English 3015: Chaucer and His Contemporaries

Course Location: web

Class Times: asynchronous

Prerequisites: Two FCE's in English, including at least one half-course at the second-year level, or permission of the Chair of the Department of English. Students who have previous credit in English 3005 may not take English 3015 for credit.

To our Student: Should you require information or documents from our office in another format, please let us know. We are happy to help you. Contact your instructor or our Department of English Administrative Assistant.

Instructor Information **2**
Course Description/Overview **2**
Course Objectives and/or Learner Outcomes **2**
Course Resources **3**
Required Course Text 3
Course Websites 3
Course Schedule **3**
Assignments and Evaluation **4**
Table of Assignments **4**
Assignment Policies 4
Details of Assignments 4
Translation Test 4
Take Home Midterm Test 4
Major Paper 5
Take Home Final Exam 5
Marking Standards **5**
Collaboration/Plagiarism Rules **5**
Course Content **6**
University Policies **6**

Instructor Information

- Instructor: Dr. Douglas W. Hayes
- Office: online
- Telephone: n/a
- Email: dhayes@lakeheadu.ca
- Office Hours: online via email or google chat 11:00am-12:00pm EST, Monday and Thursday, or by appointment

Course Description/Overview

A study of Chaucer's poetry and prose in Middle English with excerpts from other English writers of the 14th and 15th centuries. Students will learn to read and pronounce Chaucer's Middle English and will be introduced to the various forms in which Chaucer wrote. Writers to be read in excerpt may include Langland, the *Gawain* poet, Gower, Hoccleve, Lydgate, Julian of Norwich and Kempe. Lectures will situate the readings in a variety of linguistic, rhetorical, historical and cultural contexts, which may include religious controversy, political contexts, gender and sexual politics and social history.

Course Objectives and/or Learner Outcomes

- read texts of all kinds critically, and assess their rhetorical, ideological and aesthetic strategies.
- write well (grammatically correct, clear, effective prose).
- communicate ideas effectively and coherently, in both the persuasive essay, and a variety of other forms.
- identify the conventions of a variety of genres, both general (such as poetry) and specific (such as the sonnet), and to identify ways in which individual texts work within, or expand the definitions of, that genre.
- analyse specific literary devices and explain how those devices contribute to the meaning of a literary text.
- explain the role of literature in articulating and creating categories of identity.
- explain how a text is produced by, and produces, its historical and cultural context.
- use library resources to research a topic and use what they discover to illuminate a text.
- adapt the tools of literary analysis to cross-disciplinary inquiry.
- apply their knowledge of how literature works to their own writing.
- read texts critically in a variety of historical contexts.
- think independently and critically about literature and the issues raised by texts
- identify and assess the social, environmental and other ethical themes presented in texts
- analyse texts from a variety of theoretical perspectives.

Course Resources

Required Course Text

- *Chaucer to Spenser: An Anthology*, ed. Derek Pearsall (Blackwell, 1999)

Course Websites

- Desire2Learn (or myCourseLInk)[i]
- https://sites.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/teachslf/less-0.htm (this is part of the Harvard Chaucer site and will provide you with some guidance in pronouncing southeast midland Middle English, Chaucer's dialect and the version of Middle English that evolves into Received Standard Modern English)

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to course; introduction to Chaucer and the medieval period

Week 2: Chaucer, *Parliament of Fowls*; from *Troilus and Criseyde*

Week 3: Chaucer, from *Canterbury Tales*, General Prologue; Miller's Prologue and Tale

Week 4: Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale; Franklin's Prologue and Tale

Week 5: translation test due 12 February 4:30pm; Pardoner's Prologue and Tale; Gower, from *Confessio Amantis*

Week 6: Reading Week (No Class)

Week 7: Midterm Test due 26 February 4:30pm; from *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Week 8: Julian of Norwich, from *Revelations of Divine Love*

Week 9: Hoccleve, from *The Regiment of Princes*; Lydgate, from *Danse Macabre*

Final date for withdrawal (drop) 12 March 2021

Week 10: Kempe, from *The Book of Margery Kempe*; Hawes, from *The Pastime*

Week 11: Major Paper due 26 March 4:30pm; Henryson, *The Testament of Cresseid*

Week 12 : Dunbar, "Timor Mortis," "Meditation"; Douglas, from *Aeneid*

Week 13: Review; last class

Assignments and Evaluation

Table of Assignments

Assignment	Due date	Value	Length
Translation Test	12 February	15%	30 minutes
Take Home Mid Term Test	26 February	25%	750 words
Major Paper	26 March	30%	2000 words
Take Home Final Exam	23 April	30%	1000 words

Assignment Policies

- All assignments are individual assignments and cannot be completed collaboratively.
- Assignments are due by 4:30pm on the dates indicated. Assignments must be submitted to the course D2L page in .pdf format ONLY. Other document formats will not be accepted.
- If you require an extension, you must ask for one BEFORE the due date.
- Unless you ask for (and receive) an extension, late essays will be penalized by 2% per day (to a maximum of 20%), and will not be accepted after 4:30pm 10 days after the assignment was due.
- All assignments must be in MLA format, double spaced, with 1" margins, and in 12 point font.
- Exceptions to these policies are allowed only with a doctor's note or other appropriate documentation.

Details of Assignments

Translation Test

This 30-minute test in translating Chaucer's Middle English into modern English is worth 15% of your final mark. You must complete it on the course D2L page. It will be available from Monday 8 February until 4:30pm Eastern on Friday 12 February 2021. Once you begin it, you will have 30 minutes to complete the test.

Take Home Midterm Test

This take home test, worth 25% of your final mark, is a 750-word (approximately 3 double spaced typed pages) essay on a topic to be distributed Monday 22 February 2021. You may consult and quote the primary texts, Chaucer's works, themselves, but no reference to secondary sources is required or expected as this is an essay test rather than a research paper. Refer to Chaucer's poetry by line number. No Works Cited page is required. It is due by 4:30 pm Eastern on Friday 26 February 2021. Only submissions to the course D2L page in pdf format will be accepted.

Major Paper

This 2000-word (approximately 8 double spaced typed pages) research essay is worth 30% of your final mark. You must include references to at least TWO (2) peer-reviewed secondary sources (such as journal articles, essay collections, or monographs). The completed essay must be in MLA format. Refer to all poetry by line number and prose by page number. It is due by 4:30 pm Eastern on Friday 26 March. Only Submissions to the course D2L page in .pdf format will be accepted. Write your essay on one of the following topics:

1. Discuss Chaucer's influence on subsequent writers in the fifteenth century.
2. Analyze the authorial voice in Julian of Norwich's *Revelations of Divine Love*.
3. Examine fatalism in William Dunbar's "Timor Mortis."
4. Compare or contrast Henryson's representation of Cresseid with Chaucer's Criseyde.

Take Home Final Exam

This take-home exam, worth 30% of your final mark, is a 1000-word (approximately 4 double spaced typed pages) essay on a topic to be distributed Monday 19 April 2021. You may consult and quote the primary texts themselves, but no reference to secondary sources is required or expected as this is an essay exam rather than a research paper. Refer to poetry by line number and prose by page numbers. No Works Cited page is required. It is due by 4:30 pm Eastern on Friday 23 April 2021 (exam dates subject to change). Only submissions to the course D2L page in .pdf format will be accepted.

Marking Standards

All assignments will be marked in accordance with the English Department Marking Standards[ii].

Collaboration/Plagiarism Rules

Include the section on plagiarism and academic misconduct from the English Department Marking Guidelines. You should also be clear on any specific course rules or policies regarding collaboration on graded academic exercises.

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of someone else's words and/or ideas. Not acknowledging your debt to the ideas of a secondary source, failing to use quotation marks when you are quoting directly, buying essays from essay banks, copying another student's work, or working together on an individual assignment, all constitute plagiarism. Resubmitting material you've submitted to another course is also academic dishonesty. All plagiarized work (in whole or in part) and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean, who is responsible for judging academic misconduct and imposing penalties. The minimum penalty for academic misconduct is a 0 on the assignment in question. It might also be subject to more severe academic penalties. See the Student Code of Conduct[iii].

Course Content

Students with no prior familiarity with the literature of the European Middle Ages and Renaissance are advised that the vast majority of extant poetry, prose, and drama composed in Latin and vernacular languages from 400–1700 CE contains overt Christian content and themes. Middle English literature is no exception. Please note that we will study the texts with Christian content as literary and cultural artifacts rather than as expressions of religious faith, and no prior familiarity with the Christian tradition is expected.

University Policies

- Students in this course are expected to conform to the Student Code of Conduct - Academic Integrity[iv].
- **Accommodations:** Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code[v]. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the course. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS)[vi] and register as early as possible.

This course outline is available online through the English Department homepage[vii] and/or the Desire2Learn or My Courselink[i] site for the course.

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[i] https://mycourselink.lakeheadu.ca/d2l/home
[ii] https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/departments/english/marking-standards
[iii] https://www.lakeheadu.ca/students/student-life/student-conduct
[iv] https://www.lakeheadu.ca/students/student-life/student-conduct/academic-integrity/node/51239
[v] http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rights-code
[vi] https://www.lakeheadu.ca/students/student-life/student-services/accessibility
[vii] https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/departments/english