

Medieval Romance Epic

Code: 103371
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
English and French Studies	OT	0
English and French Studies	OT	3
English and French Studies	OT	4

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

No admission requirements

Objectives and Contextualisation

Epic poetry is one of the most important literary genres in the Europe of the Middle Ages. Romance epic poems, "chansons de geste", were born at the end of the 11th century as a literary and linguistic manifestation in the northern area of present-day France. They evolved with extraordinary qualitative and quantitative richness throughout the 12th and 13th centuries up to the 15th century. This subject aims to make the students travel to this medieval heroic universe as well as to make them aware of the linguistic and cultural diversity of Romania. Traditionally considered a genre of eminently masculine values, an intersectional reading is proposed in which the presence and authority of the female characters is highlighted: El Viatge de Carlemany.

Competences

English and French Studies

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Carry out effective written work or oral presentations adapted to the appropriate register in different languages.
- Identify and interpret literary texts of different languages (English and French), analysing generic, formal, thematic and cultural features according to concepts and methods proper to comparative literature and literary theory.
- Make changes to methods and processes in the area of knowledge in order to provide innovative responses to society's needs and demands.
- Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.

- Students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (normally within their study area) to issue judgments that include reflection on important issues of social, scientific or ethical.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
- Use digital tools and specific documentary sources to gather and organise information.

Learning Outcomes

1. Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
2. Analysing romance literatures in their social, religious and political context.
3. Analyze medieval oral and written literary documents.
4. Arguing about several issues and literary problems for the purpose of different works and the assessment of the results.
5. Being able to define the medieval literary genres.
6. Being able to perform a comparative analysis of the various multicultural medieval Romance literatures.
7. Carry out written projects or oral presentation that are effective and adapted to the adequate register in different languages.
8. Conceptually analysing a work of the subject matter.
9. Critically interpreting literary works taking into account the relationships between the different areas of literature and its relationships with human, artistic and social areas.
10. Describing the first medieval linguistic and literary monuments.
11. Identifying and analysing texts coming from the European literary tradition.
12. Make changes to methods and processes in the area of knowledge in order to provide innovative responses to society's needs and demands.
13. Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
14. Use digital tools and specific documentary sources for finding and organising information.

Content

1. General features of heroic poetry: The figure of the hero; The problem of origins, ideology and theory; Historical event versus legend; Epic poetry, a universal gender?
2. Heroic poetry from a gender perspective: Feudal epic society
3. The origins of European heroic poetry: the Latin, Germanic and Anglo-Saxon traditions.
4. Medieval Romance epic and hagiography: the case of the Life of *Sainte Fe* and the Life of *Saint Alexis*.
5. Formal features of the heroic poem: *Laisse* or *tirada*; The epic poem: metre and rhyme; Narrative and rhetorical stereotypes; The marks of orality in epic poems.
6. El Viatge de Carlemany: Handwritten tradition; The Carolingian cycle; The epic and history.
7. The cyclic configuration: The main French epic cycles; Thematic and Formal evolution of the French epic and the European epic; Cycle de Guillaume (*Chançon de Guilelme*); The cycle of the rebellious Barons (The Raoul of Cambrai).
8. The crusades and their repercussion for the epic poetry.
9. Medieval epic poetry from a gender perspective

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Activity participated in class and coordinated with other students	20	0.8	1, 13, 8, 3, 2, 4, 10, 14, 7, 11, 9, 12, 5, 6
Type: Supervised			
Commentaries of a epic text applying the knowledge of the historical and socio-cultural context.	10	0.4	1, 13, 8, 3, 2, 4, 10, 14, 7, 11, 9, 12, 5, 6
Type: Autonomous			
Out of Class assignments: reading of primary and critical sources, writing and bibliographic search	30	1.2	1, 13, 8, 3, 2, 4, 10, 14, 7, 11, 9, 12, 5, 6

Generally, the learning process will be directed through a number of techniques and activities:

- Masterclass supported by the use of ICT and students' discussion
- Practice of written and oral production
- Individual and group exercises, both written and oral
- Out of Class assignments: reading of primary and critical sources, writing and bibliographic search.
- Feedback sessions for the correction and assessment of exercises and activities.
- Inverse classes of some item of the program and subsequent collective discussion and analysis of the bibliographic sources consulted

IA:

This subject allows the use of AI technologies exclusively for support tasks such as

bibliographic or content-based searches, text correction or translations, where applicable.

In the case of subjects in a Modern Languages degree, use of translation must be specifically authorised by the teacher. Other specific situations may be contemplated, as deemed appropriate by the teacher.

The student must clearly (i) identify which parts have been generated using AI technology; (ii) specify the tools used; and (iii) include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and final outcome of the activity.

Lack of transparency regarding the use of AI in the assessed activity will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade may be lowered, or the work may even be awarded a zero.

In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Commentaries of a epic text applying the knowledge of the historical and socio-cultural context.	Autonomous bibliographic search	40	1.6	1, 13, 8, 3, 2, 4, 10, 14, 7, 11, 9, 12, 5, 6
Minimum two comments of poetry epic texts	Assessment with instrumental and bibliographic orientation	20	0.8	1, 13, 8, 3, 2, 4, 10, 14, 7, 11, 9, 12, 5, 6
Minimum two comments of poetry epic texts	Autonomous bibliographical approach to the subject	30	1.2	1, 13, 8, 3, 2, 4, 10, 14, 7, 11, 9, 12, 5, 6

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE: The competences of this subject will be assessed through written tests, individual and group work, text commentaries and oral presentations.

-Paper submission module: A minimum of two papers will be required in this module. Results will value 45% of the final mark.

-Module for presentations of texts in the classroom: 25%.

-Module of written tests: 30%.

At the time of each assessment task, students will be informed through Moodle about the procedure and the date of the review of results.

In the event that tests or exams cannot be taken onsite, they will be adapted to an online format made available through the UAB's virtual tools (original weighting will be maintained). Homework, activities and class participation will be carried out through forums, wikis and/or discussion on Teams, etc. Lecturers will ensure that students are able to access these virtual tools, or will offer them feasible alternatives.

ABSENT: Students will be considered absent if they have completed less than 30% of the work assigned during the course and 30% less of the tests. Therefore, if they have done more than 30% of each part, they will be assessed.

REMEDICATION: Students are required to have been awarded marks previously in a set of activities that score at least 2/3 of the total mark. Only students with an average mark equal or higher than 3.5 will be eligible for remediation. Activities such as oral presentations, group work, or those related to daily teaching may not be eligible for remediation.

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject. Total and partial plagiarism of any of the exercises will automatically be considered a FAIL. Plagiarism means deliberately or accidentally using someone else's work, whether a single sentence or more, as if it were your own. This includes copying sentences or whole paragraphs from digital documents on the Internet and it can have very serious consequences, which is why it is important to follow good academic practices and to reference your work properly.

Single assessment

The student must carry out the Directed Activities (minimum two) that are indicated in the Methodology section of this Teaching Guide, and two other types of evidence that accredit the achievement of the objectives and learning outcomes established in this subject:

-The Directed Activities will account for 45% of the final grade and, as indicated in this Teaching Guide, there will be a minimum of two.

-Two more evidences will be added: Reading Control of the proposed works (one or two throughout the course), which will represent 25% of the weight of the grade, and a Final Test which will have the remaining 30%.

To take advantage of the single assessment, it will be necessary to request it through the form that will be available, in the second term, between 12 February and 23 February.

Bibliography

AA.VV. 1985. *Les épopées romanes*, GRLMA, Heidelberg, C. Winter, 1985, vol. VIII, t.2.

BÉDIER, Joseph. 1926 *Les légendes épiques. Recherches sur la formation des Chansons de geste*, 4 vols. Paris, Champion, 3^a ed.

GRISWARD, Joël H. 1981., *Archéologie de l'épopée médiévale*, Paris, Payot.

HEUSCH, Carlos (ed.) 2017. "Le Cid chanté par Antoni Rossell". *Cahiers d'Études Hispaniques Médiévales*, n. 40.

LIMENTANI, Alberto, e INFURNA, Marcos. 1986, *L'epica*, Bologna, Il Mulino.

RIQUER, Martín de, *Los cantares de gesta franceses*, Madrid, 2009.

ROSSELL, Antoni. 2004. *Poesia i Música a l'Edat Mitjana: La cançó èpica*, Edit. Dinsic, Barcelona.

ROSSELL, Antoni. 2008. «Oralidad literaria. Una hipótesis interdisciplinaria y lingüística: Música, memoria y lingüística». *Romanistik in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, Buske. Hamburg, pp. 1-14

ROSSELL, Antoni. 2016b. "De épica, escansión, métrica y música". *Antes se agotan la mano y la pluma que su historia / Magis deficit manus et calamus quam eius hystoria*. Editorial CiLengua.

ROSSI, Carla. 2006. *Il viaggio di Carlo Magno a Gerusalemme e a Costantinopoli*.

Edizione, traduzione e commento a cura di Carla Rossi, Alessandria, Edizioni dell'Orso (Studi e ricerche, 50).

RYCHNER, Jean. 1955., *La chanson de geste. Essai sur l'art épique des jongleurs*, Ginebra, Droz.

Software

No specific software is necessary. Although unlikely, if required later in the course, this would be indicated in due time.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed