

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

2002-2003

FREN4100 TRANSGRESSION IN MEDIEVAL LITERATURE

Write TWO essays, ONE from each Section.

You may answer in English or in French, but no special credit will be given for writing in French rather than in English.

Please note that AT LEAST ONE option paper MUST be written in English.

DO NOT BASE BOTH ESSAYS IN THIS COURSE, OR AN ANSWER IN THIS COURSE AND ONE IN ANOTHER OPTION, ON THE SAME TEXT OR ON SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME MATERIAL.

You must refer to paragraphs 1 to 8 of the French Department's 'BA courses: Assessed Essays Booklet' for further information on the length of essays, how they are assessed, submission procedures and penalties for late submission, as well as for essay writing guidelines. Your attention is also drawn to the statement on 'Plagiarism and Non-originality' in that booklet and in the French Department Student Handbook.

Titles may be selected only from the following list: rewording of titles is not permitted.

SECTION A

1. *'Le Jeu d'Adam* presents a univocal, authoritarian view of human behaviour.' Discuss.
2. 'The Perceval episodes develop a spiritualised vision of knighthood, but this is undermined by Gawain's adventures, which are wholly worldly.' Discuss Chrétien's *Le Conte du graal* in the light of this remark.
3. Discuss *Amadas et Ydoine* in the light of the following statement: 'The love of Amadas and Ydoine is transgressive because it is nonmilitary, nonhierarchical, and virginal'.
4. 'It is through eliminating the possibility of either compassion or admiration for their characters that the *fabliaux* joyously subvert the concept of fiction as a moral *exemplum*.' Discuss, with reference to ONE or MORE *fabliaux* which you have read.

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5. 'Not only is the medieval version of "friendly fire" one of the principal hazards encountered by knights in *La Mort le roi Artu*, but even those relationships which do not involve armed combat are all seen as the inevitable sources of damage and destruction.' Discuss.
6. 'Villon's shifting poetic personas enable him to avoid confronting the central dilemma of his *Testament*: the choice between pardon and punishment.' Discuss.

SECTION B

7. Examine the ways in which the codes and practices of medieval law are discussed in TWO or MORE of the texts that you have studied for this course.
8. 'The more powerful a woman is perceived to be, the more her actions and nature are treated as transgressive.' In the context of this remark, discuss TWO or MORE texts that you have studied for this course.
9. Compare and contrast the presentation of the theme of vengeance in TWO or MORE texts you have studied for this course.
10. 'A comic view of transgression is more disturbing than a serious or tragic perspective.' How far do you agree? Base your answer on TWO or MORE of the texts you have studied for this course.
11. Analyse the treatment of the sense of guilt in TWO or MORE of the texts you have studied for this course.

END OF PAPER