

Carleton University
Winter 2015
Department of English

ENGL 3202A: Chaucer

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:35-9:55 AM
Location: *Please confirm location on Carleton Central*

Instructor: Dr. K. Quinn
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Office: 1929 DT
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10-11, by appointment

Course Description

No English author can match the uninterrupted reading history that connects Chaucer to the present, and this course will explore why Chaucer has proven so engaging from the Middle Ages through to today. Focussing on *The Canterbury Tales*, we'll look at questions such as: Was Chaucer a proto-feminist? How do various tales investigate questions of class and gender? How does Chaucer explore themes of love, chivalry, and the relationship between the sexes in his Tales? How, and to what effect, does Chaucer, a medieval Christian, depict other Christians, Jews, and Muslims in his Tales? How do we, and how did medieval readers, reconcile Chaucer's bawdy humor and criticism of the Church with his more straightforwardly "moral" tales?

Text

We will be reading Jill Mann's edition of *The Canterbury Tales* (Penguin). It has been ordered for you at the Carleton University Bookstore.

Assignments

Translation Exercises	10%
Mid-Term Examination	15%
Essay Workshop	5%
Final Essay (8-10 pages)	25%
Final Examination	35%
Class Participation and Attendance	10%

Email

Carleton University regulations stipulate that professors should only respond to questions from students when they write from a Carleton email address, so please remember to use your Carleton account when getting in touch with me. I aim to respond to student emails within 24 hours. If you have not heard back from me 24 hours after sending an email, do email again in case there has been a technological problem. (It may be the case that circumstances have prevented me from responding in time, but I will not be offended by a reminder email in any case!)

Late Penalties/Missed Tests and Exams

Translation exercises: You will do six in-class translations of 10-20 line passages of Chaucer. Your top five translation marks will be worth 2% each; your lowest mark will be dropped. If you miss a translation for a non-medical/family emergency/religious reason, you cannot make it up, but that translation can be your uncounted exercise.

Midterm: If you miss the midterm, you will require a medical certificate to write a make-up midterm.

Essay: Late essays will receive a deduction of 3% per day. No essays will be accepted after April 10, 2015.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism means passing off someone else's words or ideas as your own or submitting the same work in two different academic contexts (self-plagiarism). The consequences of plagiarism are severe and are issued by the Dean and the University Senate. In order to avoid plagiarism, you must correctly attribute the sources of the ideas you pick up from books, the internet, and other people. For additional information, consult the section on Instructional Offenses in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD),

psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

N.B. This schedule is tentative. We might spend slightly more or less time on some texts.

Jan 6	Introduction to the Course Introduction to Middle English Historical Context Textual History and Context
Jan 8	Finish Contextualization Manuscript vs. Print Culture, the various manuscripts and orderings of <i>The Tales</i> Begin <i>The General Prologue</i> if there is time
Jan 13	<i>The General Prologue</i>
Jan 15	Finish <i>General Prologue</i> <i>Knight's Prologue and Tale</i> , Part 1
Jan 20	Translation Exercise #1 <i>Knight's Tale</i> , Parts 2-3
Jan 22	<i>Knight's Tale</i> , Part 4
Jan 27	Finish <i>Knight's Tale</i>

- Jan 29 **Translation Exercise #2**
Miller's Prologue and Tale
- Feb 3 *Reeve's Prologue and Tale*
Cook's Prologue and Tale
- Feb 5 **Translation Exercise #3**
Discuss Manuscript Ordering Debate
Man of Law's Introduction, Prologue, Tale, Epilogue
- Feb 10 Finish *Man of Law's Tale* and *Epilogue*
- Feb 12 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**
- Feb 17-19 Reading week: no classes
- Feb. 24 Begin *Wife of Bath's Prologue*
- Feb. 26 *Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale*
Begin *Friar's Prologue and Tale* if time
- March 3 **Translation Exercise #4**
Friar's Prologue and Tale
Summoner's Prologue and Tale
- March 5 Finish *Summoner's Tale* if necessary
Begin *Clerk's Prologue and Tale*
- March 10 **Translation Exercise #5**
Finish *Clerk's Tale*
- March 12 Begin *Merchant's Prologue, Tale and Epilogue*
- March 17 **Translation Exercise #6**
Finish *Merchant's Tale* and *Epilogue*
Begin *Franklin's Prologue and Tale*
- March 19 *Franklin's Tale*
Physician's Tale
Begin *Pardoner's Introduction, Prologue, Tale* if time

- March 24 Finish *Pardoner's Tale*
The Shipman's Tale
- March 26 Finish *The Shipman's Tale* if necessary
Prioress's Prologue and Tale
- March 31 Essay workshop
- April 2 *Second Nun's Prologue and Tale*
Prologue and Tale of Sir Thopas
- April 7 Conclusion to the Course
Paper Due