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Office Hours M, W 3-4:30; T, R 2-3:30; and cheerfully by appointment

ENGL 511: Chaucer (Undergraduate)

Spring 2012

Texts:

- *Dream Visions and Shorter Poems*, Norton Critical Edition, ed. Kathy Lynch, ISBN 0393925889, 2006.
- *The Canterbury Tales*, 2nd edition, Norton Critical Edition, ed. V.A. Kolve and Glending Olson, ISBN 0-393-92587-0, 2005.
- *Troilus and Criseyde*, Norton Critical Edition, ed. Stephen A. Barney, ISBN 0-393-92755-5, 2006.
- *The Cambridge Companion to Chaucer* 2nd edition, ed. Boitani and Mann, ISBN 0-521-89467-0, 2003.
- A selection of online and reserve secondary materials.

These texts have been ordered at the Bookworm. If you choose to buy them elsewhere, make sure you get THESE editions and ISBNs only.

Course Goals:

- To read and enjoy the major works of England's most famous medieval poet.
- To understand how gender, class, culture, religion, and history affected his life and works.
- To learn the rudiments of Middle English as a spoken and written language.
- To sharpen and demonstrate your critical skills in well-written essays.
- To become familiar with Middle English critical resources in print and electronic forms.
- To have more fun than any other graduate-level course in the Department this term.

See a complete listing of course goals for the Department of English on the Department website (<http://www.winthrop.edu/cas/english/>.)

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to explain the historical, literary, and cultural contexts of Chaucer's life and work.
2. Students will demonstrate mastery of the rudiments of Chaucer's language, poetics, and genres.
3. Students will be able to identify major characters, events, and authors in Chaucer's life and in the literary history of his work.

4. Students will be able to create, support, and defend their own critical arguments about Chaucer and his work, as demonstrated in critical papers, class presentations, and examinations.
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to find and use appropriate scholarly secondary material in support of their own critical arguments
6. Students will demonstrate the ability to document the use of borrowed information in 2009 MLA style.
7. Students will demonstrate their ability to engage with appropriate secondary scholarship that illuminates the primary texts they are working with.
8. Graduate students will demonstrate the ability to create scholarly arguments about Chaucer suitable for submitting as conference presentations (and will be encouraged to actually submit these papers for presentation).

Requirements: Besides active and informed participation in class and online, students will complete two in-class tests on Chaucer's language, a take-home final examination on content and critical interpretation, several short responses to critical perspectives on Chaucer, and a significant critical essay (8-10 pages for undergraduates) on a topic of your choosing. All students must master the pronunciation of Middle English and read 20 or more lines satisfactorily in private with the instructor. (Graduate students will have additional requirements that do not apply to undergraduates.) Students must submit **all graded work** to pass the course.

Grading Scale: A 94-100; A- 91-93; B+ 88-90; B 84-87; B- 81-83; C+ 78-80; C 74-77; C- 71-73; D+ 68-70; D 64-67; D- 61-63; F 0-60. Graduate students should remember their particular grading requirements.

Requirement	Undergraduates
In-class tests	15% each
Final exam	20%
Pronunciation mastery	5%
Short responses	15%
Major critical essay	20%
Active & informed class participation, including Blackboard site and article discussion	10%
Total	100%
All students will be graded on the plus/minus system. See my Literary Analysis Rubric for the measures I use to grade your written efforts.	

Accommodations: Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact Gena Smith, Program Director, Office of Disability Services (ODS), at 323-3290, as soon as possible. Once you have your Professor Notification Form, please tell me so that I am aware of your accommodations well before the first assignment, test, or paper.

Safe Zones Statement: This classroom is a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thoughts is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. I expect that ALL students will consider the classroom a safe environment and will act in ways to make it so.

Late Papers: You may turn in one short paper or the book review late (no more than one class period) without penalty, **provided that** you notify me at least 24 hours in advance of the due date that you are taking your extension on that paper. No other late work will be accepted unless you have a documented medical or emergency excuse.

Expectations:

1. This is an intense course, especially with the challenge of mastering an earlier form of literary English. Emphasis will be placed on a lot of discussion. Therefore, you are expected to do the reading before class and to come to class prepared. Smiling silence will not earn you a high class participation grade in a course at this level. If you are not enthusiastic about the class, fake it for 15 weeks. This is a life skill worth developing.

2. As a 500-level class, you will be expected to dip into secondary criticism of the works we read as well as the primary texts themselves. The Norton Critical Editions and the [name of book] offer you some good places to start, but you should get into the habit of probing more deeply on your own as well, using appropriate scholarly resources. This is especially important for graduate students, but won't hurt undergraduates who have GREs lurking, either. Each of you will be required to lead the discussion of secondary critical readings this semester as part of your class participation grade.

3. Attendance is **expected**. University policy is that students who miss more than 25% of classes (7 classes on a two-night per week class) must receive a grade of F. Tardiness of more than 5 minutes is counted as an absence, since late arrivals distract your classmates and negatively affect their learning environment. If you miss more than two classes, expect your final grade to be lowered at least three points for every absence. If some major life event causes you to miss a sustained period of class, let me know **early** and we'll see if it can be accommodated.

4. You are expected to purchase the texts and bring them to class as assigned. If you do not choose to purchase them from the Bookworm, please check the ISBNs for the texts so that you can get the right editions wherever you choose to shop. Some of the texts will be available on reserve at Dacus Library but I cannot guarantee that they will always be available when you need them.

5. I expect you to observe the English department's conventions for the appropriate use of borrowed information and documentation, available at <http://www.winthrop.edu/english/plagiarism.htm>. Plagiarism of **any sort is unacceptable in the class** and will result in an F grade for the class. Please ask me in advance if you have any questions about how you are using borrowed materials in your work. All work is presumed to be original for this class unless I give explicit permission otherwise. All written work for this class must be accompanied by a correct Works Cited page!

6. We will use www.turnitin.com for submitting all papers written in this class. I will provide you with the ID number and password in class. You are responsible for ensuring that you have uploaded the correct and complete version of each assignment by the deadline—check to make sure it's the right draft and that a Works Cited page is included, etc., before you hit "submit." I will grade what you give me, not what you intended to give me. **Always keep the digital receipt from Turnitin in case there are questions about submitting your paper. If you don't get a receipt, the paper DID NOT UPLOAD successfully. You must resubmit it.**

7. All written work must conform to 2009 MLA style. See Harris' *Prentice Hall Reference Guide to Grammar and Composition*, 7th ed., or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed., if you have any questions. I will be happy to help you figure out the nuances of citation if you consult me about problems in advance of submitting your papers.

8. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off (not just silenced) during class. If yours goes off during class, you will be counted absent for the day; repeat violations will earn more severe penalties. Same goes for texting--don't do it in class unless you wish me to become wonderly wroth. Unless you require an accommodation I strongly prefer that you do not take notes on a laptop during class; according to recent student evaluations, it can be distracting to other students and affect their ability to learn.

9. Graduate students will note that there are some additional course requirements for them. This is required by the SACS accreditation board for joint undergraduate/graduate classes.

10. The online version of all policies, calendars, and assignments for this class should be regarded as "official." **All syllabus changes will be posted online.** This paper copy is provided for your convenience.

11. Personal and classroom technology is not infallible. Protect yourself by managing your time and backing up your work. Servers time out, e-mail crashes, flash drives get left in the clothes dryer, printers run out of ink. These are not considered emergencies; they are part of the normal production process for academic work. An issue you may have with technology is no excuse for submitting late work.