
Unit Code	ENG211
Unit Title	Literature and Culture: Representations of the Medieval
Provider	Macquarie University
Unit Type	UGRD
Level of Study	Undergraduate Level 2
EFTSL	0.125
Delivery Method	Fully Online

Unit Overview Examine the interrelationships between texts and the cultures of which they form a part. You will explore how ideas about the Middle Ages, both learned and popular, have developed from the first use of the term by historians in the Renaissance to representations in films of the present day. Themes covered include: The Gothic Horror Story; Victorian medievalism; The arts and crafts movement; Modern retellings of the Arthurian saga and contemporary medieval detective fiction. You will study a range of literary and non-literary texts in the broad context of cultural history.

- Topics**
1. Defining medieval: historical & social context
 2. The Gothic mode: Horace Walpole & the castle
 3. The Gothic mode continued: the castle of Otranto
 4. Representations of the medieval in 19th C poetry
 5. The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood & the significance of 19th C
 6. William Morris, the Arts & Crafts movement & Victoria
 7. A (brief) overview of the Arthurian saga
 8. Medievalism & the new age: the mists of Avalon
 9. Representations of the medieval in film
 10. The Name of the Rose: history, textuality & semiotics
 11. Name of the Rose continued: the medieval detective novel
 12. Rose: Mikhail Bakhtin & the theory of carnival
 13. The future of the Middle Ages: new & emerging reps

Learning Outcomes At the completion of this unit students will:

1. gain an awareness of many of the contributions and influences of medieval literature and culture to, and representations in, the contemporary world
2. be able to identify sources of information (such as research tools, databases and online resources), and problem-solving skills in dealing with these resources
3. be able to use background research to place specific problems in context and elucidate their individual characteristics
4. gain a familiarity with treating different types of discourses that feature medieval representations
5. be able to critically analyse arguments
6. gain communication skills, with particular emphasis on the ability to discuss complex material, to reflect on research and organise one's ideas, and to comprehend alternative views and respond to them profitably
7. be able to construct sustained arguments in writing, supported by clear logic and detailed research
8. gain skills in clear presentation of written work.

Assessment

- Essay 1 (30%)
- Essay 2 (40%)
- Online Discussion (10%)
- Quiz (20%)

Textbooks

Required

- **The Castle of Otranto** (Print), Walpole Horace, ISBN: 9780199537211
- **Mists of Avalon** (Print), Bradley Marion Zimmer, ISBN: 9780140177190
- **Name of the Rose** (Print), Eco Umberto, ISBN: 9780749397050
- **News from Nowhere and Other Writings** (Print), Morris William, ISBN: 9780140433302

Prerequisites

Special Requirements

- Broadband access