

## ENGL 40502 / 51201 : CHAUCER

FALL 2019

DR. DAMIAN FLEMING

CLASS MEETING: TR 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM, LA 148  
OPEN OFFICE HOURS: TR 12:00-1:00 PM, or **Just ask!**  
OFFICE: LA 149 (in English Department)  
EMAIL: [flemingd@pfw.edu](mailto:flemingd@pfw.edu)

COURSE WIKI: <http://chaucer2019.pbworks.com>  
**VISIT THIS WEBSITE ^^^ Click "Request Access"**

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“Father of English Poetry”, or dead guy whose “drasty ryming is nat worth a toord!” (Chaucer’s words)? We’ll develop a sound reading knowledge of Middle English (the language of England c. 1200–1500), then read a bunch of Chaucer’s texts in the original focusing primarily on the *Canterbury Tales*. We’ll try to contextualize these texts and consider their relevance today and in the history of English literature. No previous experience required, but reading load is high.

### REQUIRED BOOK:

[Geoffrey Chaucer, \*The Canterbury Tales\*, Edited by Jill Mann \(Penguin, 2005\), ISBN: 9780140422344](#)

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Daily attendance and participation in class based on close reading of all assignments
2. Memorization and recitation of the first sentence of the *Canterbury Tales* in addition to at least 10 other lines from Chaucer’s works
3. Quizzes testing understanding of Middle English
4. Discussion participation on class wiki
5. Short homework assignments
6. Commonplace Book Assignment
7. Research Project / Unessay
8. Midterm and Final examination

### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

This course is based in active participation; as a result, attendance in class is essential.

- 2 absences: participation grade = 0%
- **3 absences = course failure**

## WIKI WORK:

Before each class, everyone will do ALL of the assigned readings. Each student must individually write an informal response of at **least 300 words** to the reading, and post it on our wiki before 2:30pm the day it is due.

Your response must include at least:

- A. Specific References to the text of the *Canterbury Tales*, including
  1. Quotations (for example: "And Frenssh she spak ful faire and fetisly")
  2. Citations for the quotation (for example: GP 1.124)
  3. Contextualize the quotation (Who said it? When? To whom? About what?)
  4. Talk about its significance in the reading or why you choose it
- B. If applicable, a reference or questions about the Secondary Reading for the day (which will generally be from the [Open Access Companion to the Canterbury Tales](#) or Pope's [How to Study Chaucer](#))

Responses don't have to be formal, but must be **at least 300 words long**. What I am looking for in these is your own close reading of the text. NO secondary research is required. If you use any resources to supplement your reading, these must be explicitly acknowledged in your response. Using unacknowledged sources in your response will constitute plagiarism, and result in a failing grade for the course. **Failure to submit 2 of these on time will result in a failing grade for the class.**

**Additionally**, before each class add at least one word or phrase to the class [Word List](#). This can be any word that you found difficult or interesting or ridiculous during your reading.

## EXAMS:

We will have a midterm and a final based on the text readings and material covered in class.

## COMMONPLACE BOOK:

Throughout the semester, each student will gather passages from texts we have read in class into a physical book to be submitted at the end of the semester

## UNESSAY:

Each student with research a text not covered in class and create an "Unessay": some sort of manifestation of your learning which is not an essay.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Students taking this course for graduate credit may elect to also create an Unessay, but it must include a significant written portion as well. Graduate Students will otherwise write a formal research essay of around 10 pages.

## GRADING:

Participation/recitation:	9%
Office visit:	1%
Commonplace Book:	20%
Unessay / Research Project:	30%
Quizzes and homework:	20%
Midterm and Final	20%

## GRADE SCALE:

A	94–100	Highest passing grade	4.0
A-	90–93		3.7
B+	87–89		3.3
B	84–86	Above-average passing grade	3.0
B-	80–83		2.7
C+	77–79		2.3
C	74–76	Average passing grade	2.0
C-	70–73		1.7
D+	65–69		1.3
D	60–64	Lowest passing grade	1.0
F	below 60	Failure or unauthorized discontinuance of class attendance; no credit.	

## DISABILITIES STATEMENT:

If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. Contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (Walb Union, Room 113, telephone number 481-6657) as soon as possible to work out the details. For more information, please visit the web site for SSD at <http://www.pfw.edu/ssd/>

Keep in mind that accommodations are not retroactive so it is best to contact the office **as soon as possible** so that timely arrangements can be made.

## FOR ALL STUDENTS:

**Retroactive** accommodations cannot be made. If you feel that you have an issue which may affect your ability to succeed in this class, please see me **as soon as possible**. Hopefully, any issue can be resolved, but it is difficult to fix after the fact.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

**USING ANOTHER PERSON’S WORDS OR IDEAS WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION IS PLAGIARISM.**

Plagiarism will earn you an **F** for the course, and possible expulsion from the University. If you borrow an idea or quote from another author, you must cite where you found the material. If you have any questions about citing sources, please **\*\*ASK\*\*** before your turn in an assignment. I am happy to help, or visit the Writing Center. <http://www.pfw.edu/casa/writing/>).

LAPTOP & PHONES POLICY:

Messing around on your devices for non-class related activities will result in a **failing grade** for the course.

Please be respectful of your fellow students.

BEGINNING OF THE SCHEDULE

The most up-to-date schedule for all assignments can be found on the course WIKI: <http://Chaucer2019.pbworks.com>

Wk	Day	Date	Topic	Reading Due	Post	Other Assignment
1	T	27	Intro to class	<b>**<a href="#">Get the Book!</a>**</b>		
AUG	R	29		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write out 5 Questions about the syllabus</li> <li>• Have Book</li> <li>• Make sure you can access <a href="#">Pope</a></li> </ul>		<a href="#">Click here, Introduce yourself on Wiki</a>
2	T	3	Intro to Middle English	Read <a href="#">General Prologue ll. 1-78</a>  <a href="#">Read Pope</a> pp. 1-8  <a href="#">Read Chaucer's Middle English</a>  Start Memorizing GP 1-18 ( <a href="#">audio helper</a> )	<a href="#">Sept 3</a>	100 most common words--pick out 5 favorites
SEPT	R	5		GP ll. 1-267 Pope Ch 2, pp. 24-32	<a href="#">Sept 5</a>	
3	T	10		GP ll. 268-528 Pope Ch 2, pp. 32-48	<a href="#">Sept 10</a>	Language quiz