English 427: CHAUCER  2 pm                              Prof. Laskaya
Spring Term, 2018                 Office: 357 PLC
UH 2-3:20                  Hrs: Mon 10-noon; Thurs 3:35-4:35
CRN 35985                          & by appointment
Gerlinger 301         email: laskaya@uoregon.edu

Textbooks:
Other information and materials provided via Canvas
Main Online Resource: The Middle English Dictionary, available to all UO students. Access the Knight Library
Homepage via your uoregon account, or use Library computers to connect to the MED.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: ENG 427 invites students to engage selections from Chaucer’s
Canterbury Tales in their original Middle English (rather than modernized translations). Texts
will include the more familiar comedic tales, like the Miller’s Tale but also the less familiar
elegiac, philosophic, and beast narratives, as well as several highly problematic tales, like the
Clerk’s Tale and the Merchant’s Tale. Often called ‘the father of English literature,’ Chaucer
will be read in the original Middle English, providing students a chance to engage rigorously
with one of the most influential late medieval English authors. We will consider what meanings
Chaucer has now, in the twenty-first century, for each of us as individuals but also for our larger
socio-cultural milieu.

The course also exposes students to important interpretations of Chaucer’s work produced in our
own time by scholars who read Chaucerian texts quite differently. This means that besides
working on Middle English for the term, students will gain some exposure to and negotiate the
differences found within contemporary Chaucerian literary criticism. The course is designed for
advanced undergraduate English Majors and fulfills the upper-division, pre-1500 requirement.
(Advanced students majoring outside English who wish to study Chaucer in Middle English are
also welcome; contact the English Department or Professor Laskaya for more information.)

Close reading, discussion, quizzes, papers, and some informal writing will provide the basis for
assessment in the course. Discussion, punctuated with occasional lectures, will focus most class
sessions. A few lectures will provide literary, cultural, archival, and historical frameworks and
will examine linguistic features of texts; however, most work in class--once students gain
familiarity with the Middle English--will be discussion-based. We will probe the text, and our
own interpretations, locating key interpretative questions and reflecting on our own assumptions
from several different analytical perspectives. *Prerequisite: UofO Junior Standing. Students
should review course texts the 1st day of class to be sure Middle English will not present
undue difficulty, particularly since we will move relatively quickly with the ME texts.

REQUIREMENTS:
Attendance in CRN you are enrolled in only; Steady Preparation, Oral reading/translating.
Participation in class discussions & activities.
Informal writing, including two key discussion questions presented in class, as assigned
Quizzes (some in-class, some take-home)
2 interpretative papers (All papers to be submitted electronically via Canvas.)
Final Exam
GRADING:
* Quizzes, short, informal writing & class activities 30%
2 Interpretative Papers 40% (20% each)
Final Essay exam 30%
*NB: Consistent and full attendance is assumed. Failure to attend class regularly, prepared to participate, will result in a lower final course grade, regardless of grades on written work. All major assignments and requirements must be completed to Pass this course.

CANVAS SITE:
Syllabus, course assignments, a few short readings, and general course information will be available throughout the term on Canvas and/or through e-reserve. Please check Canvas regularly for announcements and materials and for the up-to-date schedule.

Notes on Reading Chaucer: Excellent assistance can be found at Larry Benson’s Chaucer Page online: http://courses.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/teachslf/tr-index.htm#list Here you will find close, interlinear translations of most of the Canterbury Tales we are reading. Study aids, like Benson’s, are very helpful, particularly at the beginning of the term as you get used to Middle English. You should not, however, rely heavily on this, since we will translate on-sight in class, and quizzes will often ask you to translate Middle English without aids. One good way to use modern translations is to read through them so you know what is happening in the text and then go back to read the Middle English carefully, line by line or sentence by sentence without translation aids. Reading the text without aids is the only way you can quickly bring yourself up to an efficient and effective level of Middle English proficiency. So, if you use aids, fine; just be sure to challenge yourself more and more to read only the Middle English text.

CLASS POLICIES:

Students with disabilities: If you have a disability, please see me during the first week of the term so we can make appropriate accommodations for your full access to all course activities and requirements.

Class Etiquette: Phones, laptops, tablets, audio players, etc. should be off during class. Our work in class is intended to exercise your brain and its own strengths, so usually we won't use internet sources in class, though some small-group work may be designed to do so. Class discussions & lectures may not be recorded in any manner unless you have a communication-related disability documented with the University and have received permission from the course instructor. Should you miss a class meeting, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from your colleagues, so be sure to get to know others in the course who would be willing to help you and whom you would be willing to help. Missing class should, however, be a rare event since active preparation and participation is a course requirement.

Please do not come and go from class during our 80-minute sessions to get water, visit the restroom, answer emails or phones or texts. Be sure to do these things before and after class or during a short break, if we have one. We are a very small class in a discussion-designed classroom, so people coming and going can interfere with student learning. I find people coming and going during class very distracting, so it does interfere with teaching. Of course, if you
desperately require the restroom, do slip out. But this should be very exceptional. See me if you have any concerns or needs.

**Tutorial help:** Students with tutoring needs may use services offered by the University of Oregon’s Teaching and Learning Center (TLC), located in 68 PLC (X6-3226). Any other assistance you receive on papers—organizing your paper, identifying your main points, typing, proofreading, editing and/or revising it—must be cleared with the professor. However, as you prepare for the final, or as you work to understand readings and lectures, talking and reviewing with your colleagues outside of class is encouraged; this is different from directly assisting one another with a specific essay assignment. If you have questions, please see me.

**Academic Integrity:** The University of Oregon values academic honesty. Students are informed of the University’s policies and expectations about conduct and academic honesty when they matriculate. You are here because you clearly have the ability to engage your own mind in rigorous intellectual work. If you need a quick review of our campus community's assumptions about academic integrity and conduct, see the Conduct Code on the UO website: https://dos.uoregon.edu/conduct

The two formal paper assignments will be analytical; they will not require outside research except as provided or recommended within an assignment. You may find yourself curious about something or wanting more information at times; great--read on, and *bravo* for curiosity! However, no student will receive higher grades simply because he or she has read beyond course materials or used research in papers or exams. Please consult the UO library's website: https://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism/styleguides for definitions and discussions of plagiarism and for information on documentation should you need it. Please see me if you have any concerns about documentation and/or academic honesty. For this course, an honest and obvious effort to document is absolutely critical and far more important than commas, abbreviations, or 'correct' formatting. Either MLA or Chicago Style provide acceptable resources and formats for advanced work in literature.

**Course policy on Academic Integrity:** All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. Any use of sources (ideas, quotations, and paraphrases) beyond our lectures and discussion must be properly documented. In other words, rely on your own grey matter, and wrestle well, yourself, with the course material. Protect the integrity of your own work and that of others’. In cases of clearly established plagiarism or cheating, a final course grade of “F” will be recorded, and all incidents will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, as required by the University.

**SCHEDULE (subject to change; see updates on CANVAS)**

**Week one**
U 4/3 Intro to course & one another; starting to read Middle English (ME/PDE)
H 4/5 GP (General Prologue) esp opening, desc of Monk and Prioress; frame

**(Over the weekend, reread the General Prologue thoroughly. Come to class ready to work on the grammar and vocabulary of Middle English found in the GP.)**
### Week two
TU 4/10  GP intense work on grammar, vocabulary, themes, images, Harry Bailly.
TH 4/12  Knight's Tale (KT, part one)

### Week three
TU 4/17  KT  Quiz #1
TH 4/19  KT

### Week four
TU 4/24  KT  Quiz #2
TH 4/26  KT

### Week five
TU 5/1  Miller’s Portrait, Prologue and Tale Quiz #3
TH 5/3  Miller’s Tale
*F 5/4 Paper #1 due via Canvas by 6 pm

### Week six
TU 5/8  Wife of Bath’s Prologue
TH 5/10 “

### Week seven
U 5/15 Wife of Bath’s Tale
H 5/17 Pardoner’s Portrait & Prologue. Quiz #4

### Week eight
U 5/22 Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale
H 5/24 Nun’s Priest’s Prologue and Tale. Quiz #5
*F 5/25 Paper #2 due via Canvas by 6 p.m.

### Week nine
U 5/29 Nun’s Priest’s Prologue and Tale.
H 5/31 Franklin’s Prologue and Tale. Quiz #6

### Week ten
U 6/5 Second Nun’s Prologue & Tale. Quiz #7
H 6/7 Parson’s Tale (selections) and Retractions

FINAL EXAM, currently scheduled for Monday 6/11 12:30-2:30 pm. in our regular classroom.
**(Be sure to plan ahead; exceptions to our exam period will only be allowed as required by UO policy.)**