

**GERMAN 270  
KNIGHTS AND LADIES**

**BULLETIN INFORMATION**

GERM 270 – Knights and Ladies (3 credit hrs)

**Course Description:**

Survey of medieval romances and love lyrics of Germany. History and culture of the High Middle Ages in Germany, especially courtly society. The function of chivalry and courtly literature in society.

**SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW**

The course is an introduction to Middle High German courtly literature. The history and culture of the High Middle Ages will provide the background for the readings. Particular attention will be paid to courtly/chivalric society, its relation to the Church and peasantry, and its comparison to modern western society. The roles of men and women, such as the serving knight, the lord, the lady, and the literary patron will stand at the center of discussions. Themes examined include the role of love and marriage, adultery in courtly society, knightly service and adventure, the educative function of women, and differences between courtly and heroic society. The major genres/texts analyzed include the courtly romances *Erec*, *Iwein*, *Parzival*, and *Tristan*, and the courtly love lyrics of Walther von der Vogelweide, Reinmar von Hagenau, and Heinrich von Morungen. The *Nibelungenlied* will be presented as an example of the adaptation of Germanic heroic poetry of the Early Middle Ages for courtly audiences. No prerequisite or knowledge of German is required.

**ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Upon successful completion of GERM 270, students will be able to:**

1. Read, evaluate and critically interpret written texts of German courtly literature using basic analytic terms, concepts and critical skills, such as historical and cultural context, form and meter of poetry, oral and written transmission, social function of the genres romance and love lyric in courtly society.
2. Apply basic analytical and critical skills to classroom discussion of texts with awareness of society and culture of Germany in the High Middle Ages.
3. Compare on a basic level German courtly culture and society as manifested in romances and love lyrics to Germanic society of the Early Middle Ages and to modern western society.
4. Apply learned concepts and analytical and critical skills to presentation and argumentation in written essays in the form of quizzes, midterm and final exams, and a short paper.

**SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS**

1. Hartmann von Aue. 2001. *Erec*. Trans. J. W. Thomas. Lincoln, NB: U of Nebraska P.
2. Hartmann von Aue. 1979. *Iwein: The Knight with the Lion*. Trans. J. W. Thomas. Lincoln, NB: U of Nebraska P.
3. Wolfram von Eschenbach. 1980. *Parzival*. Trans. A. T. Hatto. New York: Penguin.
4. Gottfried von Strassburg. 1960. *Tristan*. Trans. A. T. Hatto. New York: Penguin.
5. Anonymous. 1965. *The Nibelungenlied*. Trans. A. T. Hatto. New York: Penguin.
6. *Anthology of Minnesang*. 2014. Trans. Kurt Goblirsch. Columbia: Department of Languages, USC.

### **SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAMS**

1. **Quizzes:** Four times during the semester there will be brief quizzes. The quizzes will have the same types of questions as the exams.
2. **Exams:** Midterm and final exams will each cover the preceding half of the course only. Students will be expected to display a familiarity with the topics treated in the course. Types of question include identifications, quotations, and short essays.
3. **Short Paper:** A short paper will be required. A choice of paper topics based on class reading assignments will be distributed. No outside reading is required. Essay

### **SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS**

**Day 1** Introduction to course; literature in courtly society.

**Day 2** The High Middle Ages.

**Day 3** Courtly values and courtly love.

#### **Courtly marriage: Hartmann von Aue**

**Day 4** *Erec* 31-63.

**Day 5** *Erec* 64-91.

**Day 6** *Erec* 92-146.

**Day 7** *Iwein* 55-99.

**Day 8** *Iwein* 99-149.

#### **The heroic past and the courtly present**

**Day 9** *Nibelungenlied* 17-94.

**Day 10** *Nibelungenlied* 95-149.

**Day 11** *Nibelungenlied* 150-218.

**Day 12** *Nibelungenlied* 219-91.

#### **Minnesang I: The serving knight and the queen**

**Day 13** Poetry of Friedrich von Hausen *Anthology*.

**Day 14** Poetry of Reinmar von Hagenau *Anthology*.

**Day 15** Poetry of Old Danube *Minnesang Anthology*.

**Day 16** Midterm exam

#### **Worldly and religious society: Wolfram von Eschenbach**

**Day 17** *Parzival* 15-119.

**Day 18** *Parzival* 120-221.

**Day 19** *Parzival* 222-314.

**Day 20** *Parzival* 315-411.

**Adultery and the court: Gottfried von Strassburg**

**Day 21** *Tristan* 40-149.

**Day 22** *Tristan* 150-228.

**Day 23** *Tristan* 229-300.

**Day 24** *Tristan* 301-53.

**Minnesang II: Old and new roles for men and women**

**Day 25** Poetry of Heinrich von Morungen *Anthology*.

**Day 26** Poetry of Walther von der Vogelweide *Anthology*.

**Day 27** Poetry of Walther von der Vogelweide *Anthology*; short paper due.

**Day 28** Poetry of Walther von der Vogelweide *Anthology*.

**Final Exam according to University exam schedule**