



ENGLISH 416: Chaucer's Canterbury Tales
Spring 2012. SLN 22519
T. Th. 10.30 - 11.45 in LL150

Professor Rosalynn Voaden

Office: LL 214 D

Office hours: W. 1.15 - 3.15; and by appointment.

email: Rosalynn.Voaden@asu.edu. I do not check my email on Friday or the weekend.

Required Texts

Larry Benson, ed., *The Canterbury Tales Complete*.

Helen Phillips, *An Introduction to the Canterbury Tales*

Supplementary Texts

Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*. On-line at:

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/latin/boethius/boephil.html>

You may find an interlinear translation of some of the *Tales* helpful, especially at first. The best on-line one is at:

<http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/teachslf/tr-index.htm>

This site (which is run by Larry Benson, editor of your text), also has a teach-yourself Middle English section, which you might like to explore, especially in conjunction with the Translation Project. This can be found at:

<http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/teachslf/less-0.htm>

Please bring the Benson text to every class.

Course Structure and Assignments

This course will follow the structure of *The Canterbury Tales*, as given in *The Canterbury Tales: Complete*. I will, in part, try to emulate Harry Bailey's model, and assign each of you a task. (While I can't promise a meal on the house as a reward, we might consider holding a medieval potluck to mark the end of our academic pilgrimage). Instead of telling a tale, each of you will have to tell about one of the *Tales*; you will become the class expert on that Tale. When we cover your *Tale* in class, you will be asked to give a brief (5 min) report to the class, which should include some background on the teller of the *Tale* (what was a manciple? What did he do? Was it a common profession? etc.). If you would like to offer some creative alternative to the report - a video, a puppet show, slides and music, a dramatized version (please, no horses in class) - I would be delighted to hear your ideas.

This is a 400-level class, and requires full use of the skills and knowledge you have acquired during your undergraduate career. Assessment will be based largely on your writing ability, as demonstrated by a major research essay of 2,500-3,000 words. It is an important assignment, and you should be prepared to devote considerable time and work to it. It will be accomplished in several stages:

First, you will hand in a one-page thesis statement.

Then, you will write a draft of your essay of at least 10-12 pages. The class will be divided into groups, based on essay topics, and students in each group will review each other's papers. I will also read and comment on all papers. We will spend one class doing this, but you are also expected to continue reviewing each other's essay, either through Blackboard, or in group meetings outside of class time. Essays must be properly documented and include a bibliography. You should have at least six outside sources. All internet research should go through the Hayden Library gateway - this ensures the credibility of your sources. Wikipedia is not an acceptable source.

The final version. Based on the reviews, and further work by you, you will produce the final, polished paper, which is due the last day of class. I expect to see considerable development and improvement over the draft. All stages of the essay must be handed in on time.

Writing a good paper can be a real challenge and offer a great sense of achievement. While our talents as stylists vary, we can all avoid making mistakes in grammar and spelling. All your papers should follow the MLA style for footnotes or endnotes and bibliographies. An on-line guide to MLA style is at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/#Works-Cited> You will also be given a checklist of common errors for which you will lose marks. All papers should be typed, double-spaced; pages must be numbered; quotes from *The Canterbury Tales* must be in Middle English; you may use both sides of the paper.

If you quote directly or indirectly from any secondary source or critical work (this includes the notes in *The Canterbury Tales Complete*), articles in the newspaper or journals, or information gathered through the Internet, even if it's just two or three words, you must attribute your source in a footnote or endnote.

Passing off someone else's words or ideas as your own is PLAGIARISM, one of the gravest academic offences.

Plagiarism will earn you 0 on the course and an XE (Failure for Academic Dishonesty) on your transcript.

It is very easy now for instructors to identify plagiarized passages, so don't even think about it. If you are unsure whether what you are doing constitutes plagiarism, check with me.

All required work must be completed to pass the course. Papers should be handed in at the beginning of the class in which they are due. Final papers will not be accepted after the due date without a documented medical excuse.

In addition to the research essay and final exam there will be some smaller assignments. The vital on-going assignment for the course is reading. You will hand in an informal, brief (one page) response to a new tale before we start to discuss it. You can choose TEN tales (in addition to your chosen tale) to respond to. These responses can consist of observations, questions you have about the tale, comments or ideas, and may form the basis for class discussion. They can be handwritten, but should show evidence of some thought and engagement with the tale- and that you have read the entire tale! DO NOT tell me the story - I have read it. These will count 20% of your grade. Responses must be handed in in class; late responses will not be accepted.

Grading

Class participation marks are awarded for full and active involvement in class discussions: if you don't talk, you won't get the marks.

10%	Report
10%	Draft of paper
25%	Final paper
20%	Final Exam
20%	Reader Responses
15%	Class participation

The grading scale for this class is: 95+ = A+; 90-94 = A; 85-89 = A-; 80-84 = B+; 75-79 = B; 70-74 = B-; 65-69 = C+; 55-64 = C; 50-54 = D; less than 50 = E.

Attendance

Attendance affects all aspects of the learning experience; this course will cover a large amount of material, and students who do not attend regularly will be at a severe disadvantage. Students who miss more than four classes without a medical or compassionate documented excuse will fail the course. Students who miss more than 20 hours even for medical or compassionate reasons will fail the course.

Please make every effort to be on time for class. If you have to leave early, please let me know at the beginning of the class.

I would like to encourage you to attend the various special lectures offered by the department, the college and the university. Students who do attend such events can inform me and receive credit, which will be reflected in your class participation mark.

If you have a registered disability, please arrange to see me during office hours at the beginning of the semester so that we can discuss the accommodation you require. It is better for both of us if I know how best to help you right from the start.

Email Etiquette

I offer the following suggestions:

- Start your message with Dear (or Hello) Professor (or Doctor) Voaden. "Hi Prof." just doesn't make it.
- Identify yourself clearly, either in the message or in your signature.
- Put English 416 in the subject line, so that your message isn't mistaken for spam.

If you want to discuss an essay topic, a problem with a paper, or your progress in class, please come to see me during office hours. I will not deal with these or similar issues by email. I will not read drafts of papers sent by email, or comment on papers by email. Face-to-face discussion is much more rewarding, and I would enjoy the opportunity to get to know you.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

In addition to the readings from *The Canterbury Tales* listed below, you should read the relevant chapter from *An Introduction to The Canterbury Tales* and be prepared to discuss it in class.

Week One - January 5

Th. Introduction to Middle English, to Chaucer, the times and *The Tales*.

Week Two - January 10

T. *The General Prologue*

Th. The Ellesmere facsimile of *The Canterbury Tales*. For this class we will go to the Hayden Library. Meet at the Special Collections classroom 210 C

Week Three - January 17

T. *The Knight's Tale*

Th. *The Miller's Prologue* and *Tale*

Week Four - January 24

T. *The Reeve's Prologue* and *Tale* and *The Cook's Prologue* and *Tale*

Th. The *Man of Law's Introduction, Prologue, Tale* and *Epilogue*

Week Five - January 31

T. *The Wife of Bath's Prologue*

Th. *The Wife of Bath's Tale*

Topic Statement for Research Paper due

Week Six - February 7

T. *The Friar's Prologue* and *Tale*

Th. *The Summoner's Prologue* and *Tale*

Week Seven - February 14

T. *The Clerk's Prologue* and *Tale*

Th. *The Merchant's Prologue, Tale* and *Epilogue*

Week Eight - February 21

T. *The Squire's Introduction* and *Tale*

Th. *The Franklin's Prologue* and *Tale*

Week Nine - February 28

T. *The Physician's Tale*

Th. *The Pardoner's Introduction, Prologue* and *Tale*

Week Ten - March 6

T. *The Prioress' Prologue* and *Tale*

First draft of essay due to Blackboard by noon Tuesday
(paper copies to me in class).

Th. *The Shipman's Tale*

Week Eleven - March 13

T. *The Prologue* and *Tale of Sir Thopas* and *The Tale of Melibee*

Th. Research Day
Week Twelve - March 20

Spring Break

Week Thirteen - March 27

T. *The Monk's Prologue* and *Tale*

Th. Essay Workshop

Week Fourteen - April 3

T. *The Nun's Priest's Prologue, Tale* and *Epilogue*

Th. *The Second Nun's Prologue* and *Tale*

Week Fourteen - April 10

T. *The Canon's Yeoman's Prologue* and *Tale*

Th. *The Manciple's Prologue* and *Tale*

Week Fifteen - April 17

T. *The Parson's Prologue* and *Tale*

Th. Chaucer's Retraction. Arrival at Canterbury

Final Research papers due

Week Sixteen - April 24

T. Final Exam in class