

Paper 2

Content: Write an 8-10-page paper (plus a works cited) on medieval lyrics from our syllabus (and/or additional lyrics cleared with me). This paper will most likely approach a **synthesis** paper. A synthesis paper assimilates elements of various pieces of literature to make it follow a certain thesis. Comparison and contrast elements are inherent in a synthesis. Unlike for an explication, you do not have to cite every element inherent in the poem but only those that support your particular thesis. See **Structure** below.

Suggestions for Topics

1. Apply a modern critical approach to a set of medieval lyrics.
2. Examine a subgenre of the lyric, such as a canso, sirventes, sonnet, etc.
3. Examine a set of poems by a single author.
4. Discuss political poems and situate them in their historical context.
5. Pick out a motif and discuss it in a set of lyrics—for instance,
 - treatment of or attitudes towards women,
 - nature,
 - beauty ideals,
 - attitudes towards religion, etc.
6. Discuss representations of the poet persona.

7. A topic of your choice cleared with me first.

If you would like to add lyrics not on the syllabus, you should consult the Lyrics Bibliography for collections, etc. Please include lyrics not in our books on eReserve as an appendix with your final paper.

Format: I will **NOT ACCEPT** papers that do not follow the guidelines outlined in the online *Guide to Style* containing the format guidelines of the *MLA*, plus instructions on writing papers, sample introductory paragraphs with developed theses, frequent errors in critical writing, and a list of tools for the literature student. Review documentation procedures and follow the distinctions outlined for shorter and longer prose and poetry quotations. Persistent errors in format will result in lower grades.

Sources: You should draw on a **minimum of 5 scholarly sources** to support your thesis; this means you might actually have to look at 10 or more to find 5 useful ones. Only one of those sources should be an online source, such as a respectable website. In case of doubt, run the source by me first. Full-text databases are **NOT** considered online sources, as they usually only make regular scholarly journal articles available online. You should consult scholarly books and journals. Start with the *International MLA Bibliography* (NOT the Index of Periodicals) in and/or the *International Medieval Bibliography* in the UNM database system. Links to those and others are on the class webpage. After you identify potential books and articles in these databases, you

need to check if they might be available through one of the online full-text resources or in the stacks in the form of essay collections. If not, you can order them through Interlibrary Loan (ILL): <http://illiad.unm.edu/illiad/logon.html>. Articles come through in a few days as pdf files, but you clearly must plan ahead. You should also search **Libros** for books on your topic, and you might try **WorldCat** in the database section. It lists all books published, while Libros only contains what UNM has.

Structure: I would like to reiterate that you are writing a **formal** paper, both in content and in style. Thus, your paper needs an introduction providing a context and a precisely phrased thesis at the end of the first paragraph (see especially #2-3 in *Guide to Style*). I encourage you to edit, revise, and proofread your papers, striving for coherence, grammatical correctness, and good transitions. **First drafts rarely hold up to critical scrutiny. I am available in office hours or via email to discuss ideas, outlines, and drafts of your paper with you before it is due.** Sample papers for this assignment can be accessed on the class webpage with a UNM netid and password.

Note: The following sections in the *Guide to Style* might be especially helpful for this assignment: **1-10, 28-30, 32, 42-50, 53-62, 72-76, 81-83**. Also see **102-7** for proper usage of quotations and paraphrases.

Due Dates:

Email proposal by **4.15.2011**.

Final version due Sunday, **5.1.2011** via email.