb Week vii	Shakespeare on paper Shakespeare play – class's choice [ES] e.g. <i>Shrew</i> , <i>Tempest</i> , <i>Macbeth</i> , <i>Henry V</i>	Love, death and immortality I: contesting the author Robert Henryson, <i>The Testament of Cresseid</i>	
C3 March Week viii	Shakespeare on screen Film adaptation of Shakespeare play [ES]	Love, death, and immortality II: elvish authors and popular romance Chaucer, <i>Sir Thopas</i> ; Anon, <i>Thomas of Erceldoune</i> (from the Lincoln Thornton ms)	
10 March Week ix	Marriage, authority, race Elizabeth Cary, <i>The Tragedy of Mariam</i> [ES]	Politics, Satire, and History <i>The Awntyrs of Arthure</i> ; extracts from <i>Morte Arthure</i> (from Lincoln Thornton manuscript)	
17 March Week x	Renaissance Epic 1 George Chapman, <i>Achilles' Shield</i> [MB]	Apocalypse then Beginning and ending the world in the York Plays and related texts (1)	
24 March Week xi	Renaissance Epic 2 John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book 1 [MB]	Apocalypse, when? Beginning and ending the world in the York Plays and related texts (2)	
31 March Week xii	Essay consultations with staff (Essays due 29 April 2026). Consult with staff and prepare MA thesis proposals.	Thesis presentations 2026 – Date TBC (MA staff)	Mini conference
6-17 April	Easter recess – no classes Essay questions released. Essays due: 29 April 2026		
MA Med Ren thesis due for submission on Canvas EN6017 on Friday 4th September 2026			

Reading for the year 2025-2026

Organised by module, the lists below include texts – primary and contextual, both necessary and recommended – for the year ahead. You are not expected to cover everything, so please use these lists selectively. You will be alerted to essential reading and prep work in advance of each class, online via Canvas (UCC's virtual learning environment).

1. Book History and Palaeography (Old-, Middle-, and Early-Modern English)

- Barnard, J., et al., eds. *The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain*. Vols 1-5. CUP, 1999-2012. (Vols 1-5 devoted to Medieval and Renaissance book culture). ebook via Boole Library.
- Clegg, Cyndia S. *Shakespeare's Reading Audiences: Early Modern Books and Audience Interpretation*. CUP, 2017.
- Da Rold, Orietta and Elaine Treharne, *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval British Manuscripts*. CUP, 2020 [covers both Old English and Middle English traditions]
- Dobranski, Stephen B. *Readers and Authorship in Early Modern England*. CUP, 2005.
- Finkelstein, David, and Alistair McCleery. *An Introduction to Book History*. Routledge, 2005.
- Finkelstein, David, and Alistair McCleery. *The Book History Reader*. Routledge, 2006.
- Gneuss, Helmut. *Handlist of Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts: A List of Manuscripts and Manuscript Fragments Written or Owned in England Up to 1100*. Tempe, AZ.: ACMRS, 2001. [Important resource for locating Old English manuscript witnesses and their holdings]
- Grafton, Anthony. *Inky Fingers: The Making of Books in Early Modern Europe*. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2020.
- Ioppolo, Grace. *Dramatists and their Manuscripts in the Age of Shakespeare, Jonson, Middleton and Heywood: Authorship, Authority and the Playhouse*. vol. 6., Routledge, 2006.
- Kerby-Fulton, K, et al. *Opening Up Middle English manuscripts*. Cornell University Press, 2012. [Lavishly illustrated introductory essays on some of the most important manuscript anthologies containing Middle English authors and genres.]
- Owen-Crocker, Gale R., ed. *Working with Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts*. Liverpool UP, 2009.
- Parkes, Malcolm. *Pause and Effect: Punctuation in the West*. Aldershot, 1992. [Seminal study of punctuation and, by extension, the reading and interpretation of manuscripts.]
- Razzall, Lucy. *Boxes and Books in Early Modern England: Materiality, Metaphor, Containment*. Cambridge University Press, 2021. ebook via Boole Library.
- Richards, Mary P., ed. *Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts: Basic Readings*. Routledge, 1994.
- Roberts, Jane. *Guide to Scripts used in English Writings up to 1500*. 2005. [Indispensable survey, which also acts as a "hands-on" literary history of English writing.]
- Smith, Helen. *'Grossly Material Things': Women and Book Production in Early Modern England*. OUP, 2012. ebook via Boole Library.
- Werner, Sarah. *Studying Early Printed Books, 1450-1800: A Practical Guide*. Wiley Blackwell, 2019.

2. Old English (c.650-1200)

Primary Materials

There is no need to purchase any of these books to access the primary texts, which will be made available through Canvas, if not through the library, but here's where you'll find some of the texts we'll be reading and discussing:

Many of the poems and shorter prose works are reproduced in parallel OE and MnE in Treharne, E., ed. *Old and Middle English c. 890-c.1400: An Anthology*. Blackwell, 2004. See also the Dumbarton Oaks series of facing page translations, grouped by genre (for example, *Old Testament Narratives*. Ed. and trans. Daniel Anlezark. Harvard UP, 2011)

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles. Ed. Michael Swanton. London: Phoenix, 2000. [includes all manuscript versions. Extracts can be found in Treharne's anthology.]

The Battle of Brunanburh: A Casebook, ed., Michael Livingston. Liverpool University Press, 2011. Includes *Armes Prydein Vawr* and relevant extracts from *Egil's Saga*.

Beowulf. [There are numerous editions, but R. D. Fulk, ed. and tr. *The Beowulf Manuscript*. Harvard UP, 2010 has the advantage of including other texts in the MS, as well as the *Finnsburh Fragment*.]

Guthlac A, in *Old English Poems of Christ and his Saints*, ed., and trans. Mary Clayton. Dumbarton Oaks. Harvard UP, 2013.

Guthlac B, in *The Old English Poems of Cynewulf*, ed., and trans., Robert E. Bjork. Dumbarton Oaks. Harvard UP, 2013.

The Exeter Anthology of Old English Poetry, 2 vols. Ed. Bernard J. Muir. Exeter. Exeter UP, 1994. [Most poems are included in Treharne's anthology.]

The Old English Version of Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People, ed. and tr. T. Miller. Translation available online: http://www.yorku.ca/inpar/Bede_Miller.pdf

Miller. Translation available online: http://www.yorku.ca/inpar/Bede_Miller.pdf

The Old English and Anglo-Latin Riddle Tradition: (Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library 69), ed. and trans. Andy Orchard (Cambridge, Mas. 2021). See also [The Riddle Ages online](#)

The Saga of Grettir the Strong. Trans. Bernard Scudder. Penguin, 2005.

Secondary criticism (Introductory)

See the prep materials on specific texts on Canvas, which will be available prior to each class.

Amodio, Mark C. *The Anglo-Saxon Literature Handbook*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2013.

Campbell, John and Wormald, eds. *The Anglo-Saxons*. London: Penguin, 1991.

Donoghue, Daniel. *Old English Literature: A Short Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2004.

Fulk, R. D. and C. M. Cain. *A History of Old English Literature*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2003.

Godden, Malcolm and Michael Lapidge, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Old English Literature*. CUP, 1991.

Hunter Blair. *An Introduction to Anglo-Saxon England*. 3rd ed. CUP, 2003.

Johnson, David and Elaine Treharne, eds. *Readings in Medieval Texts: Interpreting Old and Middle English Literature*. OUP, 2011.

Catherine E. Karkov, *Imagining Anglo-Saxon England: Utopia, Heterotopia, Dystopia*. Boydell, 2020.

Lapidge, Blair, Keynes, and Scragg, eds. *The Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Anglo-Saxon England*. Blackwell, 2000.

Liuzza, R.M., ed. *Old English Literature: Critical Essays*. Yale UP, 2002.

Magennis, Hugh. *The Cambridge Introduction to Anglo-Saxon Literature*. CUP, 2011.

O'Brien O'Keefe, Katherine, ed. *Reading Old English Texts*. CUP, 1997.

Pulsiano, Phillip and Elaine Treharne, eds. *A Companion to Anglo-Saxon Literature*. Blackwell, 2001.

Stanley, E.G., ed. *Continuations and Beginnings: Studies in Old English Literature*. Nelson, 1966.

Stodnick, J. and Renee Trilling, ed. *A Handbook of Anglo-Saxon Studies*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

Wogan-Browne, Jocelyn et al. eds. *The Idea of the Vernacular*. Exeter UP, 1999.

Old English language aids

Baker, Peter S. *Introduction to Old English*. Blackwell, 2003. [Has an online component and reader at <http://faculty.virginia.edu/OldEnglish/OEA/>]

Koivisto-Kokko, Victoria and Tom Birkett, Old English Online [Full Old English course with exercises], <https://oldenglish.info/>

Bosworth and Toller, *An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*. Online edition,

<http://beowulf.engl.uky.edu/~kiernan/BT/bosworth.htm>

The Toronto Dictionary of Old English Online, A-I, Available online: <http://doe.utoronto.ca/>

3. Middle English (c. 1200-1500)

Primary materials

Several of our texts on the programme will be available on the TEAMS Middle English texts website at <https://metseditions.org/>. These include the *Book of Margery Kempe*; Arthurian romances, and the texts of Harley 2253 (in the Book History course). You should also purchase:

Benson, Larry D., ed. *The Riverside Chaucer*. Oxford University Press, 2008.

Recommended contextual reading (impossible to read all of these at once, but try one if you can; dip into longer works)

Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy* - translations in Penguin, Loeb, or Oxford World's Classics.

[Without doubt, the most influential book for the middle ages, written by Boethius in prison, awaiting execution, in the 6th century. Indispensable for Chaucer (who translated it).]

Chretien de Troyes, *Arthurian Romances* – translation in Everyman series. [Seminal 12th-century development of Arthurian world and romance form.]

Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meung, *The Romance of the Rose*. [Seminal 12th-century work for developing ideas of love-psychology and allegorical form. There's a handy translation by Frances Horgan for World's Classics.]

Dante, *The Divine Comedy*. [The summation of medieval ideas of this life and the next. Any translation, but Kirkpatrick for Penguin has excellent introduction and commentary. Sinclair's parallel Italian English text (OUP) is useful.]

Boccaccio, *The Decameron*. [A 14th-century story-collection, arguably important for Chaucer. Any translation.]

The Lais of Marie de France, ed. & Trans G. Burgess. Penguin. [Influential medieval tales of enchantment.]

Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*. [Wonderful recreation, in a monastic whodunit, of the patterns of thought of medieval philosophy and religion.]

Guides to Middle English writing keep at least one or more of these collections to hand throughout the year. All have useful essays on historical contexts, language, genres, texts and authors.

David Wallace, ed. *The Cambridge History of Medieval Literature*. CUP, 1999.

Brown, Peter, ed. *A Companion to Medieval English Literature and Culture*. Blackwell, 2006. (available digitally through Library)

Scanlon, Larry, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval English Literature*. CUP, 2009. (available digitally)
Bawcutt, P., and J. H. Williams, eds. *A Companion to Medieval Scottish Poetry*. Boydell, 2006.
Putter, Ad, and Elizabeth Edwards, eds, *The Cambridge Companion to the Arthurian Legend*. CUP, 2009. (available digitally)

Important books on Chaucer

Cooper, Helen. *The Structure of the Canterbury Tales*. 1983. pp. 91-120.
Dinshaw, C. *Chaucer's Sexual Poetics*. Madison, 1989.

Middle English Language

Burrow & Turville-Petre, ed., *A Book of Middle English*. Blackwell 1996.

Background reading

Duffy, Eamon. *The Stripping of the Altars*. Yale, 1992. [Essential on the character of medieval religion and its implications for art, writing and imagination.]
MacCulloch, D. *Reformation: Europe's House Divided*. Allen Lane, 2004. [Can be read as a cultural history of Europe in the late Middle ages as well as an account of the transition to Renaissance. See chapters 'The Old Church' and part III 'Patterns of Life'.]
Lewis, C. S. *The Discarded Image* [On medieval cosmography, or the medieval sense of the world and universe.]
Shippey, T. *The Road to Middle Earth*. Unwin, 1982. [As much a potted history of the study of medieval language and literature as of Tolkien's sources.]

4. Early Modern Writing (c. 1500-1700)

Primary materials incl. recommended editions of course texts Many of these are available free online and via the Boole Library, so you may wish to check availability before purchasing texts. The 'students' choice' classes will be decided in January.

Cary, Elizabeth. *The Tragedy of Mariam*. Ed. Karen Britland. Methuen, 2010.
Chapman, John. *Achilles' Shield*. – Text available online.
Greene, Robert. *A Notable Discovery of Cozenage*. Available on Canvas.
Greene, Robert. *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay*. – Text available online.
Hariot, Thomas. *A Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*. Dover Publications, 2003.
Jonson, Ben. *The Workes of Benjamin Jonson*. – Selections only, available on EEBO (Early English Books Online).
Marlowe, Christopher. *Doctor Faustus*. – Text available online.
Milton, John. *Paradise Lost*. – Text available online.
Munday, Antony, Henry Chettle, William Shakespeare *et al.* *Sir Thomas More*. Ed. Vittorio Gabrieli and Giorgio Melchiori. Manchester UP, 1990.
Shakespeare, William. *The Comedy of Errors*. – Text available online.
Taylor, John. *All the Workes*. – Selections only, available on EEBO (Early English Books Online).

Secondary criticism and general reading

See the prep materials on specific texts on Canvas, which will be available prior to each class.

- Arab, Ronda, and Laurie Ellinghausen, eds. *Intersectionalities of Class in Early Modern English Drama*. Palgrave, 2023. ebook
- Callaghan, Dymphna, editor. *A Feminist Companion to Shakespeare*. Blackwell, 2016. ebook.
- Callaghan, Dymphna. *The Impact of Feminism in English Renaissance Studies*. Palgrave, 2007.
- Cerasano, S.P. and Marion Wynne-Davies, eds. *Renaissance Drama by Women: Texts and Documents*. Routledge, 1996.
- De Grazia, Margreta, and Stanley Wells, eds. *The New Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare*. Oxford UP, 2001.
- Dobson, Michael, ed. *The Oxford Companion to Shakespeare*. Cambridge UP, 2010. [online via Oxford Reference database, Boole Library]
- Dutton, Richard and Jean E. Howard, editors. *A Companion to Shakespeare's Works*. Volumes 1-4. Blackwell, 2005-2006. [available in Boole Library and online as e-books]
- Dutton, Richard, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Early Modern Theatre*. OUP, 2009.
- Greenblatt, Steven. *Renaissance Self-Fashioning: From More to Shakespeare*. U of Chicago Press, 1980.
- Gurr, Andrew. *Playgoing in Shakespeare's London*. CUP, 2004.
- Hadfield, Andrew, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of English Prose, 1500-1640*. OUP, 2013.
- Hale, J.R. *The Civilization of Europe in the Renaissance*. 1994, repr 2005.
- Harp, Richard, and Stanley Stewart. *The Cambridge Companion to Ben Jonson*. CUP, 2000.
- Hattaway, Michael. *A New Companion to English Renaissance Literature and Culture*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
- Hoenselaars, A. J., ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare and Contemporary Dramatists*. CUP, 2012.
- Kraye, Jill, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Renaissance Humanism*. CUP, 1996.
- Lee, John, ed. *A Handbook of English Renaissance Literary Studies*. Wiley, 2017. ebook
- Marchitello, Howard, and Evelyn B. Tribble, eds. *The Palgrave Handbook of Early Modern Literature and Science*. Palgrave, 2017. ebook
- Mehl, Dieter, Angela Stock, and Anne-Julia Zwiernlein, eds. *Plotting Early Modern London: New Essays on Jacobean City Comedy*. Ashgate, 2004.
- Mentz, Steve. *Romance for Sale in Early Modern England: The Rise of Prose Fiction*. Ashgate, 2006.
- Norbrook, David, ed. *The Penguin Book of Renaissance Verse 1509-1659*. Penguin Books, 1992.
- Norbrook, David. *Poetry and Politics in the English Renaissance*, revd ed. Oxford, 2002.
- Poska, Allyson M., Jane Couchman, and Katherine A. McIver, eds. *The Ashgate Research Companion to Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe*. Ashgate, 2013.
- Raymond, Joad. *Pamphlets and Pamphleteering in Early Modern Britain*. CUP, 2003.
- Ruggiero, Guido, ed. *A Companion to the Worlds of the Renaissance*. Blackwell, 2007.
- Sanders, Julie. *The Cambridge Introduction to Early Modern Drama, 1576-1642*. CUP, 2014.
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