ENG 722: Chaucer

Required Text: Riverside Chaucer, 3rd ed., gen. ed. Larry Benson

Learning Outcome: To explain the historical importance of Chaucer’s total poetic achievement from his earliest dream-visions and Troilus and Criseyde to the end of his Canterbury Tales.

Useful Websites:
New Chaucer Society Online Bibliography:
http://arts.c.wustl.edu/~chaucer/bibliography.php
Harvard Chaucer Homepage:
http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/

Class Schedule:
General Introduction: Chaucer the Public Man, Chaucer the Literary Man
Riverside Chaucer pp. xv-xlvi
Suggested criticism:
Beidler, ed., Case Studies, pp. 3-16.
Donald Howard, Chaucer: His Life, His Works, His World
Derek Pearsall, The Life of Chaucer
Terry Jones, Who Murdered Chaucer?

The Book of the Duchess (pp. 329-46)
Suggested criticism:
Louise Fradenburg, "Voice Memorial!: Loss and Reparation in Chaucer's Poetry."

Troilus and Criseyde Book I-III (pp. 471-37)
Suggested criticism:
Lee Patterson, “Troilus and Criseyde,” Chaucer and the Subject of History pp. 84-164.

Troilus and Criseyde Books IV-V (pp. 538-85)
Suggested criticism:
Robertson, Preface to Chaucer pp. 472-503
Strohm, “Chaucer’s Troilus as Temporal Archive,” _Theory and the Premodern Text_

_The House of Fame_ (pp. 347-73)

**Suggested criticism:**
- Bowers, “The Naughty Bits: Dating Chaucer's _House of Fame_”
- Evans, “Medieval Technologies of Memory and _The House of Fame_.”
- Grady, “Chaucer Reading Langland: _The House of Fame_”

_Canterbury Tales_: General Prologue (pp. 23-36)

**Suggested criticism:**
- Bowers, “Chaucer After Smithfield: From Postcolonial Writer to Imperialist Author”

Knight’s Tale (pp. 37-66)

**Suggested criticism:**
- Bowers, "Three Readings of the Knight's Tale"
- Terry Jones, _Chaucer’s Knight_

Miller’s Tale and Reeve’s Tale (pp. 66-84)

**Suggested criticism:**
- Tolkien, “Chaucer as a Philologist: The Reeve’s Tale.”
- Hansen, “Woman as the Same,” _Chaucer and the Fictions of Gender_ pp. 208-44
- Patterson, “The Politics of Laughter,” _Chaucer and the Subject of History_, pp. 244-79.

**Midterm Test**

- Man of Law's Tale

**Selected criticism:**

Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale

**Suggested criticism:**
- Kittredge, _Chaucer and His Poetry_, “The Marriage Group,” pp. 185-211.
Fradenburg, "Psychoanalytic Criticism" in *Case Studies*, pp. 189-220.
Hansen, "Feminist Criticism" in *Case Studies*, pp. 255-89.
Patterson, "New Historicism" in *Case Studies*, pp. 115-54.

Friar’s Tale (pp. 122-28) and Summoner’s Tale (pp. 128-36)
Suggested criticism:
Olson, “The End of The Summoner’s Tale and the Uses of Pentecost.”
Bowers, “Queering the Summoner: Same-Sex Union in Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*”

**Term Paper: First Draft**

Merchant’s Tale (pp. 153-68) and Franklin’s Tale (pp. 178-89)
Suggested criticism:
Hansen, “Another Poor Worm” and “Making Ernest of Game,” *Fictions of Gender* pp. 208-66 and 267-92
Patterson, “Chaucerian Commerce,” *Chaucer and the Subject of History* pp. 322-66

Clerk’s Tale (pp. 137-53) and Pardoner’s Tale (pp. 193-202)
Suggested criticism:
Bowers, “‘Dronkenesse Is Ful of Stryvyng’: Alcoholism and Ritual Violence”
Burger, “Queer Performativity in Fragment VI,” *Chaucer’s Queer Nation*.
Hanson, “Case of the Clerk’s Griselda,” p. 188-207.
Lerer, “Reading like the Clerk,” *Chaucer and His Readers*, pp. 22-56.
Patterson, "The Example of the Clerk" and “The Pardoner on the Couch,”
*Temporal Circumstances*, pp. 51-96.

Prioress’s Tale (pp. 209-12) and Nun’s Priest’s Tale (pp. 252-61)
Suggested Criticism:
Fradenburg, “Criticism, Anti-Semitism and the Prioress’s Tale.”
Patterson, "Martyrdom and Imitation in the Prioress's Tale," *Temporal Circumstances*, pp. 129-57

**Term Paper: Final Revision**

Manciple’s Tale (pp. 282-86); Parson’s Prologue (pp. 287-88);
Chaucer’s Retraction (p. 328)

**Final Examination** - 6:00 p.m. (2 hours)
Outcome Assessments:
Midterm Test: 30%
In-Class Report on Criticism 10%
8-10 Page Paper: First Draft
   "Teaching Chaucer"
8-10 Page Paper: Final Revision 30%
Final Examination 30%

NOTE: There are no make-ups for any of the tests or examination, except for extreme emergencies with official documentation. To avoid the possibility of traffic or automobile problems, you should leave for campus especially early on testing days. Missed work is calculated as a zero (0). Academic Success Center can be contacted at 702-895-3177; see Writing Center at http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/.

RECOMMENDED READING


———. “Rival Poets: Gower’s *Confessio* and Chaucer’s *Legend of Good*


Kolve, V. A. Chaucer and the Imagery of Narrative: The First Five Canterbury Tales.


**Academic Misconduct** – Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: [http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html](http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html).

**Copyright** – The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: [http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright](http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright).

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)** – The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, [http://drc.unlv.edu/](http://drc.unlv.edu/), 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you.

If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Religious Holidays Policy** – Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the end of the first instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: [http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531](http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531).

**Incomplete Grades** - The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has
satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

**Tutoring and Coaching** – The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit http://www.unlv.edu/asc or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

**UNLV Writing Center** – One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: [http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/](http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/)

**Rebelmail** – By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students’ e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

**Final Examinations** – The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: [http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars](http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars).