

Disenchanted Chaucer
ENG 3315E.001
2022/23

Instructor: Richard Moll

Course Day/Time: Tues. 1:30-3:30
Thurs. 2:30-3:30

Course Location: UC 1405

Delivery Type: In person, synchronus

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or 1.0 of Medieval Studies 1000-1999 or permission of the Department Academic Calendar.

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:

The authority of crown, family, and church, and even the texts that supported those institutions, was questioned in the late medieval period. While introducing the Middle English language, this course will explore how Geoffrey Chaucer and his contemporaries used literature to critique social and political institutions.

Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to:

- 1) read and pronounce Middle English with sufficient competency that they can examine the content, themes, rhetoric and prosody of Middle English literature
- 2) describe and explain the literary and aesthetic expectations of a variety of medieval genres, including (but not limited to) romance, fabliaux, hagiography, and dream vision
- 3) construct and present a complex argument about one or more Middle English texts which demonstrates mastery of the points above, and is firmly placed within existing theoretical and critical debates about the literature.

Course Materials:

Chaucer, Geoffrey. *The Canterbury Tales: Seventeen Tales and the General Prologue*. Ed. V.A. Kolve and Glending Olson. New York: Norton, 2018. (CT)

Chaucer, Geoffrey. *Dream Visions and Other Poems*. Ed. Kathryn L. Lynch. New York: Norton, 2007. (DV)

Chaucer: Sources and Backgrounds. Ed. Robert P. Miller. New York: Oxford UP, 1977. (CS&B)

Early English Drama: An Anthology. Ed. John C. Coldewey. New York: Garland, 1993.
(EED)

Middle English Romances. Ed. Stephen H.A. Shepherd. New York: Norton, 1995.
(MER)

*Middle English texts can vary widely between different editions, so please obtain *these editions*

Methods of Evaluation (The Grading Stuff):

Marks Distribution:

Paper 1 (9-10 pages)	17%
Paper 2 prospectus	5%
Paper 2 (15-17 pages)	30%
Recitation	10%
Translation tests	6% (best 6 of 8)
In-class test	4% (best 3 of 4)
Participation	5%
Final exam	23%

Papers:

Essays must be presented in MLA style. Essays are due by the end of class on the date assigned. Late essays will lose 3% per day (including weekends). Extensions will only be granted in the case of serious, documented illness or emergency and must be accompanied by documentation processed through Academic Counseling. In other words, I do not (indeed, University policy states that I cannot) grant extensions. If Academic Counseling determines that you should have an extension, I will comply.

Come see me BEFORE you are frantic in the week before a paper is due.

Recitation:

Memorize, recite and be prepared to translate the first 18 lines of Chaucer's General Prologue. Every student will make an individual appointment with me to do this before Oct. 20th. Unexpected emergencies can be accommodated on Oct. 21st, but no further recitations will be permitted after Oct. 21. This assignment helps you get used to the strangeness of Middle English and gives me a chance to meet everyone. Use the pronunciation guides in your various texts for guidance. Online recordings are available on the Chaucer metapage: <https://alanbaragona.wordpress.com/the-cryng-and-the-soun/the-canterbury-tales-general-prologue-ii-1-14-jane-zatta/> (link in OWL). We will talk about pronunciation in class, but come and see me in advance if you want some help.

Translation Quizzes:

You must be able to read Middle English to pass the course, and you must read it well to do well in the course. Translation quizzes will therefore be a regular part of the course.

The two lowest quiz scores will be discarded. An excuse for a missed quiz must meet the same standards as a late paper (i.e. documentation from your dean's office for *each* missed test).

Quizzes will be done at random throughout the year.

They will be held at any time within the class time (beginning, middle or end of class).
They will be short (6-8 lines or 15 minutes).
They will be drawn from the readings assigned for that day.

**IF YOU MISS *FOUR* QUIZES (UNEXCUSED) YOU WILL
BE FAILED IN THE COURSE.**

In-class tests:

These will be short (15 minutes) and directly related to the day's topic of discussion. You will be asked to write a short piece of analysis based on the day's text. Grades will be based equally on your analysis and your ability to eloquently integrate textual evidence into your own prose. **TO DO THIS, YOU WILL NEED TO BE ABLE TO READ THE TEXT.**

Class participation:

Woody Allen might have said that "90% of life is just showing up", but he never tried to learn Middle English. Being in class is not very useful if we are discussing texts that you haven't read and with which you can not engage. Students will periodically be responsible for directing small-group discussion and this will weigh heavily as "Class Participation."

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at
<http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

Intellectual Property/Copyright:

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Accommodation Policies:

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides

recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, 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 https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The full policy is set out here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Academic Offences:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

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.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services:

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support & Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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.

Timetable (Class schedule):

Read all assigned texts before class and *bring the book(s) with you*. We WILL be reading and talking about specific passages from the texts. Secondary sources are available from online databases through the Library. Heed the page or line numbers assigned.

- Thurs. Sept. 8 First day of class: Intros and wotnots
Read: “The Complaint of Chaucer to His Purse” (given out in class)
- Tues. Sept. 13 Read: Chaucer, General Prologue (*CT* ll. 1-100, 118-162)
Wetherbee, “An Introduction” (*CT*, 513-22)
“The Three Estates,” *CS&B* (153-7)
- Thurs. Sept. 15 Read: Gower, *Vox clamantis*, *CS&B* (192-206, 215-228, 231-3)
Geoffroi de Charny, *CS&B* (166-8, 207-9)
Hugh of St. Victor, *CS&B* (210-214)
- Tues. Sept. 20 Read: Chaucer, General Prol. (*CT* ll. 285-308, 45-476, 542-566, 715-859)
Boccaccio, *Decameron* (*CT*, 349-63)
- Thurs. Sept. 22 Read: Augustine, “Human Life as a Pilgrimage” (*CT*, 364-5)
Thorpe, “On Pilgrimage” (*CT*, 365-70)

Upon whose authority do we act?

- Tues. Sept. 27 Read: Chaucer, Knight’s Tale (ll. 859-1880)
Ovid, *Amores*, *CS&B* (269-288)
Andreas Capellanus, *The Treatise on Love*, *CS&B* (291-9)
- Thurs. Sept. 29 Read: Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*, *CS&B* (289-90)
- Tues. Oct. 4 Read: Chaucer, Knight’s Tale (ll. 1881-3108, ie. a LOT)
Test 1

Thurs. Oct. 6 Read: Boccaccio, *Teseide*, *CS&B* (322-43)
 Muscatine, Charles. "Form, Texture, and Meaning in Chaucer's Knight's Tale." *PMLA* 65 (1950): 911-29.
 Aers, David. "Imagination, Order and Ideology: The Knight's Tale." From: *Chaucer, Langland, and the creative imagination* (London: Routledge, 1980). Available at:
<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/david-aers-imagination-order-and-ideology-knights-tale> (Link in OWL)

Tues. Oct. 11 Read: Chaucer, Miller's Tale (*CT* ll. 3110-3850)

Thurs. Oct. 13 Finish up with the Miller's Tale

Upon what authority does truth reside?

Tues. Oct. 18 Read: Chaucer, Truth (*DV*, 219-20)
 Chaucer, Chaucer's Words to Adam, His Own Scribe (*DV*, 216-17)

Thurs. Oct. 20 Read: Chaucer, *House of Fame* (Intro, & Book 1, *DV*, pp. 39-55)
Last day for recitations (Oct. 20)

Tues. Oct. 25 Read: Chaucer, *House of Fame* (Finish, *DV*, pp. 55-92)
 Ruffolo, Lara. "Literary Authority and the Lists of Chaucer's 'House of Fame': Destruction and Definition through Proloferation." *The Chaucer Review* 27 (1993): 325-41.

Thurs. Oct. 27 Read: Ruth Evans, "Chaucer in Cyberspace" (*DV*, 229-31).

Tues.. Nov. 1 Fall Reading Week

Thurs.. Nov. 3 Fall Reading Week

Tues. Nov. 8 Read: "The Anti-Feminist Tradition," *CS&B* (397-402)
 Theophrastus, *The Golden Book*, *CS&B* (411-414)
 Saint Jerome, *Epistle against Jovinian*, *CS&B* (415-436)
 Walter Map, *Courtiers' Trifles*, *CS&B* (437-46)

After you have read the above material, then read:
 Chaucer, Wife of Bath's Prologue (*CT* ll. 1-856, pp. 129-48)
 Note where the Wife has used the anti-feminist tradition.

Thurs. Nov. 10 Read: As above. We'll keep talking about the prologue.
 Parker, David. "Can We Trust the Wife of bath?" *The Chaucer Review* 4.2 (1970): 90-98.

Tues. Nov. 15 Read: Chaucer, The Wife of Bath's Tale (*CT*, ll. 856-1264)
Test 2

Thurs. Nov. 17 Read: Petrarch, "The Story of Griselda," *CS&B* (136-152)
 Chaucer, Clerk's Tale (*CT*, ll. 1-196)

Tues. Nov. 22 Read: Chaucer, Clerk's Tale (*CT*, ll. 197-1212g)

By what authority is the household ruled?

Thurs. Nov. 24 Read: The last two weeks (Wife of Bath and Clerk; look those over again. We'll think about them from the POV of domestic authority)
 Georgianna, Linda. "The Clerk's Tale and the Grammar of Assent." *Speculum* 70 (1995): 793-821.

Tues. Nov. 29 Read: Green, Richard F. "Why Marquis Walter Treats His Wife so Badly." *The Chaucer Review* 47.1 (2012): 48-62.

Thurs. Dec. 1 Read: Gower, *Tale of Florent* (*CT*, pp. 422-31)
Paper 1 due.

Tues. Dec. 6 Read: "Noah" (*EED*, 306-323)

Thurs. Dec. 8 Finish up with Noah

Exam Period: We won't have a mid-year exam.

Upon what authority does the Church rest?

Tues. Jan. 10 Read: Pardoner's Prologue (ll. 314-462, pp. 233-236)
 "A Pardoner's License," *CS&B* (229-30)
 Jean de Meun, *Romance of the Rose*, *CS&B* (251-4)

Thurs. Jan. 12 Read: Pardoner's Tale (ll. 463-969)

Tues. Jan. 17 Read: "Introduction" (*EED*, 1-8)
Everyman (*EED*, 43-67)
 Lawrence V. Ryan, "Doctrine and Dramatic Structure in *Everyman*," *Speculum* 32 (1957): 722-35.
Test 3

Thurs. Jan. 19 Finish *Everyman*

- Tues. Jan. 24 Read: Prioress's Prologue & tale (*CT* ll. 435-690)
Listen: The Alma Redemptoris, which is in WebCT
- Thurs. Jan. 26 Finish Prioress
Read: Besserman, Lawrence. "Ideology, Antisemitism, and Chaucer's
Prioress's Tale." *The Chaucer Review* 36.1 (2001): 48-72.
- Tues. Jan. 31 Read: *St. Erkenwald* (*I'll get this to you at the beginning of term*)
This is more difficult than anything you will have read thus far.
- Thurs. Feb. 2 Read: More *St. Erkenwald*
- Tues. Feb. 7 Read: Finish *St Erkenwald*
Sisk, Jennifer L. "The Uneasy Orthodoxy of *St. Erkenwald*." *ELH*
74.1 (2007): 89-115
Test 4
- Thurs. Feb. 9 Read: *Patience*. We'll use the edition in preparation at the Calgary
"Cotton Nero A.x. Project," available at:
<http://people.ucalgary.ca/~scriptor/cotton/projectnew.html>
- Tues. Feb. 14 Read: The Book of Jonah (any Bible will do)
Davis, Adam Brooke. "What the Poet of *Patience* Really Did to
the Book of Jonah." *Viator* 22 (1991): 267-78.
- Thurs. Feb. 16 We'll spend some time looking at the manuscript of this text.
Explore the "Cotton Nero A.x. Project" (the manuscript also has
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight).
- Tues. Feb. 21 Reading Week
Thurs. Feb. 23 Reading Week
- Tues. Feb. 28 Read: "The Second Shepherd's Play" (*EED*, 343-363)
Kathleen Irace, "Mak's Sothren Tothe: A Philological and Critical
Study of the Dialect Joke in the *Second Shepherd's Play*,"
Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies
21(1990): 38-51.
(This is hard to find. Use: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/0tb597k2>)
- Thurs. March 2 Finish up Ecclesiastical Authority

By what authority does the crown rule?

- Tues. Mar. 7 Read: *Havelok the Dane* (MEVR, 56-129, ll. 1-985)
- Thurs. Mar. 9 Read: *Havelok the Dane* (continued)
Paper 2 Prospectus Due
- Tues. Mar. 14 Read: *Havelok the Dane* (MEVR, ll. 986-3001)
 Staines, David. "Havelok the Dane: A Thirteenth-Century Handbook for Princes." *Speculum* 51 (1976): 602-23.
- Thurs. Mar. 16 Read: Faletta, Michael. "The Ends of Romance: Dreaming the Nation in the Middle English Havelok." *Exemplaria* 17.2 (2005): 347-80.
- Tues. Mar. 21 Read: *The Awntyrs off Arthure* (MER, 1-338)
- Thurs. Mar. 23 Read: *The Awntyrs off Arthure* (MER, 339-715)
 Howes, Laura. "Inglewood Forest in Two Middle English Romances." *Neophilologus* 97 (2013): 185-189.
- Tues. Mar. 28 Finish up with *Awntyrs*
Paper 2 due.
- Thurs. Mar. 30 Read: Chaucer, "Gentilesse" (DV, pp. 220-21)
 Finish up with secular authority.

Kind of related to authority, but mostly because it's my favourite text:

- Tues. April 4 Read: Chaucer, Nun's Priest's Prologue & Tale (CT, ll. 2766-3460, pp. 269-85)
 Macrobius, CS&B (44-52)
 Geoffrey of Vinsauf, CS&B (66-8, and handout)
- Thurs. April 6 Read: Chaucer's Retraction (ll. 956-1092, pp. 306-307)

Exams: We WILL have a final exam. Don't book flights.