
CHAUCER AND MEDIEVAL CULTURE in Fall 2018 (CL3023)

Course Code	CL3023	Professor(s)	Elizabeth Kinne
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	GR 117
Class Schedule	MR: 12:10-13:30 in G-002	Office Hours	By appointment and after class
Credits	4	Email	ekinne@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

COURSE DESCRIPTION: **Chaucer and Medieval Culture**

Geoffrey Chaucer is often called the “father of English literature.” His writing influenced his contemporaries in England and abroad and he borrowed and appropriated textual forms and material back from the Italian and French traditions to make them “English.” A witness of the volatile late fourteenth century, he wrote for his peers, was successful in his own lifetime, and left behind a considerable legacy that is appreciated to this day. This course will help you discover this canonical writer and his culture and context, providing a foundation to better understand what English literature was to become in great part owing to his work. The course is structured around multiple journeys: Chaucer’s own travel as a merchant and diplomat, the journeys of the texts that make up your readings in their greater European context, the spiritual journeys depicted in Chaucer, Gower, Langland, and Kempe, and the journey undertaken by these medieval texts to arrive in their present volumes for the contemporary reader.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students will learn about the specificities of late medieval textual composition and transmission. Students will learn how to conduct research and write within the discipline of medieval studies. Students will acquire basic reading ability in Middle English and learn about the history of the English language. Students will improve their reading, interpretation, and critical thinking skills as they pertain to medieval genres.

General Education

[PLEASE EDIT OR REMOVE THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS APPLICABLE]

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the [INDICATE THE REQUIREMENT(S) FULFILLED BY THE COURSE] requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

[INDICATE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES]

Course Outline

CLASS SCHEDULE:

September

Week I – 10th -14th

Monday 10th – Course Introduction: Chaucer's England

Thursday 13th – *The Canterbury Tales*, “The General Prologue” (The Riverside Chaucer and Penguin editions available on Blackboard), “Manuscript Matrix, Modern Canon” in *Middle English: Oxford Twenty-First Approaches to Literature* (on Blackboard)

September 16th – last day to drop/add courses online

Week II - 17th - 21th **Fragment I:** Knights vs. Knaves, The Courtly and the Chaucerian Fabliau

Monday 17th – “The Knight’s Tale”

Thursday 20th – “The Miller’s Prologue and Tale”; “The Reeve’s Prologue and Tale”; “The Cook’s Prologue and Tale”

Week III - 24th – 28nd: Fragment II and III: Preaching to the Choir

Monday 24th – “The Man of Law’s Prologue, Tale, and Epilogue”

Thursday 27th – “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale”

October

Week IV – 1st - 5th: Fragment III and IV: The Holy and the Holier Than Thou

Monday 1st – “The Friar’s Prologue and Tale”; “The Summoner’s Prologue and Tale”

Thursday 4th – “The Clerk’s Prologue and Tale”

Week V – 8nd - 12th: Fragment IV and V:

Monday 8th – “The Merchant’s Prologue and Tale”

Thursday 11th – “The Squire’s Prologue and Tale”; “The Franklin’s Prologue and Tale”

3-page paper due: Chaucer and his sources

Week VI - 15th - 19th: Fragment VI:

Monday 15th – “The Physician’s Tale”; “The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale”

Thursday 18th – Midterm exam

Week VII – 22nd – 26th: Fragment VII:

Monday 22nd – “The Shipman’s Tale”; “The Prioress’s Prologue and Tale”; “The Prologue to Sir Topaz and Sir Topaz”

Thursday 25th – “The Monk’s Prologue and Tale”; “The Nun’s Priest’s Prologue and Tale, Epilogue”

October 26th, Mid-semester grades due

Week VIII – 29th – Nov.2nd: Fragment VIII: _

Monday 29th – “The Second Nun’s Prologue and Tale”; “The Canon’s Yeoman’s Prologue and Tale”

October 31ST - November 2nd, (included) Fall break, No classes

November

Week IX – 5th – 9th

Monday 5th – Fragment IX and X: “The Manciple’s Prologue and Tale”; “The Parson’s

Prologue and Tale”; “Chaucer’s Retractions”, **Paper topics due**

Thursday 8th – Gower, *Confessio Amantis*, Prologue, ll. 1-584; Book I, ll. 1-331

<http://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/text/peck-gower-confessio-amantis-volume-1-prologue>

<http://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/text/peck-gower-confessio-amantis-book-1>

Week X - 12th -16th

Monday 12th - Gower, *Confessio Amantis*, Book VIII, The Tale of Apollonius of Tyre, ll. 271-2028

<http://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/text/peck-gower-confessio-amantis-book-8#apollonius>

Thursday 15th - Gower, *Confessio Amantis*, Book VIII, The Tale of Apollonius of Tyre, ll. 271-2028, **Final paper Bibliography due**

Week XI -19th – 23rd

Monday 19th – [Langland, Piers Plowman, Passus I-V](#)

Thursday 21nd - [Langland, Piers Plowman, Passus VI-X](#)

3-page paper due: Chaucer and his legacy

Week XII -26th - 30th

Monday 26th - [Langland, Piers Plowman, Passus XI-XV](#)

Thursday 29th - Langland, *Piers Plowman*, Passus XVI-XX

December

Week XIII – 3rd – 7th

Monday 3rd – Kempe, TBD

Thursday 6th – Kempe, TBD

Week XIV - 10th - 14th

Monday 10th – Conclusions and course wrap-up, **Final research papers due**

December 12th, Last day of classes, December 13th -16th, Reading days

Final exam: Dec. 17th, 12:00-14:30: Research presentations

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
The Canterbury Tales	Geoffrey Chaucer	Oxford	9780199599028	Yes
Piers Plowman	William Langland (editor Elizabeth Robertson)	WW Norton and Co.	9780393975598	Yes
The Book of Margery Kempe	Margery Kempe (Editor Lynn Staley)	WW Norton and Co.	9780393976397	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

GRADING:

- **30%: 2 3-page papers:** Chaucer and his sources, Chaucer and his legacy
- **20%: Midterm exam**
- **30%: 10-page Research paper and short research presentation**
- **20%: Preparation, participation, attendance:** You will have periodic, unannounced reading quizzes in class, they may not be made up. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Failure of four or more quizzes will result in failure of the class.

[A- Excellent; student is working to the maximum of their potential; demonstrates original, critical](#)

[thinking, superior writing and research skills.](#)

B- Good; student demonstrates potential; original ideas and sound writing and research skills.

C- Adequate; student demonstrates an understanding of the course material but could improve originality or critical skills; writing and research skills are mediocre.

D- Inadequate; insufficient thought, care or time have been given to the assignment; poor comprehension of material, writing and research; does not meet minimum requirements of the assignment.

F- Failing; unacceptable work; does not demonstrate an understanding of course material, is incomplete; critical thinking, writing and research skills need immediate and urgent attention for improvement AND/OR the assignment has been plagiarized.

Other
