This course will explore several works by four great writers of the late fourteenth century, called the Ricardian poets because they lived during the reign of Richard II (1377-1399). The group includes Geoffrey Chaucer, John Gower, William Langland, and the Pearl-Poet (also referred to as the Gawain-poet). We will read all works in Middle English, but no prior experience with Middle English is necessary.

Probable Texts:

Geoffrey Chaucer
- Book of the Duchess
- The Parliament of Fowles
- The House of Fame
- The Legend of Goodly Women

John Gower
- Confessio Amantis (selections)

William Langland
- Piers Plowman

The Pearl-Poet
- Pearl
- Patience
- Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

(portrait of Richard II at Westminster Abbey)

Requirements include two exams, a presentation, a short translation project, an annotated bibliography, and a research paper.