

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 405 L01

Fall 2013

COURSE TITLE: Middle English Literature: The Canterbury Tales

Instructor: Dr. Murray McGillivray
Office: SS 1134
Phone: 403-220-4678
E-mail: mmcgilli@ucalgary.ca
Office hours: Tuesday or Thursday from 11:00 to noon.
Homepage/course website: See Blackboard.

Course description:

A survey of the Middle English language and the social, cultural and historical contexts of later medieval literature through Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

Prerequisite(s): *English 302 and either 240 or 340.*

Antirequisite(s): *Not open to students with credit in English 404.*

Texts and readings:

Kolve, V.A., and Glending Olson, eds. *The Canterbury Tales: Fifteen Tales and the General Prologue* by Geoffrey Chaucer. 2nd ed. New York: Norton, 2005.

Amtower, Laurel, and Jacqueline Vanhoutte, eds. *A Companion to Chaucer and his Contemporaries*. Peterborough ON: Broadview, 2009.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Translation test 15%

The translation test will take place in class during the fifth week of class (exact date to be determined) and will require you to translate a passage from Chaucer's Middle English into modern English.

Participation in class discussion 20%

Participation will be assessed on the basis of the quality (astuteness, accuracy, helpfulness, relevance, succinctness) of your in-class comments over the course of the term rather than on quantity alone. You can ask me at any point after the sixth week of class for your current participation grade.

Essay 30%

An essay of approximately 2500 to 3000 words on an aspect of the work of Chaucer in relation to the culture and/or history of medieval England will be due November 19th. Topics will be distributed the week of October 15.

Final Examination

35%

The registrar-scheduled written final examination will test your knowledge of social, cultural, and historical context and of the *Canterbury Tales*. It will have an essay section and a short-answer section. Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period (Dec. 9-19).

Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the dropbox. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

Grading system:

Letter grades only will be assigned to all work. Calculations of final course grade will use the standard GPA conversions:

A+	4.0
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
F	0

In other words, University of Calgary's four-point Undergraduate Grading System, as described in the Calendar (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>), will be used in this course.

It is not necessary to obtain a passing grade on any particular assignment in order to receive a calculated passing grade for the course as a whole.

Late assignments will be penalized one step in the grade scale for each working day (not class day) they are late. For example, a paper due on Thursday that is submitted late (without permission) on Friday morning would be reduced from a notionally "earned" grade of B based on the quality of the work to an actually assigned grade of B- with this penalty for lateness; it would receive a C+ if submitted on Saturday, a C if submitted on Sunday, and so on.

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

I will employ the grade of A+ to distinguish superlative work.

Students may consult computers and other electronic devices such as smart phones in class to research factual matters relevant to class discussion. The use of electronic devices of any kind during the translation test or final examination will be considered to constitute academic misconduct.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events

[http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club.](http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club)

Our email address is [smec@ucalgary.ca.](mailto:smec@ucalgary.ca)

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at [http://english.ucalgary.ca.](http://english.ucalgary.ca) Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:



Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic Accommodation:

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:
 - (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
 - (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
 - (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
 - (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>) "The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, . . . , to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.