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*The Cambridge Guide to Literature in English* describes 'verse romance' as "a poetic form originating in 12<sup>th</sup>-century France [...] and flourishing in England in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Characteristically, a romance tells the story of a single knight [...]. He is separated from the court and exposed to various adventures, which often involve the supernatural, before making the triumphant return to court and prosperity [...]. The romance is courtly, concerned with the chivalric codes governing behaviour and manners in all aspects of social life, love, and battle." (Cambridge 1988:1029).

In our seminar we will read and discuss *Havelok the Dane*, *Sir Orfeo*, and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Apart from a careful interpretation of the texts we will try to obtain a systematic understanding of the genre and its tradition and development.

As to the objectives of the course, three main issues will be predominant. After having attended this course you shall be able

- to discuss and explain the topic in adequate terms (language)
- to know the most important representatives of the text form (knowledge)
- to explain and critically reflect upon the central issue, romance, in theoretically and methodologically well-founded statements (theory and method)

The texts and additional materials are available on the university's BSCW-Server ([bscw.uni-duesseldorf.de](http://bscw.uni-duesseldorf.de)) to which you will be invited, if you send your name and a valid email-address to [holteir@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de](mailto:holteir@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de).

Preparatory reading:

- *A Manual of Writings in Middle English, 1050-1500*, ed. by J. Burke Severs *et al.* New Haven 1967ff; Vol. 1: *Romances*, ed. by Mortimer J. Donovan. [ULB and FB].
- Printed editions of the texts are:  
Stephen H. A. Shepherd (Ed.). *Middle English Romances: Authoritative Texts, Sources and Backgrounds, Criticism*. New York: Norton 1995. [ULB, FB, and Lehrbuchsammlung];  
J.R.R. Tolkien and E.V. Gordon (Eds.). *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. 2nd ed. rev. by Norman Davis. Oxford: Clarendon 1967. [ULB and FB];  
Markus Manfred (Hg. und Übs.). *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight - Sir Gawain und der Grüne Ritter*. Stuttgart: Reclam 1974. [not available in libraries, only book-trade, € 6,10].

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| Voraussetzungen:   | Introduction to Medieval English Studies:              |
| Leistungsnachweis: | wahlweise: mündliche Prüfung, Präsentation, Hausarbeit |
| Veranstaltungstyp: | Wahlpflicht M.A./Prom.; Vertiefungsmodul B.A.          |

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**Der Inhalt der Lehrveranstaltung ist geeignet für die Zwischenprüfung**

**Knut Hannemann M.A. - Dr. Rainer Holtei M.A.**  
**Proseminar: The Roots of English (4-stündig)**

**Mi 14-16, Geb. 23.21, R. 02.26 (Holtei)**  
**oder wahlweise**  
**Fr 11-13, Geb. 23.21, R. U1.46 (Hannemann)**  
**und obligatorisch**  
**Do 14-16, Geb. 23.21, R. 02.27 (Hannemann)**

**Beginn: 18./20.10.2006**

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This course consists of two parts:

(both parts are obligatory for Magister students. BA students may choose both parts or only part a) for the Vertiefungsmodul: Structure and Development of English)

- a) Major Change Phenomena: The Big Four (Mi 14-16 or Fr 11-13)  
in these classes, we will concentrate on the four major change phenomena in the history of the English language, namely:
  - language contact
  - the typological change
  - the Great Vowel Shift
  - the process of standardization
- b) Applications (Do 14-16)  
in this class we will have the opportunity to practically apply your knowledge and skills in that each student will investigate into a specific linguistic problem and present the result to the class after the Christmas break. We will work in teams or small groups.

In order to provide students with the basic methodological and theoretical knowledge necessary for the practical analysis we have planned an introductory unit of repetition and enlargement.

As to the objectives of the course, three main issues will be predominant. After having attended this course you shall be able

- to discuss and explain the topics in adequate terms (language)
- to know and describe the change phenomena in detail (knowledge)
- to discuss and critically reflect upon issues of historical linguistics in theoretically and methodologically well-founded statements (theory and method)

The course materials will be available on the university's BSCW-Server. In order to get invited to the Roots of English folders, you should send your name and email address to: [hanneman@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de](mailto:hanneman@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de) for Do 11-13 and Fr 11-13 and [holteir@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de](mailto:holteir@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de) for Mi 14-16

As the course affords a great amount of organization, it is absolutely necessary to attend the first unit on 18 or 20 Oct 2006. Later enrolment is not possible.

Recommended reading:

Crystal, David. *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the English Language*. Cambridge 1995:4-115.

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| Voraussetzungen:   | Introduction to Medieval English Studies                 |
| Leistungsnachweis: | Präsentation + mündliche Prüfung                         |
| Veranstaltungstyp: | Wahlpflicht Magister/Prom; Pflicht Vertiefungsmodul B.A. |

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**Der Inhalt der Lehrveranstaltung ist geeignet für die Zwischenprüfung**

**Rainer Holtei / Anne MacDonald / Riad Nassar**  
**Survey of Medieval English Literature**  
**Zeit: Di 11.00-13.00**  
**Ort: Geb. 23.21, Raum U1.83**

**Beginn: 17.10.2006**

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This course will be offered to students in their *Grund-* or *Hauptstudium* in Medieval English Studies. The aim of the course is to supply detailed information on a number of subjects, ranging from Old and Middle English Literature to Linguistic and Historical aspects of our course of studies. Students will be given the opportunity to choose subjects they are interested in with the aim of working out these topics in such a way that they can be used in any kind of exam in *Ältere Anglistik*. Students will be asked to present the subject of their choice in front of the class, active participation in the course therefore is indispensable.

**The schedule for the course will be worked out with the participants who are present in the first lesson on Tuesday, 17.10.2006, 11 c.t.**

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| Voraussetzungen:   | keine           |
| Veranstaltungstyp: | Wahl M.A./Prom. |

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