

CAITLIN G. WATT

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PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Clemson University
Lecturer, Department of English, 2018 – 2023
Senior Lecturer, Department of English, 2023 –

EDUCATION

PhD University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, May 2018
Comparative Literature. Area of concentration: Medieval

AB University of Chicago, June 2009
Area of concentration: Comparative Literature GPA: 3.91/4.0

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Rare Book School, Online, University of Virginia
Introduction to Islamic Manuscripts
Instructor: Kelly Tuttle
July 2021

Center for African Studies Virtual Summer Institute for Educators, Howard University
Voices from the Gold Road: Medieval Ghana, Mali, Songhai
August 2020

Rare Book School at Yale University
Advanced Seminar: Medieval Manuscript Studies
Instructor: Barbara A. Shailor
July–August 2014

Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame
Medieval Latin and Latin Paleography
Instructor: Frank C. Mantello
University of Notre Dame, Medieval Institute, June–August 2010

DISSERTATION

Title: Authorship and the Discovery of Character in Medieval Romance

Director: Shayne Aaron Legassie

Committee: Robert Babcock, Reid Barbour, Ted Leinbaugh, Jessica Wolfe

My dissertation argues that writers of medieval vernacular narrative developed innovative techniques of characterization in their efforts to develop medieval models of authorship against the backdrop of the classical *auctores* upon whose work they built. Among the authors whose works I examine are Chrétien de Troyes, Geoffrey of Monmouth, and Geoffrey Chaucer.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

The Worlds of John Wick: The Year's Work at the Continental Hotel, ed. Caitlin G. Watt and Stephen Watt. *The Year's Work: Studies In Fan Culture And Cultural Theory*, edited by Edward P. Dallis-Comentale and Aaron Jaffe. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2022.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Courtly Lovers and Bad Mothers: Foreign Queens in the Auchinleck *Of Arthour and of Merlin*” (Completed; under editorial consideration).

“The Disarticulation of Christendom: Dismemberment and Decapitation in Medieval Films,” *The Year's Work in Medievalism* 35.36 (2020-2021): 50–58.

“The Transmedial Knights of the Round Table: Character-based Worldbuilding in the Manuscripts of Chrétien de Troyes” (Forthcoming in *Journal of the International Arthurian Society*)

“The Speaking Wound: Gower’s *Confessio Amantis* and the Ethics of Listening in the #MeToo Era,” *Critical Confessions Now*, special issue, ed. Abdulhamit Arvas, Afrodesia McCannon, and Kris Trujillo, *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies* 11.2 (2020): 272–81.

Reprinted in *Critical Confessions Now*, ed. Abdulhamit Arvas, Afrodesia McCannon, and Kris Trujillo (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022), pp. 127–36.

“‘Car vallés sui et nient mescine’: Trans Heroism and Literary Masculinity in *Le Roman de Silence*,” *Visions of Medieval Trans Feminism*, special issue, ed. Gabrielle M. W. Bychowski and Dorothy Kim, *The Medieval Feminist Forum* 55.1 (2019): 135–173.

“*Droit and Engin*: Mesencius and Drances as Feudal Counselors in *Le Roman d’Eneas*,” *Neophilologus* 102.3 (2018): 317–35.

“*Nugae Theatri*: Comedic Borrowings in the 1533 Edition of Erasmus’s *Adages*,” *Erasmus Studies* 38.2 (2018): 200–218.

BOOK CHAPTERS

“‘Thy Womb Will Avenge Thee’: Olympias, Revenge, and Consent in Medieval Alexander the Great Narratives,” *Reconsidering Consent and Coercion in Medieval Texts*, ed. Jane Bonsall and Hannah Piercy (Completed; under editorial consideration).

“‘As egir as any lyoun’: The Ethics of Knight-Horse Relationships in Lybeaus Desconus,” *Ethics in the Arthurian Legend*, ed. Melissa Ridley Elmes and Evelyn Meyer (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer), pp. 198–218.

“Introduction: The Worlds of *John Wick*,” *The Worlds of John Wick: The Year’s Work at the Continental Hotel*, ed. Caitlin G. Watt and Stephen Watt (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2022), pp. 1–38 (with Stephen Watt).

“‘The One You Sent to Kill the Boogeyman’: Folklore and Identity Deconstruction in the *John Wick* Universe,” Watt and Watt, ed. *The Worlds of John Wick: The Year’s Work at the Continental Hotel*, pp. 194–215.

BOOK REVIEWS

“Review: *Middle English Romance and the Craft of Memory*, by Jamie McKinstry,” *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 41 (2019): 499–503.

PUBLIC MEDIA APPEARANCES

Interviewed by Robert Ito for “John Wick Sure Has a Lot of Friends for a Lone Assassin,” *New York Times*, 22 March 2023.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Joseph Breen Award for Outstanding Achievement in Medieval Studies, UNC Chapel Hill, 2012
 Phi Beta Kappa, University of Chicago, 2008
 Dean’s List, University of Chicago, 2005/2006, 2006/2007
 National Merit Scholarship, University of Chicago, 2005 – 2009

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UNC Graduate School, Fall 2017–Spring 2018.

Travel Award, Graduate and Professional Student Federation, for conference presentation at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK, July 2016.

Travel Grant, Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for conference paper presentation at the International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2011.

Summer Research Fellowship, Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for study at Notre Dame's Medieval Institute, June–August 2010.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“‘I am not even my own’: Unfree and Coerced Labor in the Romances of Chrétien de Troyes,” 57th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2023.

“Space-Time Distortions and Narrow Lines of Communication in *Historia Meriadoci*,” The 48th Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, Sewanee, TN, March 2023.

“Noncompassionate Modes of Female Authorship in Chaucer,” 22nd Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society, Durham, UK, July 2022.

“Deceptive Lombard Tyrants in Gower’s Tale of Albinus and Rosemund,” The 47th Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, Sewanee, TN, April 2022.

“Courtly Lovers and Bad Mothers: Ygerne in *Of Arthour and of Merlin*,” 55th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2021.

“Poetics, Pornography, and Play in Warner of Rouen’s *Moriucht*,” 96th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Bloomington, IN, April 2021.

“The Transmedial Knights of the Round Table: Character-based Worldbuilding in the Manuscripts of Chrétien de Troyes,” Story-Worlds and Worldbuilding in Medieval Literature International Workshop, Tübingen, Germany, March, 2021.

“‘The One You Send to Kill the Boogeyman’: Folklore and Identity in *John Wick*,” The World(s) of *John Wick*, Bloomington, IN, November 2019.

“Snake-Women and Vikings: Gendered Geographies in *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword*,” 7th Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, St. Louis, MO, June 2019.

“As egir as any lyoun: Warrior Horses and Savage Knights in *Lybeaus Desconus*,” 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2019.

“Loyalty to Lineage in Simon Aurea Capra’s *Ylias*,” 94th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Philadelphia, PA, March 2019.

“Dwarves, Lepers, and Storytellers: Minor Characters in *Jaufré*,” 134th MLA Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, January 2019.

“Memory, Allegory, and Retrospective Characterization in *Erec et Enide* and *Perceval*,” International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK, July 2018.

“‘Ce n’est pas fable que dire voz volons’: Truth and the Public Impact of Rumor in *Ami et Amile*,” 133rd MLA Annual Convention, New York, NY, January 2018.

“‘De lui amer est toute folle:’ Dido’s Downfall and the Concept of Love in Two Manuscripts of the *Roman d’Enéas*,” International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK, July 2016.

“‘Car vallés sui et nient mescine’: Courtly Masculinity and Trans Heroism in *Le Roman de Silence*,” 131st MLA Annual Convention, Austin, TX, January 2016.

“‘Great knowledge has created the highest beauty’: Feminizing the Epic in Lucrezia Marinella’s *Enrico*,” Making Knowledge in Medieval and Early Modern Culture, Chapel Hill, NC, April 2014.

“Lovers, Fighters, and Lions: Friendship in Chrétien’s *Yvain* and Hartmann’s *Iwein*,” 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2013.

“‘The Best and Sweetest Flesh in the World’: Comparative Cannibalisms in John Mandeville’s *Travels*,” North Carolina Colloquium: Marginalia: Life on the Edges, Chapel Hill, NC, February 2013.

“‘Comme mere entiere’: Mothers and Nobility in *Galeran de Bretagne* and *L’Escoufle*,” Southeastern Medieval Association XXXVIII: Voices of (the) People, Decatur, GA, October 2011.

“Sex, Love, and Pirates: Legitimate Marriage in Day 2, Story 10 of the *Decameron*,” 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2011.

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE

Medieval romance (English and French)

Medieval Latin literature

Classical reception

Literary character and worldbuilding

Medievalism in contemporary film

Gender and sexuality studies

TEACHING

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

“Teaching ‘The Allegory of the Cave’ in ENGL 1030,” Teagle Transformative Ideas and Experience Summer Workshop, Clemson, SC, June 2023.

“Virtual Field Trips: Using Online Museum Resources,” 2021 Clemson Teaching Excellence Virtual Conference: Teaching During a Pandemic, Clemson, SC, April 2021.

COURSES TAUGHT, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY, 2018–

ENGL 1030 (12 sections: Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

This is a required introductory composition class. Through five units over the course of the semester, students learn to analyze visual rhetoric, develop a research project through multiple stages, and design a multimedia composition using archival materials.

ENGL 1030 (4 sections: Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

This class is part of a pilot program at Clemson funded by a grant from the Teagle Foundation’s Cornerstone: Learning for Living initiative. It’s a variation of Clemson’s required composition class; grounded in a more literature-based approach focused on transformative texts, it teaches introductory analytical, writing, and research skills.

ENGL 2130: Love in Medieval and Early Modern British Literature (5 sections: Fall 2018, Spring 2019)

This survey course in British literature examines different forms of love, including romantic love, patriotism, religious devotion, and friendship. It begins with old English elegy and Beowulf, covering (among others) Marie de France, Chaucer, and Shakespeare, and ends with early modern coterie poetry by Katherine Philips and Anne Finch.

ENGL 2130: England and the World in Medieval and Early Modern Literature (8 sections: Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023)

This survey course in British literature examines relationships between England and its broader geopolitical context in the medieval and early modern periods. Students study a range of texts including Geoffrey of Monmouth’s *Historia Regum Britanniae*, Gerald of Wales’s *The Topography of Ireland*, and William Shakespeare’s *Henry V*.

ENGL 2150: Other Worlds and the Human (2 sections: Fall 2019)

This survey course in 20th and 21st century literature is centered around the ideas of worldbuilding and humanity. Students read speculative fiction such as Ursula K. Le Guin’s *The Left Hand of Darkness* and Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*, supplemented by theoretical readings in animal studies, ecocriticism, and posthumanism, in order to develop critical tools for evaluating and defining “the human.”

ENGL 2120: Epic and Empire in the Middle Ages (10 sections: Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

This survey course in world literature explores the ideas of ‘empire’ and ‘the global Middle Ages’ through literature. Focusing on medieval imperial cultures such as the Normans, the Mongols, and the Abbasid and Umayyad caliphates, the course covers a range of epic, lyric, and travel literature. Texts include the *Vinland Sagas*, *The Secret History of the Mongols*, Ferdowsi’s *Shahnameh*, and Ibn Hazm’s *Tawk al-Hamama*.

ENGL 2120: Adventure and Romance in Medieval Literature (2 sections: Fall 2023)

This survey course in world literature explores the transformation of literary tropes and genres across time and literary traditions, including such genres as romance, epic, and lyric poetry. Texts include Chrétien de Troyes’s *Yvain, Havelok the Dane*, *Sirat al-Amira Dhat al-Himma*, and *Quelling the Demons’ Revolt*, attributed to Luo Guanzhong.

HON 2210: Modern Medievalisms (1 section: Spring 2022)

This seminar, taught in the Clemson University Honors College, investigates the use of the medieval period as inspiration for later literary works and what it can tell us about the use of the past to comment on the present. Students read such texts as *Ivanhoe* and *The Book of Saladin* and watch films like *Robin Hood: Prince and Kingdom of Heaven* to develop their skills for analyzing modern depictions of medieval topics.

COURSES TAUGHT, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, 2009-2017

French 102 (4 sections: Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2016)

French 101 (4 sections: Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2011, Spring 2012)

English 105i: Writing in the Law (2 sections: Spring 2015, Spring 2017)

This is an elective composition class focusing on legal writing.

English 144: Introduction to Popular Genres (1 section: Fall 2016)

This is a survey course that focused on the fantasy, Western, romance, and detective fiction genres in multiple media for which I served as the instructor of record and designed the syllabus and course materials.

English 125: Introduction to Poetry (1 section: Fall 2015)

This is a survey course in English poetry for which I served as the instructor of record and designed the syllabus and course materials.

English 121: British Literature, Medieval to 18th century (2 sections: Fall 2014)

This is a survey course for which I served as a teaching assistant, responsible for facilitating weekly discussion sections and grading papers.

English 105: Composition and Rhetoric (Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014)
This is a required introductory composition class designed around the concept of producing real-world genres of writing in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Book proposal review, Routledge, 2021.

Conference Organizer, *The World(s) of John Wick*, Indiana University, November 2019

Editorial Assistant, *Studies in Philology*, Fall 2013–Summer 2017

Conference Organizer, Consequences of ‘the Fall’: Growth and Decline in Medieval and Early Modern Literary Culture, UNC Chapel Hill, April 2015

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Member, Dean’s Special Faculty Advisory Committee, College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities, Clemson University, Fall 2022–

Member, Finance Committee, Faculty Senate, Clemson University, Fall 2022–

Special Faculty Delegate, Convention of Delegates, Faculty Senate, Clemson University, Fall 2022–

Member, Curriculum Committee, Department of English, Clemson University, Fall 2022–Spring 2023

Pilot instructor and participant, Teagle Foundation, Cornerstone: Learning for Living initiative implementation grant, Clemson University, Summer 2022–

Graduate and Professional Student Federation Senator, UNC Chapel Hill, Fall 2011–Spring 2015

Conference Organizer, *Making Knowledge in Medieval and Early Modern Culture*, UNC Chapel Hill, April 2014

Member, Appropriations Committee, GPSF, Fall 2012–Spring 2014

LANGUAGES (IN ORDER OF PROFICIENCY)

English, French, Latin, Italian, German

SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Modern Language Association
International Courtly Literature Society
Medieval Academy of America
International Arthurian Society, North American Branch
New Chaucer Society
Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship

REFERENCES

Reid Barbour
Roy C. Moose Distinguished Professor, English and Comparative Literature
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Editor, *Studies in Philology*
Email: rbarbour@email.unc.edu

Erin Goss
Associate Professor and Associate Department Chair
Clemson University
Email: egoss@clemson.edu

Shayne Aaron Legassie
Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Email: shayne@email.unc.edu

Evelyn Meyer
Associate Professor of German
Saint Louis University
Email: evelyn.meyer@slu.edu

Jessica Wolfe
Professor of English and Comparative Literature
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Email: wolfej@unc.edu