

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Seminar 2: Medieval Literature: Heroes and Villains (2AN1890)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Katrin Rupp

Contenu

In this seminar, we will focus on the tension created between heroic and anti-heroic behaviour in a set of medieval texts (in translation) that feature a variety of brave characters (archetypal heroes, female martyrs, passive heroines, child warriors etc.) who find themselves confronted with villains both human and non-human (enchanted knights, wicked seducers, dragons, giants etc.) that they strive to overcome in their own way. The heroes and heroines in these texts usually triumph over their antagonists, suggesting that it is not just their physical strength, but above all their moral integrity that prevails. However, a closer look at the heroic characters reveals that they are often morally ambiguous or even flawed, which in turn reflects on their opponents, who thus appear more awe-inspiring and potentially admirable than their role might suggest. Ultimately, this begs the question as to whether good and bad can always be clearly distinguished.

Forme de l'évaluation

A research paper of 7-10 pages (100%), to be handed in by 16 March 2026. Students must submit their own, original work. They may not engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of AI composition software. The same applies if the seminar takes place online.

Modalités de rattrapage

A thoroughly revised paper or a new research paper of 7-10 pages (100%), to be handed in within a month after the publication of the result. Students must submit their own, original work. They may not engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of AI composition software. The same applies if the seminar takes place online.

Documentation

A course reader will be made available at the beginning of the semester (at cost price, c. 10 CHF).

Pré-requis

None

Forme de l'enseignement

Seminar

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Apply medieval cultural concepts to medieval literature
- Analyse texts in a critical manner
- Develop an understanding of medieval culture
- Discuss medieval texts in an informed way in groups and in class
- Present ideas in front of a group
- Formulate relevant questions regarding the texts under discussion
- Produce a research paper based on the texts discussed in class

Compétences transférables

- Develop intellectual rigor and curiosity
- Carry out critical textual analyses
- Apply knowledge to other texts / situations
- Communicate in English

URLs	1) https://www.unine.ch/anglais
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- Generate new ideas