Senior Honors English

Medieval Literature

Unit Finals Options

**Choose one**.

Due Date: Friday, September 12

* **ESSAY OPTIONS- MLA Format, typed, 3-5 pages in length.**
  + “To what degree does medieval literature regard human existence as secondary to the divine?” Use textual evidence from one of the texts read in this unit to support an original, concise thesis statement.
  + Choose one of the Canterbury Tales. Explain how the main character shows his or her personality through narration. How do fabliaux reveal the point of view of the character? Use textual evidence to support an original, concise thesis statement.
  + Compare and contrast Sir Gawain and the Green Knight and "The Knight’s Tale.” What are the qualities of the ideal knight? Do they differ at all? Use textual evidence from both texts to support an original, concise thesis.
  + Is the Wife of Bath from The Canterbury Tales a feminist? Use textual evidence to support your position.
  + Discuss “The Pardoner’s Tale” as a satire. What exactly is being literally described versus being satirized? Why does Chaucer use satire? Is Chaucer satirizing human nature or the Church as an establishment? Use textual evidence to support an original, concise thesis statement.
* **ORAL PRESENTATION OPTION**- **total presentation length 4-5 minutes**.
  + Select one of the poems from this unit and recite it from memory. Include an introduction that states:
    - What the excerpt is from
    - Who wrote it
    - Why it exemplifies the medieval period
* **RESEARCH OPTIONS- See Syllabus for expectations and steps.**
  + **ARGUMENTATIVE**: Does the term Dark Ages accurately describe the Middle Ages? Use primary and secondary sources from this unit or outside of the unit to support an original, concise thesis statement to answer the question. Cite at least three sources. The essay should reflect your reasoned judgment about the quality and reliability of sources consulted (i.e., why you emphasize some and not others), a balance of paraphrasing and quoting from sources, original thinking, the anticipation and addressing of questions or counterclaims, and the proper citation of sources**. If I can get it up and running**, I will give you the opportunity to share and refine your initial research questions on the classroom blog in order to get feedback from your classmates.
  + **INFORMATIVE**: Answer the essential question: "How did medieval man distinguish between the earthly and the divine?” Use primary and secondary sources from this unit or outside of the unit to support an original thesis statement to answer the question. Cite at least three sources. The essay should reflect your reasoned judgment about the quality and reliability of sources consulted (i.e., why you emphasize some and not others), a balance of paraphrasing and quoting from sources, original thinking, the anticipation and addressing of questions or counterclaims, and the proper citation of sources. If I can get it up and running, I will give you the opportunity to share and refine your initial research questions on the classroom blog in order to get feedback from your classmates.