

Department of English & Writing Studies

Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde***English 4312G (001)**

Winter 2018

Instructor: Dr. Anne Schuurman
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-3:30, or by
appointment

Course Location: University College 4401

Course Date/Time: Mondays, 10:30 am-
1:30 pm

Prerequisites: 1.0 from English 2200-2250, English 3200-3210, Theatre Studies 3205F/G, or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course is an in-depth study of Geoffrey Chaucer's masterpiece. *Troilus and Criseyde* was composed in the 1380s and tells the love story of Troilus, son of Priam and prince of Troy, and Criseyde, daughter of Calchas the traitor, as it unfolds during the siege of Troy. Widely considered to be the pinnacle of medieval romance, *Troilus and Criseyde* was also profoundly influential on English writers after Chaucer, including Shakespeare. Our study of the poem will entail some exploration of Chaucer's sources, such as Boethius's *Consolation of Philosophy*, Boccaccio's *Il Filostrato*, and Benoît de Saint-Maure's *Roman de Troie*, as well as selected readings in the poem's rich afterlife, with such texts as Henryson's *Testament of Cresseid* and Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida*. We will read Chaucer's Middle English but all Latin, Italian, and French texts will be read in modern English translations. Our reading will be supported and informed by lectures and seminar discussions on such topics as Middle English poetics and the romance genre; philosophical ideas about time, free will, and necessity; key concepts and practices of textual transmission, translation, and adaptation; and late medieval politics of sex and gender.

Course Materials**Required Texts:**

Chaucer, Geoffrey. *Troilus and Criseyde*. Ed. James M. Dean and Harriet Spiegel.
Peterborough: Broadview, 2016.*

Selected readings distributed on OWL.

*No substitutions. You must purchase this edition of the text because it contains contextual material that you will be required to read.

Methods of Evaluation

Course Requirements

Attendance & Participation	15%
Primary Text Presentation	15%
Criticism Presentation	10%
Reading Responses	20%
Research Essay	40%

Attendance & Participation

Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded on a sign-in sheet in every class. Each unexcused absence will result in a 1% deduction from your participation grade. A pattern of lateness will likewise affect your participation grade. An absence will be excused if you supply legitimate documentation to the Academic Counseling office.

To earn full participation marks, you must attend class regularly, come prepared with your textbook to discuss the assigned readings, listen actively to all lectures, and participate meaningfully in discussions. You will also be assigned the role of designated respondent for another student's oral presentation. As respondent, you may ask for clarification, formulate questions for discussion, or present counterpoints to the presenter's thesis.

Primary Text Presentation

You are required to give a 15-minute presentation on the section of *Troilus and Criseyde* assigned to be read on the day of your presentation, and to lead a discussion following from your presentation. You must analyze the text under consideration, not summarize it. The aim of your presentation is to open and lead class discussion. You will be evaluated on the content of your ideas, the clarity of your presentation, and your efficacy in leading discussion.

Criticism Presentation

In this 10-minute presentation, you are required to summarize the argument of the assigned work of literary criticism (these are the readings marked with an *asterisk* on the class schedule). Explain the particular contribution this critic makes to our understanding of *Troilus and Criseyde* or Chaucer as a poet. Suggest how this reading connects to primary texts and to larger questions guiding the class. Conclude with questions for your classmates that aim to spark thoughtful discussion.

Reading Responses

You must submit **three** short response papers (500-700 max words) in which you discuss and analyze a key idea or passage in the reading assigned for the week. You may choose the three dates on which you submit a paper. Suggested topics are provided on the Reading Response Assignment Sheet (on OWL). **Do not summarize or generalize.** Your papers must be submitted electronically (in Word by email attachment) to me by Sunday at midnight before Monday's class. Do not submit a response paper in the weeks that you are giving your presentations.

Research Essay

2250-2750 words. **Due April 8, 2018.**

Detailed instructions will be provided after Reading Week.

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>.

The full policy is set out here:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

The Academic Counselling Office for Arts and Humanities is located in University College 2230.

I will not grant any requests for extensions unless I have approval from Academic Counselling.

Class Conduct

All students are expected to conduct themselves according to high standards of respect and civility in the classroom. To that end, students are asked to respect the following guidelines:

- Frame questions and differences of opinion in a constructive and professional manner.
- Respect the rights of each student and of the instructor to speak without having to talk over other voices.
- **Laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices are not permitted in class. (You must purchase the specified editions of the two required textbooks and bring them to every class. Be sure to bring print copies of articles and supplementary readings.)**

Email Conduct

Please address and sign all email correspondence appropriately. Typically, emails will be answered within 48 hours, although I do not always answer emails in the evening or on weekends. If you have not heard from me after 48 hours, please re-send your message: do not assume that I have received your email if you do not receive a reply.

Submission of Assignments

All assignments are due in class. You may submit late assignments to the essay box outside the Department of English main office (UC 2401), where they will be date- and time-stamped. Essays submitted before 8:30 a.m. in the essay box are stamped with the previous day's date. This also applies to essays submitted before 8:30 a.m. Monday, which will be stamped with Friday's date.

Please do not put any assignments under office doors.

Be sure to keep a copy of all assignments submitted.

Please remember that the Department will not accept assignments by fax or email. If necessary, and by prior arrangement only, assignments may be sent to me at the Department by post or courier.

If you submit a paper after the due date, but within two weeks of this date, the paper will be counted as late, and the following procedures will apply:

1. The paper will not be read until all previous assignments have been read and marked, and depending on the extent of the lateness, may be returned at a later date.
2. A grade will be given, but no (or minimal) comments or corrections will be provided.
3. The grade will be reduced by a penalty of two marks (2%) for each calendar day (including weekends) that it is late. The arrangement for date-stamping essays (identified above) still applies.
4. Papers will not be accepted if submitted more than two weeks after the due date unless accommodation has been granted.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes:

1. quoting verbatim or almost verbatim from any source, including all electronic sources, without acknowledgement;
2. adopting someone else's line of thought, argument, or supporting evidence without acknowledgement;
3. submitting someone else's work, in whatever form without acknowledgement;
4. knowingly representing as one's own work any idea of another.

The Senate statement on plagiarism is as follows:

"Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar)

Plagiarism checking: "The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking."

When in doubt, cite your sources and/or check with me.

Timetable

(Subject to change)

Jan 7

Introductions

Jan 14

Book 1, lines 1-399

Andreas Capellanus, from *On Love*, pp. 356-360

Ovid, from *Ars Amatoria*, pp. 338-341

Jan 21

Book 1, lines 399-1092

Jill Mann, "Chaucer and the Authority of Audience." (OWL)*

Jan 28

Book 2, lines 1-903

Alastair J. Minnis, from *Chaucer and Pagan Antiquity*. (OWL)*

Feb 4

Book 2, lines 904-1757

William Shakespeare, from *Troilus and Cressida*, 1.1-1.2. (OWL)

Feb 11

Book 3, lines 1-504

Giovanni Boccaccio, from *Il Filostrato*, pp. 290-301

C.S. Lewis, "What Chaucer Really Did to *Il Filostrato*." (OWL)*

Feb 18

Family Day: No Classes

Feb 25

Book 3, lines 505-1820

Josephine A. Koster, "*Privitee, Habitus, and Proximity: Conduct and Domestic Space in Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde**." (Link on OWL)*

Mar 4

Book 4, lines 1-658

Boethius, from *Consolation of Philosophy*, pp. 342-356

Morton W. Bloomfield, "Distance and Predestination in *Troilus and Criseyde*." (OWL)*

Mar 11

Book 4, lines 659-1701

Lee Patterson, "*Troilus and Criseyde* and the Subject of History." (OWL)*

Mar 18

Book 5, lines 1-770

Carolyn Dinshaw, from *Chaucer's Sexual Poetics*. (OWL)*

Mar 25

Benoît de Sainte-Maure, from *Le Roman de Troie*, pp. 283-290

Giovanni Boccaccio from, *Il Filostrato*, pp. 301-304

Book 5, lines 770-1099

Apr 1

Book 5, lines 1100-1869

Robert Henryson, from *The Testament of Cresseid*, pp. 305-328

C. David Benson, "What Lydgate and Henryson Did to Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*."* (Link on OWL)

Apr 8

Course Conclusion

Research Essays Due IN CLASS