

ENGL 3216 Topics in Medieval Literature  
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## Medieval Drama

Middle English “pley” describes what we now call drama, and also many other actions and ideas, broadening our understanding of the workings of play and of plays, or what might be considered a play or an act of play.

### **play, game, community, and diversity**

will receive special attention in this course as we read and enact, by voicing and through bodily movement, a broad range of Middle English plays:

*mystery cycles*  
*morality plays*  
*saints' plays*  
*miracle plays*

Our class will reach across a chasm of loss to discover how play and game can teach us about those who first spoke the words of these plays, and perhaps enable us also to make sense of how we situate ourselves relative to their topics and our own communal endeavors.

Readings are in Middle English. Prior knowledge of Middle English is not expected; coursework will include language practice as well as close attention to poetic forms. Lecture, discussion, research, and collaborative work will all feature in this course.