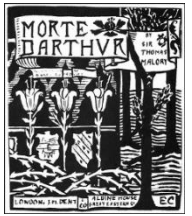


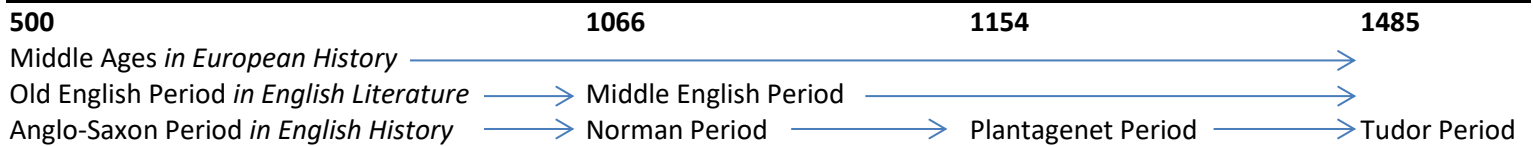
British Literature Lecture 02-03



Middle Ages – 500 (Fall of Rome) to 1500 (Protestant Reformation/Renaissance/Turkish conquest of Constantinople)

Middle English Period was the second half of Middle Ages in England – 1066 to 1485

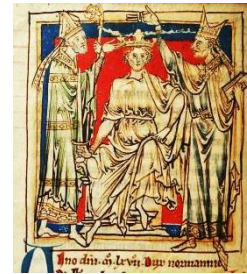
- From Normand Invasion of 1066
- To Battle of Bosworth of 1485 marking the end of the War of the Roses and the beginning of the Tudor Reign



The High Middle Ages (1066-1300)

Battle of Hastings - 1066

- Bayeux Tapestry
- William the Conqueror introduced feudalism to England
 - Feudalism based on the Lord and Vassal relationship
 - The Three Estates of the Feudal Order:
 - (1) clergy (2) nobles & knights (3) peasants / serfs



The Crusades – 1095-1291

Henry II ruled 1154 - 1189

Henry II is known for three main things:

- Rule by precedent – a basis for English & American common law
- Trial by Jury
- Thomas 'a Becket murder – “benefit of clergy” allowed clergy to be tried under canon law instead of criminal law, but Henry II tried to remove this privilege. All citizens under one law code.

Richard the Lionhearted ruled 1189 – 1199

- Son of Henry II ...and a famous Crusader!
- The famous Third Crusade: 1189 – 1192 (All the crusades took place from 1095 – 1291)



Infamous King John ruled 1199 - 1216

- Son of Henry II and little brother of Richard
- Forced by barons to sign **Magna Carta** (1215) – an important foundation of our founding documents

Late Middle Ages (1300-1485)

Hundred Years War 1337 - 1453

- England versus France - House of Valois in France versus House of Plantagenet in England
- Direct result of feudal system
- Longbows & Gunpowder
- Joan of Arc

During those years of the Hundred Years War many things happened:

- **Black Death** / Bubonic Plague – 1348 - 1349
- **John Wycliffe** challenges the organized church – 1324 - 1384
- Invention of the movable-type **Printing Press!** :-D



War of Roses (about 1455 – 1485)

- Civil War in England lasting on and off for about thirty years
- House of Lancaster versus House of York – vying for the throne – both sides had claims
- Ended with Battle of Bosworth – Richard III died in battle against Henry VII
- Houses were united with marriage of Henry VII (Lancaster) and Elizabeth of York (niece of Richard III)
- Elizabeth didn't mind marrying the “enemy of the Yorks – her uncle had (probably) had her little brothers killed!

Week 02 Authors:

Pearl Poet

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

- Examples of alliterative verse! (pages 40-41)



Thomas Malory

Morte d'Arthur

- The story of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table

Malory was a gentleman in service to Earl of Warwick

- Served during War of the Roses
- Wrote *Morte d'Arthur* while in prison
- Based the story on French tales about King Arthur

Historical Figure or pure Legend?

- Geoffrey of Monmouth's "**The History of the Kings of Britain**" (*Historia Regum Britanniae*) 1139
- Passed across English Channel – embellished in France

Week 03 Authors:

Venerable Bede

- Northumbrian monk

An Ecclesiastical History of the English People (Medieval Latin) 731 AD

- Starts with raids of Julius Caesar to 731 AD
- Sought to:
- Trace God's story of working in England
- Show unified identity of English peoples



Caedmon's Hymn

- Story within Ecclesiastical History
- The story of a common man experiencing a miracle – supernaturally given a hymn

Videos on Website:

- Bede's biography
- Old English – Caedmon's Hymn
- Choir singing Caedmon's Hymn



Julian of Norwich

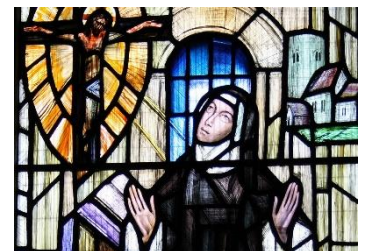
- anchoress – adopted life of solitary seclusion for life of prayer and devotion to God
- Entered cell around age 30 in early 1370s

Revelations of Divine Love

- Serious illness deeply impacted her
- Claimed to experience 16 mystic revelations of Christ's sufferings

Video on website

- Julian's Bio



Ballads

- Sir Patrick Spens
- Get Up and Bar the Door
- The Cuckoo Song (Summer is Come in)
- I Sing of a Maiden

Medieval Drama

Miracle Plays

- Portray stories of church saints' lives

Mystery Plays

- Cycles of short plays depicting biblical stories and meant to be performed together

Morality plays

- Allegorical story representing a spiritual theme or truth
- Everyman – protagonist encounters characters: Vice, Death, Good Deeds, Justice, and God

