

Medieval Literature in England

EN 4990/6990

Holly Johnson
Fall 2017
MW 2-3:15



Sir Gawain and the Green Knight's Wife.
BL MS Cotton Nero A. X, art.3, f.129

This course will explore the literary world of medieval England beginning in the Anglo-Saxon period with *Beowulf* and the Old English elegy, before moving into the later medieval period. We will read a variety of medieval genres and texts, including the romance, the legends of King Arthur, the dream vision, and the biblical and morality play. We will read all Old English works and some Middle English ones (such as *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*) in translation, but many of the Middle English works will be in the original language. No prior experience reading Middle English is required. Course requirements include reading quizzes, a short essay, a research paper and annotated bibliography, a midterm, and a final exam.