



School of English, Journalism  
& European Languages

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## Unit Outline

**HEA313**  
**Medieval Tales of Wonder**  
**Semester 1, 2009**  
<http://www.utas.edu.au/english/>

<b>Convenor:</b>	Dr Jenna Mead Room: Hum 545 Phone: 6226 7160 Email: Jenna.Mead@utas.edu.au
<b>Consultation Hours:</b>	Tues and Wed 12:00-1:00 pm
<b>Unit Description:</b>	This unit offers students an opportunity to study tales from the medieval period, in English, that tell of 'wonderful' events, places and people. The selection of texts will vary, depending on availability, but will usually be drawn from travel writing, fable and chronicle, natural history or philosophy, medicine and alchemy, poetry and prose. Texts may also include modern versions of medieval tales in prose fiction or film.
<b>Unit Aims and Objectives:</b>	This unit aims: a) to identify a range of genres in which medieval texts have survived; b) to develop an understanding of those genres and their contents; c) through close reading, to develop an understanding of the idea of "wonder" and how it might be used; d) to extend students' critical vocabulary and e) experience of academic writing.
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>	Students taking this unit will aim to: 1. develop skills in close reading and textual analysis; 2. research and analyse primary and secondary materials relevant to the texts; 3. develop familiarity with the process of academic writing in English Studies, using the MLA citation style and basic research techniques in English through the research and writing of a research essay and a short examination; 4. enhance skills in oral and written communication.
<b>Required Texts:</b>	Unless otherwise indicated, texts will be available on MyLO for downloading.  <b>Encyclopaedias</b> Selected saints' lives from <i>Legenda Aurea</i> ; the Medieval Bestiary ( <a href="http://bestiary.ca/">http://bestiary.ca/</a> ); Isidore of Seville, <i>Etymologiae</i> and Ranulph Higden, <i>Polychronicon</i> , trans. John Trevisa

	<p><b>Travellers' tales</b> <i>The Navigator; a Mediaeval Odyssey</i> [screened during semester]; <i>The Travels of Sir John Mandeville</i>, ed. C. Moseley, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 2005 [available from Co-op Bookshop] and selections from <i>Marco Polo's Book</i>; the travels of Ibn Battuta and Ibn Jubayr</p> <p><b>Medical texts</b> Selections the <i>Trotula</i> texts and John of Arderne, Treatises of fistula in ano: haemorrhoids, and clysters; recipes and remedies</p> <p><b>Histories</b> Selections from <i>The Chronicles of Adam of Usk</i></p>
<p><b>Recommended Texts:</b></p>	<p><b>Web resources</b> Students will have access to a MyLO site for this unit. Recordings of lectures will be posted on the site as will notes from lectures and other resources lecturers suggest as useful. The MyLO site will also host the Turnitin portal.</p>
<p><b>When Taught:</b></p>	<p><b>Lecture</b> Tues 9.00-9.50am, SB.LifeSci106.LT1</p> <p><b>Seminars</b> Tues 3.10pm-5.00pm, SB.Hum548 Wed 9.00-10.50am, SB.SocSci313 Wed 3:10-5:00pm, HUM. 477B Thurs 1:10-3:00pm, LAW 225</p> <p><b>Film screening</b> Mon 16 March 5:10pm, SB.Socsci209</p>
<p><b>Assessment:</b></p>	<p>1 x seminar task (10%), 1 x 500 word reading exercise (10%), 1 x 3 000 word essay (40%), 1 x 2hr examination (40%)</p> <p>Questions for the seminar task will be due at the end of each seminar and will be uploaded onto the seminar's MyLO blog</p> <p>Please ensure you check due dates for written work. Both the Reading Assignment and the Essay should be submitted though the Turnitin portal and in hardcopy.</p>

## LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lecturer Dr Jenna Mead</b>
Week 1 24 Feb	Introduction to Unit: definition of terms; genres of “wonders” including encyclopaedias, traveller’s tales, medical texts and chronicles (histories)	
Week 2 03 Mar	Saints’ Lives, <i>Legenda Aurea</i> , Sts George, Nicholas and Kummernis	Seminars commence; seminar tasks distributed
Week 3 10 Mar	The Medieval Bestiary: basilisk, manticore, elephant, mandrake	n.b. Mon 9 Mar Public Holiday
Week 4 17 Mar	Isidore of Seville, <i>Etymologiae</i> , Ranulph Higden, <i>Polychronicon</i> trans. John Trevisa [universal history/encyclopedia]	<b>Reading assignment due between midday Tues 24 Mar and Fri 27 Mar [no extensions];</b> film screening 16 March 5:10pm SB.Socsci209
Week 5 24 Mar	<i>The Navigator: A Mediaeval Odyssey</i>	
Week 6 31 Mar	<i>Marco Polo’s Book</i>	
Week 7 07 Apr	Two Arabic Travellers: Ibn Battuta and Ibn Jubayr	
	<b>Easter Break – 9-15 April</b>	
Week 8 21 Apr	<i>Travels of Sir John Mandeville</i>	
Week 9 28 Apr	<i>The Travels of Sir John Mandeville</i>	<b>Essay due between midday Tues 28 Apr and Mon 4 May [no extensions]</b>
Week10 05 May	<i>The Trotula</i> and John of Arderne, <i>Treatises of fistula in ano: haemorrhoids, and clysters</i>	
Week 11 12 May	“Here beginneth good medicines for all manner of evils”; a burlesque text “For a man that is almost blynd”	
Week 12 19 May	<i>The Chronicles of Adam of Usk</i>	
Week 13 26 May	Conclusion: revisiting the terms and genres	
	<b>Study Period: 1-5 June</b>	
	<b>Examination Period: 6-23 June</b>	

## ASSESSMENT

### Requirements

1 x seminar task (10%), 1 x 500 word reading exercise (10%), 1 x 3 000 word essay (40%), 1 x 2hr examination (40%)

### Seminar task

Each week students will be asked to prepare two questions on a chosen text to initiate discussion in seminars. These questions will be uploaded onto the seminar's MyLO blog as a record of your completing this requirement and the week's discussion, and to support preparation for the essay and examination.

### Reading Assignment and Essay

In response to SETL suggestions from last semester, written assessment will be due between two specified dates and thus extensions will not normally be given.

### Reading Assignment

Choose ONE entry from one of the encyclopaedias we have been reading: saint's life, bestiary or universal history. Reading the text closely, analyse that entry, beginning with the generic conventions of that particular text. What is the relationship between genre and content in your chosen text? What are the effects of that relationship? What is "wondrous" about your selected text? Is it still wondrous today? Write your own entry for the encyclopaedia you've selected to analyse.

Your assignment will need to be submitted through the Turnitin portal at the same time as the hardcopy is submitted through the General Office.

### Essay

Questions for the major essay will be posted on the MyLO site four weeks before the due date.

#### **Attendance and performance requirements**

- Eligibility to sit the examination depends upon the completion and submission of all written work and **regular attendance at seminars.**
- The School will publish the final date that any work will be accepted on the school notice boards.
- **If written work is not completed you may not be eligible to sit the end-of-semester examination.**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Submission of Assignments

Students are required to submit a signed cover sheet with every assignment. This includes a declaration that all material submitted is their own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others and that they have read the University statement on Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism) on the University website at [www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism](http://www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism) or in the Student Information Handbook. Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a signed cover sheet will not be marked.** Students who submit assignments without a signed cover sheet will be contacted once via their UTAS email address; in such instances the cover sheet must be completed within two weeks of the due date.

All assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email) and placed in the essay box at the School office on or before 5pm on the due date. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments. Assignments submitted on time will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once on time assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted. All marked assignments will be returned in tutorials unless otherwise advised.

### Late Assignments

Late submissions will be penalized as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter. Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or a letter from a counsellor in the case of a serious non-medical reason.

### Difficulties with your Studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Careers Adviser
- Disability Adviser
- Student Counsellor

### University Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

"**Plagiarism** is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>.

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/>."

**The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.**

### Assignment Presentation

The English discipline uses MLA Style, which is characterized by in-text referencing and a list of works cited. See the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Ed. Joseph Gibaldi (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003). For a brief introduction, refer to [http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/mla\\_citation\\_syst.doc](http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/mla_citation_syst.doc), MLA Citations System: A Brief Guide.

### Marking Scale

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Fail (NN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

### Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the essay:

- Effectiveness of introduction
- Relevance and coherence of argument
- Effectiveness of conclusion
- Scope of textual referencing
- Use of critics
- Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading and stylesheet.

### IT Support

Learning online—for online learning and Vista support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>  
Information Technology Services—for general IT Support (includes link to UTAS download website)  
<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>

Library Services—for information literacy support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>  
Help Desk (email [HelpDesk@utas.edu.au](mailto:HelpDesk@utas.edu.au) or 6226 1818, within University 1818)