



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

Course Title: Chaucer's Canterbury Tales			
Course Number	ENGL 405	Spring 2023	
Faculty / Department	Faculty of Arts/Department of English		
Instructor Name	Dr. J. McKenney	Email	<a href="mailto:mckennej@ucalgary.ca">mckennej@ucalgary.ca</a>
Instructor Email Policy	24-48 hour reply during weekdays; no replies after 5 pm or on weekends/holidays		
Office Location	SS1030	Telephone No:	Please email
Office Hours	Monday 1:00-2:00 (location TBD)		
Class Dates/Times/Location	M/W 9-11:45 TI 110		

**Course description:**

This course is an introduction to Middle English language and literature with a particular focus on the *Canterbury Tales* by Chaucer. Lectures will include instruction in Middle English language and pronunciation and provide context on the social, historical, artistic and political underpinnings of Chaucer's major work. We will be reading selected tales of Chaucer in conjunction with Patience Agbabi's 2015 poetic "remix," *Telling Tales*.

**Prerequisites:** 12 units of courses labeled English at the 300-level or above

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Read, understand, translate, and pronounce Middle English
2. Recognize how Chaucer's work reflects and sometimes resists cultural, political, social, and religious forces in medieval England
3. Appreciate the artistic and intellectual influence of *The Canterbury Tales* including its influence on contemporary writers
4. Formulate nuanced, research-informed arguments about medieval texts

**Texts and readings:**

Chaucer, Geoffrey. *The Canterbury Tales*, edited by Robert Boenig and Andrew Taylor, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Broadview

Agbabi, Patience. *Telling Tales*, Canongate

Note: The bookstore has both hard copies and access to electronic copies for the Broadview *Canterbury Tales*. Agbabi's *Telling Tales* is only available in hard copy.

**Learning Technology and Requirements:**

The course D2L site will be the organizational hub for this course. You are responsible for checking the site regularly for announcements and any changes to the schedule.

### **Assignments and Evaluation:**

- Pilgrim Self Portrait (Creative Biographical Introduction): 5%
- Pronunciation Exercises (Recordings): 2 x 5% (10% total)
- In-Class Translation Exercises: 2 x 10% (20% total)
- Midterm Essay Test: 30%
- Final Test: 15%
- Zoom Roundtable Project (Group Project): 20%

### **Notes:**

- There is no registrar-scheduled examination for this course.
- There are no extra-credit or make-up assignments for this course.
- There are no particular assignments that students must complete in order to qualify for a passing grade in this class.
- Late assignments may be penalized one third of a letter grade for each business day late (e.g. A+ becomes an A). Late assignments may not be accepted after three days without previous permission of the instructor.
- All assignments must be uploaded to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. No email submissions will be accepted.

### **How to Succeed in this Course:**

This is an in-person course and, as such, lecture material will not be regularly available on-line. If you have a work schedule that does not coordinate with class lectures, this is probably not the course for you. Learning to pronounce, read, and understand Middle English is cumulative and *The Canterbury Tales*, in particular, is a text that requires careful and sustained reading in sequence (many of the tales respond to other tales). You will succeed in this class by keeping pace with the recommended schedule and attending lectures. Remember that Spring term presents material at an accelerated pace. You **must** also make sure to check in with D2L frequently to ensure that you are accessing all course materials and updates.

### **Note on Content:**

Chaucer takes advantage of the fact that there are many diverse tellers of his tales and explicitly abjures responsibility for tales or tellers that are rude or profane. Students can expect to encounter crass language, bawdy humour, discriminatory language, gender-based violence, and sexual content. A central concern of the class will be the way Chaucer's text reflects and sometimes resists medieval representations of women; racialized folk; and religious, sexual, and gender difference.

### **Grading:**

In this course, all essays and projects will be marked on the University of Calgary's four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar:

Undergraduate: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

A+/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)

When necessary, quizzes and other numerically based assessments will be converted to a letter grade on the basis of the following Department of English percentage to letter grade conversion scale.

90 + %	A+	4.0	67 – 69.99 %	C+	2.3
85 – 89.99 %	A	4.0	64 – 66.99%	C	2.0
80 – 84.99 %	A–	3.7	60 – 63.99%	C–	1.7
77 – 79.99 %	B+	3.3	55 – 59.99 %	D+	1.3
74 – 76.99 %	B	3.0	50 – 54.99 %	D	1.0
70 – 73.99 %	B–	2.7	0 – 49.99 %	F	0

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

Calculation note: Letter grades are calculated in D2L at the midpoint of the percentage scale above (e.g. an A is calculated at 87%). Split grades calculated at the numerical threshold of the higher grade (e.g. A-/B+ = 80%). It is my practice not to round any marks.

Please refer to the chart below for an explanation of the university grading system.

### F.1.1 Undergraduate Grading System 📄

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	Good performance
B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject. The Faculty of Law utilizes a "D" grade that does not carry weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable.
F	0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements. Several Faculties utilize an F grade that does not carry weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable.
I	0.00	Incomplete. Sufficient work has not been submitted for evaluation, unable to adequately assess. May also be used when a final exam is not submitted.
CR		Completed Requirements. Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable

### Academic Honesty:

All assignments completed for this course must be solely the work of the student; specifically, the ideas, the research, the writing, and the editing **must be the work only of the student**. There are no collaborative assignments in this course and no outside assistance is permitted. All published or on-line sources consulted must be documented fully in the Works Cited section of each assignment.

By submitting an assignment on D2L you are deemed to have read and complied with this statement of Academic Honesty, as well as with all the University's policies on academic integrity and plagiarism. Please see the below information for additional details of what constitutes academic misconduct and plagiarism. Please also the review the information about plagiarism included on the course syllabus posted on D2L.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

c) **Academic Misconduct** means any Student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a Student's Academic Activities and includes:

- i. Cheating
- ii. Fabrication
- iii. Falsification
- iv. Plagiarism
- v. Unauthorized Assistance
- vi. failure to comply with an Instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of Students completing academic assessments in their courses
- vii. failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

**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-5.html>

**Code of Conduct:**

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

**Course Materials and Intellectual Property:**

Please note that all lecture materials, whether on Yuja, Zoom, or Powerpoints is the intellectual property of the instructor and circulation of these materials beyond D2L and the virtual classroom is prohibited without the permission of the instructor.

**Classroom Environment:** My goal is to create an intellectually stimulating classroom where all people feel respected and safe to test new ideas. The expectation is for students to interact collegially, with kindness, and in the spirit of mutual curiosity. That said, I will put a pause on conversation if, at any time, the discussion is becoming uncivil, offensive, harmful, or substantively off topic. If you have concerns about the classroom environment please make an appointment with the course instructor. **Students who have preferred names or forms of address (including non-gendered pronouns) are welcome to bring this to the attention of the instructor.**

**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](#) must be completed. It is the student's responsibility to initiate this process with the instructor. The University also has regulations governing the [deferral of final examinations](#).

**Grade appeals:**

To pursue a Reassessment of Graded Term Work or a Reappraisal of an Academic Assessment, Consult the [University Calendar](#) and request advice from the English Department at [engl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:engl@ucalgary.ca). Please note that mere dissatisfaction with a grade is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.

**[English Department Website:](#)**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English.

**Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:**

The [Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club](#) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. Our email address is [smecuofc@gmail.com](mailto:smecuofc@gmail.com).

**Writing support:**

[The Student Success Centre](#) offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

**[Academic regulations and schedules](#)****Student Academic Accommodations:**

The Student Accessibility Services website is available [here](#). University accommodation policies can be found at the following links:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-2.html>

**Program Advising and Student Information Resources** is done through the Faculty of Arts Students' Centre. Office location: SS102; phone: 403-220-3580; email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)  
Website: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>

**Instructor's Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by instructors, including presentations, posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams, remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

Student information will be collected in accordance with usual classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty and teaching assistants. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

**Sexual violence policy:**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

**Other important information:**

- [Wellness and Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Student Success](#)
- [Student Ombuds Office](#)

- [Student Union \(SU\) Information](#)
- [Graduate Students' Association \(GSA\) Information](#)
- [Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points](#)
- [Safewalk](#)

**Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):**

Please participate in [\*\*USRI Surveys\*\*](#) toward the end of the course. The feedback they provide helps us evaluate teaching, enhance student learning, and guide students as they select courses.