

## Literatures on the British Isles: the Middle Ages - lecture

- 1 20/2 **Introduction;**  
**Migration period mythologies: problems in Old English heroic poetry** (H.Znojemská)
  - a) Germania and Romanitas; dating and record; literature in society
  - b) form: metre, alliteration, poetics – in relation to a)
- 2 27/2 **After conversion** (H.Znojemská)
  - a) historical background; Latin in England (Bede, Aldhelm, Alcuin)
  - b) religious epic: biblical, Latinate, vernacular impulses
- 3 5/3 **"Portrait 1": *Beowulf, Exodus*** (H.Znojemská)
- 4 12/3 **Old English poetry – generic overview** (H.Znojemská)  
towards alternative voices? (elegies, „minor“ genres)
- 5 19/3 **The literature of medieval Ireland** (R. Markus)
- 6 26/3 **Old English prose** (H.Znojemská)
  - a) evolution
  - b) establishing a tradition: saints' lives, histories
- 7 2/4 **From Old English to Middle English: overview** (H.Znojemská)
- 8 9/4 **The literature of medieval Scotland** (P. Poncarová) – CONDUCTED ONLINE, details to be specified
- 9 16/4 **Middle English lyrics** (H.Znojemská)
  - a) types and forms; popular, courtly and clerical traditions
  - b) lyrics in record
- 10 23/4 **Courtly literature: romances and affiliated genres** (H.Znojemská)
  - a) characteristic features: themes, structures, values
  - b) from epic to romance: historical and cultural background**"Portrait 2": *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*** (H.Znojemská)
- 11 30/4 **City literature** (H.Znojemská)
  - a) 12th century Renaissance
  - b) drama
  - c) "national" voice – 14th century
- 12 7/5 **"Portrait 3": Chaucer** (H.Znojemská)
- 13 14/5 **Rector's day – NO CLASS**

**The first test date will be set for the first week of the exam period.**

### ASSESSMENT

#### LECTURE

The lecture component is compulsory for both single-subject and joint-subject students. Students must pass the final test. The test is subject to two re-sits and must be completed by the end of the year following the one in which the student registered for the course, **with a special extra year allowance as per the Dean's decree No. 2/2024** (i.e. by September 2026).

**Základní literatura:**

*Béowulf*, vydal a přeložil Jan Čermák, Torst, 2003

Burrow, J.A.W. *Medieval Writers and Their Work: Middle English Literature and Its Background, 1100-1500*. Oxford, 1982

Černý, Václav. *Soustavný přehled obecných dějin literatury naší vzdělanosti, Díl I.: Středověk*. H&H, 1996

Godden, Malcolm - Lapidge, Michael (eds.). *The Cambridge Companion to Old English Literature*. Cambridge University Press, 1985

Greenfield, Stanley B. - Calder, Daniel G. *A New Critical History of Old English Literature. With a Survey of the Anglo-Latin Background by M. Lapidge*. New York University Press, 1986

Pearsall, D. (ed.). *Chaucer to Spenser. An Anthology*. Blackwell, 1999

Treharne, E.M. (ed.). *Old and Middle English. An Anthology*. 2nd ed., Blackwell, 2003

Ford, Boris (ed.). *New Pelican Guide to English Literature: 1. Medieval Literature*. vol. 1, 2, Penguin, 1982

**Doporučená literatura:**

Bolton, W.F. (ed.). *The Middle Ages*, Sphere History of Literature, Vol. 1. 2nd, rev. ed., London, 1986

Brown, Peter (ed.). *A Companion to Medieval English Literature and Culture c. 1350-1500*. Blackwell, 2007

Curtius, Robert Ernst. *Evropská literatura a latinský středověk*. Triáda, 1998

Donoghue, Daniel. *Old English Literature*. Blackwell, 2004

Le Goff, Jacques. *Kultura středověké Evropy*. Vyšehrad 2005

Pearsall, Derek. *Old English and Middle English Poetry*. Routledge, 1977

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

Swanton, Michael. *English Literature before Chaucer*. Longman Literature in English Series, 1987

Whitelock, Dorothy. *The Beginnings of English Society*. Penguin, 1952.