

Presentations

Over the course of the term, each student will give a brief, unmarked presentation on a secondary text. For each text provided, two presentation models are available:

1. The Synopsis

The student summarizes the essay's argument in five to eight minutes. This activity requires a close familiarity only with the scholarly text in question, though the student is free to improve their presentation by reading up on the relevant primary and/or secondary literature.

2. The Pitch

The student gives a persuasive speech of five to eight minutes arguing why (any aspect of) the text's subject matter is a worthy choice of topic for a term paper or MA thesis. This student's aim is to persuade students to write their term papers on the topic of the text or anything discussed in it. This activity requires at least a cursory knowledge of the set text, but it is more important that the student acquire and present an understanding of the issues involved in the broader topic, which may require some independent research into other primary and/or secondary texts. By all means mention some possible approaches, research questions, or thesis statements to which the topic lends itself.

Ideally, each secondary text will yield two presentations: first, one student introduces and summarizes it; then, another student markets its subject matter. For best effect, students may choose to coordinate their presentations. You are free to choose either a presenter or a marketer slot while supplies last. Synopses require less creative thought, but more attention to detail; pitches require more independence and creativity, but may be an excellent way to help you find a paper topic. However, slots are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. If a text has only one student associated with it by the time its presentation draws near, that student gets an opportunity to reconsider their role, but they will in this case be required to incorporate at least a brief summary of the text's argument even if they choose to market rather than summarize.

If you choose to use slides for your presentation, please upload them — in PDF format if at all possible — to the "Student Presentation Slides" folder on StudIP by midnight ahead of class.

Sign up for a slot on the reverse of this sheet. The full bibliography for the texts in question is found on the syllabus; the texts themselves are on StudIP.

Date	Text	Presenter	Marketer
19 April	Fischer, "Sumer is icumen in"		
19 April	Sandison, "The <i>chanson d'aventure</i> in Middle English," ch 2: "The Conventional Form"		
26 April	Cigman, "The Seasons"		
3 May	Hieatt, <i>The Realism of Dream Visions</i> , ch. 4: " <i>Pearl</i> and <i>The Book of the Duchess</i> "		
3 May	Bleeth, "Chaucerian Gardens and the Spirit of Play"		
19 April	Sobecki, <i>The Sea</i> , "Introduction"		
10 May	Doob, <i>Nebuchadnezzar's Children</i> , ch. 2: "Nebuchadnezzar and the Conventions of Madness"		
17 May	Landers, <i>The Field and the Forge</i> , ch. 1		
7 June	Clark and Wassermann, "The Passing of the Seasons and the Apocalyptic"		
7 June	Harding, " <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> as a Winter's Tale"		
14 June	Howes, "Time and Landscape"		
21 June	Birrell, "Hunting and the Royal Forest"		
21 June	Vial, "Fêtes et saisons" (NB French!)		
28 June	Cox, "Eastward of the Garden"		
28 June	Schmidt, "Latent Content"		
12 July	Pearsall, " <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> "		
12 July	Pearsall and Salter, <i>Landscapes and Seasons</i> , ch. 3: "The Landscape of Paradise"		