Syllabus

Mar 31  Introduction
April 2  Beginnings
  Dante:  Inferno, 1-3;
  Chaucer: General Prologue 1-42; 715-859

April 7  Beginnings
  Dante: Purgatorio 1-2; Paradiso 1-2
  Chaucer: General Prologue 42-714

April 9  Love
  Dante:  Inferno 5, Purgatorio 26
  Chaucer: Knight’s Tale, Parts I & II

April 14  Love
  Dante: Purgatorio 17-18
  Chaucer: Knight’s Tale, III & IV, Intro to the Miller’s Tale

April 16  Love (And Love Gone Wrong)
  Dante: Inferno 28
  Chaucer: Miller’s Tale; Reeve’s Tale, Cook’s Tale

April 21  Learning and Experience
  Dante: Inferno 15; Paradiso 10-12
  Chaucer: Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale

April 23  Learning and Experience
  Dante: Inferno 26
  Chaucer: Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale

April 28  Learning and Experience
  Dante: Inferno 27
  Chaucer: Clerk’s Tale

April 30  Art and Authority (Virgil / Harry Bailly)
  Dante: Inferno 13, Purgatorio 30 Purgatorio 10-12
  Chaucer: Introduction and Epilogue, the Man of Law’s Tale; Host’s stanza
  (Clerk’s Tale); Epilogue to Merchant’s Tale; Epilogue to Melibee;
  Introduction to Nun’s Priest’s Tale
May 5  Art and Authority (Translation)
   Dante: Purgatorio 21-22
   Chaucer: Nun’s Priest’s Tale
May 7  Art and Authority
   Dante: Purgatorio 10-12
   Chaucer: Nun’s Priest’s Tale; Manciple’s Tale

May 12 Women
   Dante: Inferno 9, Purgatorio 19, Paradiso 3
   Chaucer: Prioress’s Tale

May 14 Women
   Dante: Paradiso 3
   Chaucer: Prioress’s Tale, Second Nun’s Tale

May 19 Biography
   Dante: Paradiso 15-17
   Chaucer: Sir Thopas, Introduction to Melibee

May 21 Gardens
   Dante: Purgatorio 27-30
   Chaucer: Shipman’s Merchant’s Tale

May 26 Class
   Dante: Inferno 10
   Chaucer: Franklin’s Tale

May 28 Dante: Purgatorio 24, 26
   Chaucer: Franklin’s Tale

June 2  Ends and Endings
   Dante: Inferno 30, 33
   Chaucer: Monk’s Tale (Ugolino); Friar’s Tale
   Second Nun, Canon’s Yeoman’s Prologue and Tale

June 4  Ends and Endings
   Dante: Inferno 30, Paradiso 33
   Chaucer: Canon’s Yeoman’s Prologue, Manciple’s Prologue, Parson’s
   Prologue, Retractions

   Paper Due

Requirements: 2 papers. Class participation (10%). Papers must be handed in on the day
they are due; you will lose one full grade for each day it is late (An A becomes a B).

Attendance: Attendance will be taken. 2 unexplained absences are allowed; your grade
will be lowered one level (i.e. A becomes A-) each time you miss a class without an
acceptable explanation (e.g. medical; doctor’s note). No make-ups for missed quizzes if you
are absent without explanation.
Academic Integrity: If you plagiarize (or collaborate) when you write your papers, you will be given an F and immediately expelled from the course. A report will be sent to the appropriate University officials.

Learning Outcomes:

1. to read Dante’s and Chaucer’s works with discernment.
2. to understand cultural and/or historical information that situates the Divine Comedy in trecento Italy and the Canterbury Tales in late medieval England.
3. to perform critical, formal analyses of the text.
4. to write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose.
5. to employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments.

Links:

The following sites are indispensable starting points for research in Dante and Chaucer.

The Dante Society http://www.princeton.edu/~dante/ has links to the Princeton and Dartmouth Dante projects.

The New Chaucer Society http://artsci.wustl.edu/~chaucer/ has links to the Chaucer bibliography and other sites.