

English 427: CHAUCER
Spring Term, 2017
UH 10:00-11:20
CRN 32088
PLC 353

Prof. Laskaya
357 PLC (x-6-1517)
Hrs: Mon 10:30-11:30; Tues noon-2
(subject to change) & by appointment
email: laskaya@uoregon.edu

Textbooks:

The Canterbury Tales, 2nd Norton Critical Edition, eds., Kolve and Olson pbk.

Dream Visions and Other Poems, Ed. Kathryn Lynch, Norton Critical Edition pbk.

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: This course will examine the General Prologue and several of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, along with some of his shorter poems and two or three dream visions. All Chaucerian texts will be read in Middle English. 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 are also welcome. Besides close readings of the *Canterbury Tales*, we will also read some important scholarly interpretations, exploring the arguments of scholars who read the same Chaucerian text differently. Quizzes (announced and unannounced) will occur and will sometimes require you to create a modern translation of the Middle English; they will generally assess your reading comprehension. Discussion, punctuated with occasional lectures, will predominate: some lectures will provide literary, cultural, archival, and historical frameworks, and some will examine interpretations and/or linguistic features of texts, but most work, after we get familiar with the Middle English, will be discussion-based. We will locate key interpretative questions and assess interpretive assumptions from several different analytical perspectives as we move through the primary readings. *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 & Steady Preparation, Readings. Oral reading/translating in class and in individual appointment.

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 individual oral ME quizzes)

2 interpretative papers (All papers to be submitted electronically via Canvas.)

Final Exam.

GRADING:*

Quizzes, short, informal writing, activities	20%
2 individual oral readings	10% weeks 5 & 9 (5% each)
2 Interpretative Papers	40% (20% each)
Final Essay exam	30%

Grading continued:

*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, including the two individual oral assessments, 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: The best textual 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 excellent 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 on this, since we will translate as we conduct close readings in class; and our quizzes will often ask you to translate Middle English without aids. One good way to use modern translations is to read through the translation 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 90 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 part way through our class session, if we have one. We are a very small class in a crowded discussion-designed classroom, so people coming and going may interfere with students' learning needs. I find people coming and going during class very distracting, so it does interfere with teaching. Of course if you desperately need 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:
<http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx>

The two formal paper assignments will be analytical; they will not require outside research except that 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 the course or used research in papers or exams. Please consult the University's Conduct Code and the UO library's website: <http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html> 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) Schedule updates on CANVAS

*****NB** At times, scholarly articles and/or Chaucer's source material will supplement the readings listed below. See Canvas for details.

Week one

U 4/4 Intro to course & one another; starting to read Middle English (ME/PDE)
 H 4/6 GP (General Prologue) esp opening, descrp 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 4/11 GP intense work on grammar, vocabulary, themes, images. Quiz #1
 TH 4/13 Knight's Tale (KT)

Week three

TU 4/18 KT Quiz #2
 TH 4/20 KT

Week four

TU 4/25 Miller's Prologue and Tale; Quiz #3
 TH 4/27 Miller's Prologue and Tale; short WR assignment due
 *F 4/28 **Paper #1 due via Canvas**

Week five

TU 5/2 Wof B Prologue and Tale Quiz #4 this week: oral assessment
 TH 5/4 Wof B Prologue and Tale

Week six

TU 5/9 Friar's Prologue and T and Summoner's Prol and Tale Quiz #5
 TH 5/11 Pardoner's Prologue & Tale

Week seven

U 5/16 Nun's Priest's Prologue and Tale Quiz #6
 H 5/18 cont. and short selection from Parson's Tale and Retractions
 *F 5/19 **Paper #2 due via Canvas by 5 p.m.**

Week eight

U 5/23 Book of the Duchess Quiz #7
 H 5/25 Book of the Duchess

Week nine

U 5/30 Parliament of Fowls #8
 H 6/1 Parliament of Fowls Quiz #9 this week: oral assessment

Week ten

U 6/6 Legend of Good Women Quiz #10
 H 6/8 Legend of Good Women

FINAL EXAM, currently scheduled for Monday 6/12 8-10 a.m. in our regular classroom.

** (Be sure to plan ahead; exceptions to our exam period will only be allowed as required by UO policy.)