English 4200 and 5200
Chaucer, Fall 2008

Syllabus

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**Official Descriptions**

From the catalogs:

**ENGL 4200 Chaucer (3) (Formerly ENG 420).** An introduction to the works of Chaucer, with emphasis on the background of the age and on development of Chaucer as a literary artist.

**ENGL 5200. CHAUCER. (3)** Study in the works of Geoffrey Chaucer, with the emphasis on the Canterbury Tales. Course also includes attention to the medieval cultural background. (Formerly ENG 520)

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**Course Competencies**

In order to earn a grade of at least C in this course, students will be able to:

* identify genres used by Chaucer;
* explore and analyze texts in historical and cultural context;
* analyze and describe poetic techniques;
* read and pronounce Middle English competently;
* make connections within and between texts;
* use and evaluate critical commentary;
* research and analyze a medieval topic; and
* use critical thinking skills to analyze and explicate texts.

Graduate students will also be able to:

* conduct a review of current scholarship on Chaucer.
* write an article-length study or analysis on a Chaucerian text.
* make a formal presentation of research to the class.

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**Required Texts and Equipment**

**Required Texts**

* Chaucer, Geoffrey. *Dream Visions and Other Poems.* Ed. Kathryn L. Lynch. New York: Norton, 2007. ISBN 0393925889.
* Chaucer, Geoffrey. *The Canterbury Tales: Fifteen Tales and the General Prologue.* Ed. V.A. Kolve and Glending Olson. 2nd ed. New York: Norton, 2005. ISBN 0393925870.
* Chaucer, Geoffrey. *Troilus and Criseyde.* Ed. Stephen A. Barney. New York: Norton, 2006. ISBN: 0393927555.

**Other Equipment**

* *A reputable, hard-bound dictionary* such as *Merriam-Webster, American Heritage,* or *Random House.* Paperback editions are incomplete and not acceptable. You may also use on-line sites by the same publishers, such as [Merriam-Webster](http://faculty.tnstate.edu/whennequin/3290/www.m-w.com) or [American Heritage](http://www.bartleby.com/61/). Better yet, use the [Oxford English Dictionary](http://www.oed.com).
* The [*Middle English Dictionary.*](http://ets.umdl.umich.edu/m/med/)It's on-line, and it's free, thanks to the University of Michigan.
* *Writing supplies:* Pens, loose leaf or legal paper, and a notebook.
* *A computer*, word-processor, or (for you Luddites) a typewriter.
* *An Internet browser.* Assignments and supplemental materials will be posted on-line, and some supplemental readings may be available either at e-book sites or on the Library's [Electronic Reserve](http://docutek.tnstate.edu/eres/courseindex.aspx?error=&page=search) site.

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**Required Work**

* 1. **Readings, as assigned.**
	2. **Translation quizzes.**
	3. **A mid-term exam.**
	4. **A final exam.**
	5. **A review of a scholarly book.**
	6. **A research project.**
	7. **Participation in class discussions and activities.** Your participation forms a significant part of your grade. Participation consists of:
		+ *Attendance of class.* Yes, I give you a point every day just for showing up. If you show up late, I may give you half a point or no points.
		+ *Preparation for class activities,* such as reading the assigned texts and commenting on other students' drafts.
		+ *Participation in classes and conferences.* For each class in which you ask a relevant question, add something relevant to the discussion, bring in information, or make a relevant comment, you gain another point--on top of the one you gained for simply attending.
		+ *Meeting with me in my office* (or elsewhere) about class work outside of class or conferences also earns points.
		+ *Attention in class.* Students who sleep in class, use cell phones or other electronics, send text or e-mail messages, do work for other classes, hold side conversations, or indulge in other distractions will lose any points they gained for that day's class.
		+ *Perfect Attendance.* Students who attend every class will earn 5 points towards their class participation.
		+ *Excessive Absenteeism.* Students who miss more than one week's worth of classes (3 on MWF, 2 on TR, etc.) will fail class participation. Students missing more than 2 weeks worth of classes (6 on MWF, 2 on TR, etc.) will earn a 0 in class participation.

In addition, graduate students must also complete:

* 1. **An annotated bibliography** of scholarship on a medieval literary topic.
	2. **A research article,** in place of the research project.
	3. **A formal presentation of their work to the class*,*** in the form of a conference-type paper.

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**Grading**

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| **Undergraduates*** **Mid-term exam:** 25%
* **Final exam:** 25%
* **Review:** 15%
* **Research Project:** 20%
* **Participation:** 15%
 | **Graduate Students*** **Annotated bibliography:** 20%
* **Review:** 15%
* **Research Paper:** 35%
* **Presentation:** 15%
* **Participation:** 15%
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**Class Policies**

Attending University is a *job*, an internship which prepares students for their careers. I therefore expect my students to treat the class as a professional commitment, rather than a pastime or a hobby. My class policies emulate the expectations of professionals in the workplace.

1. **Attendance is mandatory.**
	* **Excused absences.** For purposes of class participation, I will excuse absences *only* for the following circumstances and *only with proper documentation*.
		1. Death in the immediate family. “Immediate family” includes (step-)parents, parental guardians, (step-)sons, (step-)daughters, (step-)siblings, and spouses. All other funereal absences count under the normal sick / personal absences.
		2. Serious and extended illness or injury lasting a week or more (such as mononucleosis).
		3. University business (team travel, band travel, the Rising Junior exam but *not* practices, meetings with your advisor, or requirements for other classes).
		4. Court appearances required by sub poena or otherwise mandated by the court.
		5. Disability-related absences.
		6. **Students missing more than one week's worth of classes (3 for a MWF class, 2 for a TR) will fail class participation.**
		7. **Students missing more than two weeks' worth of classes (6 for a MWF class, 4 for a TR) will *earn a 0 for class participation.***

See page 29 of the Undergraduate Catalogue for official university policy.

1. **Be on time.**
2. **Disability.** I will make reasonable accommodations for disabled students with documentation from Disabled Student Services.
	* Students must bring me the accommodation letter from Disabled Student Services by the second week of class.
	* Absences related to your disability must be documented individually and separately from the accommodation letter.
3. **Electronics: Do not send e-mail, text, or instant messages, or surf the Web, or use your cell phone or blackberry.** After 1 warning, I will deduct FIVE POINTS off your FINAL GRADE.
4. **Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due dates.**
	* I do not accept late work except with *prior* arrangement.
	* If you need an extension, you must request it two class days in advance.
	* Each student is allowed **one (1)** 24-hour emergency extension to cover true emergencies such as computer melt-down, printer failure, or vehicular mishaps. Students *must* tell me that they are using the extension when the paper is due and *must* deliver the paper to my mailbox (in Humanities 104) or my e-mail within *24 hours*.
5. **Make-ups: Class work must be done in class.**
	* Quizzes and in-class writing work *cannot* be made up. Students who are excused for the day are excused for the work; all others who miss the class earn a zero for the assignment.
	* I may allow a student with convincing documentation to make up a major test.
	* The final exam must be taken during the exam period, and I cannot change the date of a student's exam. This is university policy.
6. **Do your own work.**

The TSU Undergraduate Catalogue says this about academic fraud:

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. In addition to the other possible disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign an ‘F’ or a zero for the exercise or examination, or assign an ‘F’ in the course. (29)

Students submitting any fraudulent work—copied, plagiarized, stolen, bought, cheated, etc.—will receive **a ZERO for the assignment, and may receive an F for the course.**

An important clarification: collaboration is not plagiarism. A person who plagiarizes claims someone else's work for his or her own; people who collaborate on a project claim that they have done the work together and that the work they have done together is their own. You need not credit collaborating colleagues if they proofread, critique, or make suggestions on your work.

1. **E-mail: Treat e-mail professionally.**
	* I check my e-mail once daily on weekdays during the semester.
	* All e-mails must be:
		1. polite and professional.
		2. well-spelled and grammatically correct.
		3. brief.
	* You may e-mail me to:
		1. request an extension (at least 48 hours before the assignment is due).
		2. make an appointment with me.
		3. ask about thesis statements or paper topics.
		4. request recommendation letters.
		5. hand in an assignment (with permission).
	* *I will not respond to e-mails regarding:*
		1. grades or comments on your papers. (Come to my office to discuss these issues.)
		2. missed assignments or notes. (Ask your classmates and / or check the schedule.)
		3. technical support. (Call the technical support folks at extension 7777.)
		4. questions on assignments, material covered in class, grammar, or citation formats. (Ask in class, so that you get credit for it and everyone gets the answer.)
		5. complaints of any sort.

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