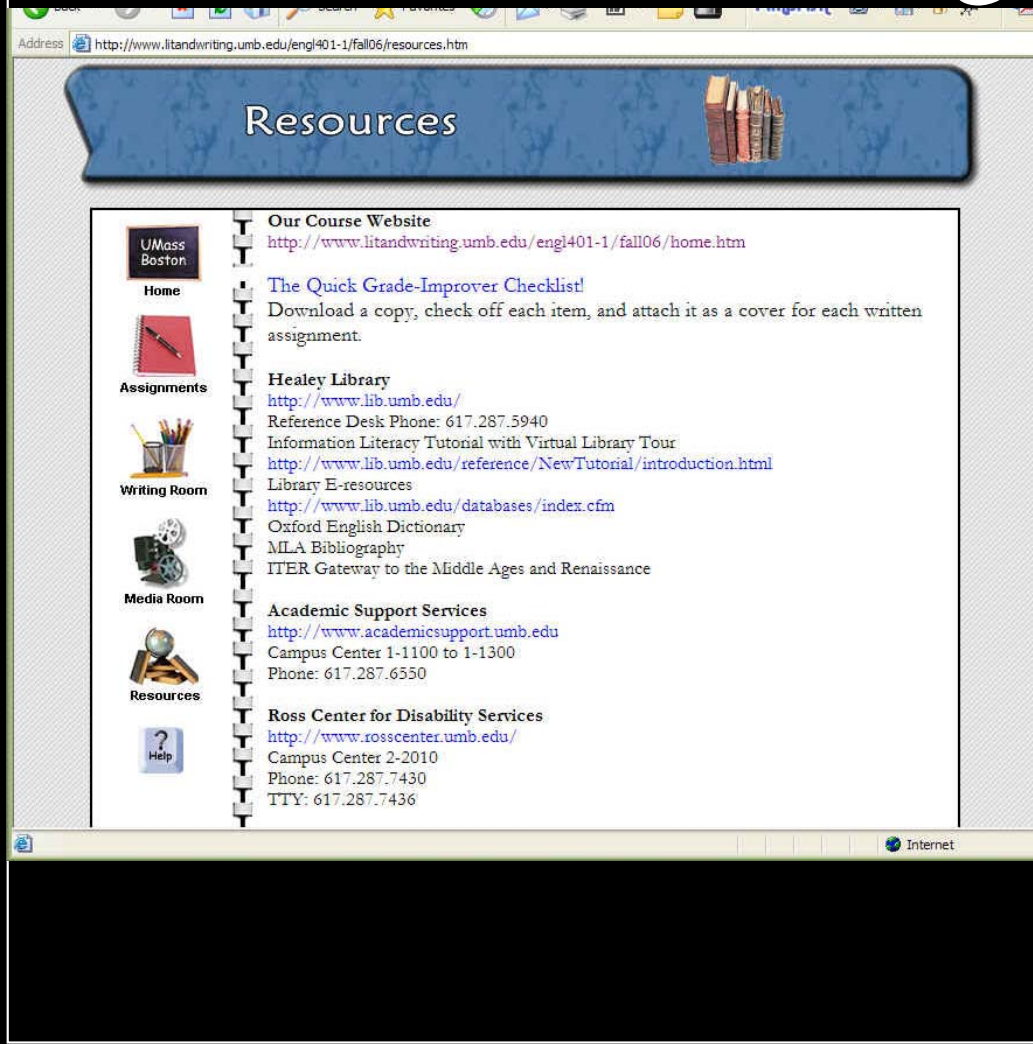


# The Medieval Period, Day Five

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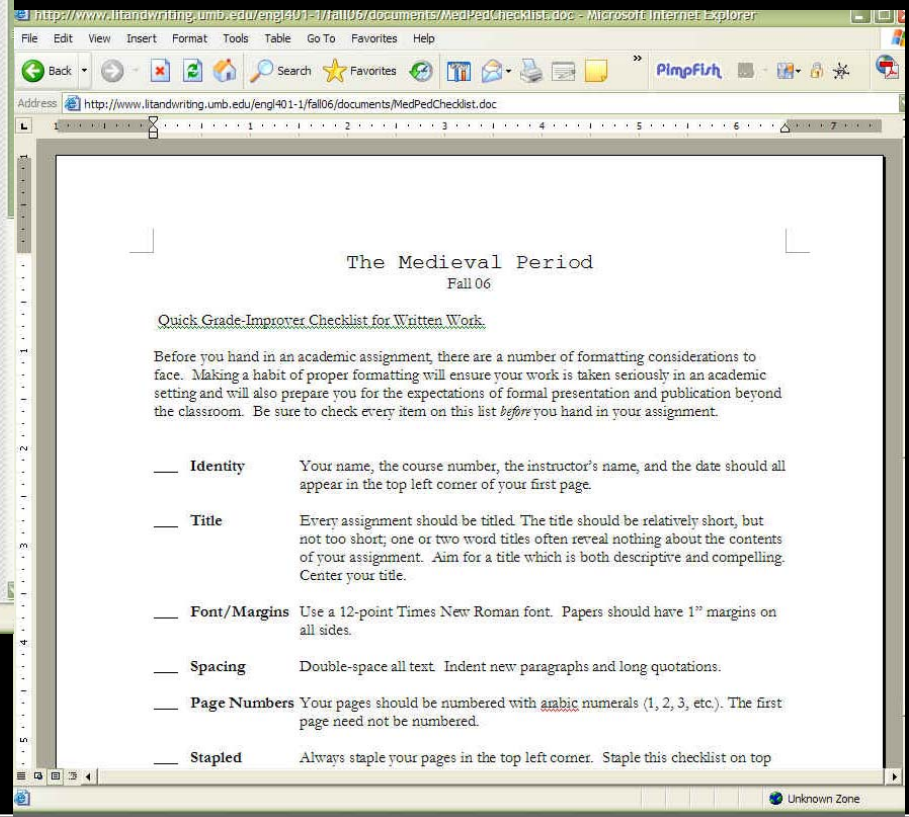
Mannyng's *Chronicle*

# How are we using our website?



Remember:

First Assignment due Next Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.  
Use the Checklist from our Website!



# Who are 'We English'?

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■  annyng's *Chronicle*, c. 1338

How does this medieval translator describe his aims in translation and use of language?

How does he identify his audience and create a communal identity by engaging with the past?

# History and Poetry

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- J. R. R. Tolkien on the *Beowulf*'s place in history



- Roberta Frank on history within *Beowulf*



# War, what is it good for?

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## ■ The Political Context of the *Chronicle*

Edward I (1272-1307): designs on Scotland (begun in 1290s) results in on-going North border problems

Edward II (1308-1326): less militant, still invades Scotland in 1314 (and loses)

Edward III (1327-1377): re-opens war with Scotland, also leads war with France, resulting to Hundred Years War (1337-1453)

## ■ Social and Material Consequences of War

Taxation, Purveyances, Military Service

# Mannyng who?

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- Robert Mannyng of Brunne (Bourne, in Lincolnshire)
  - Born around 1265-85, died mid-fourteenth c.
  - Wrote two surviving works: *Handlyng Synne* (begun 1303) and the *Chronicle* (completed 1338)
  - Lived for a long time as a canon in the Gilbertine house of Sixhills

How does Mannyng appear within the text?

# We English?

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- How does Mannyng define the audience of his translation?

“Not for the lered, bot for the lewed”

- What is “strange” about “strange Inglis?”  
(lines 78-122)

- What form does Mannyng’s English take?

# Says who?

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- What were the languages in use in England in Mannyng's time (13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> c.)?

Latin, French (Anglo-Norman), English

Old vs. Middle English! (hint: look at alphabet...)

- What were Mannyng's sources for his *Chronicle*?
  - Pierre Langtoft's *Chronicle* (1307)
  - Wace, *Roman de Brut* [*Romance of Brutus*] (1155)Both were in Anglo-Norman and based on
  - Geoffrey of Monmouth's Latin *Historia Regum Britanniae* [*History of the Kings of Britain*] (1138)



# Medieval and Modern Translation Theory

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- Compare Mannyng's description of his aims and concerns in translation with...
- Treharne's ("personal favorites that I believe have a use in courses of medieval literature...students ought to be able to interpret the text for themselves") and...
- Heaney's ("one way for an Irish poet to come to terms with that complex history of conquest and colony")
- How is Mannyng's *Chronicle* similar to, and different from, *Beowulf*?

# Mannyng's Conquest: 1066 in 1338



Trouble in "The Family": In-laws, Step-siblings, Illegitimacy, and English rule

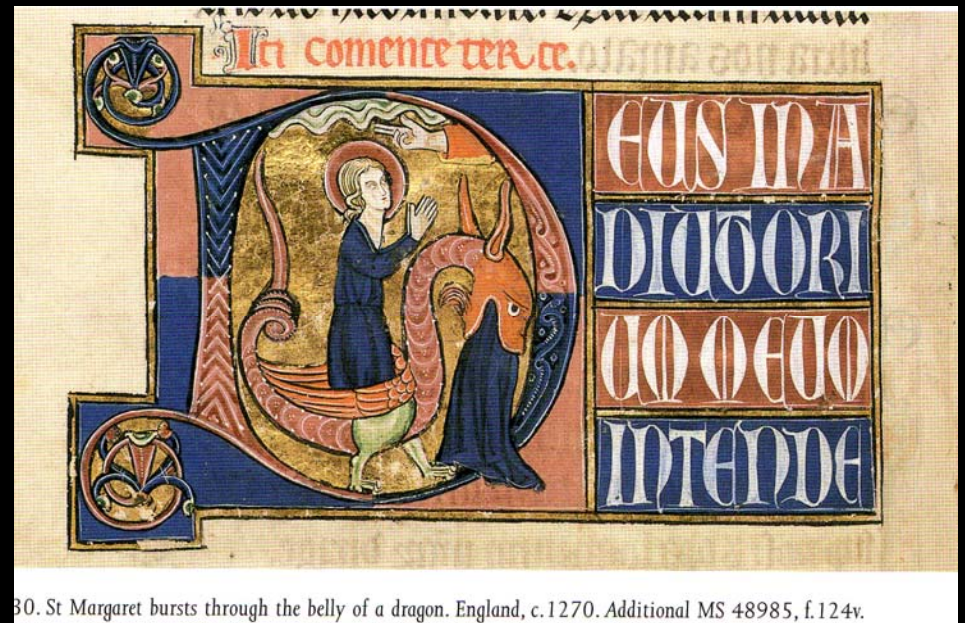
- Battle of Stamford Bridge  
Saxon Harold Godwinson  
vs. Danish Harold Hardrada
- Battle of Hastings  
Saxon Harold Godwinson  
vs. William, Duke of Normandy
- Mannyng's account:  
"Falshed" of Harold  
"Us" against "them"  
"our fredom þat day forever toke þe leve"  
Who were the Normans in the 1330s? Why tell the Norman invasion story?



# What Next? Martyred Margaret!

- What is Margaret's 'past'?

- Why retell her story?
  - Old vs. Middle English
  - Pagan vs. Christian rule



- How are belief and the body linked in this tale?