



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEA238/338
Reading *The Canterbury Tales*
Semester 1 2007
<http://www.utas.edu.au/units/HEA238>

Convenor:	Dr Jenna Mead Room: HUM 545 Phone: 6226 7160 Email: Jenna.Mead@utas.edu.au
Consultation Hours:	Tuesdays 5 pm – 6pm Thursdays 2pm – 3pm
Unit Description:	This unit offers students the opportunity to read closely 5 tales selected from Geoffrey Chaucer's <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> . The unit will be taught using modern and Middle English texts. Students will read the tales with some attention to genre, language, discourses, histories of reading and a variety of critical scholarship. Students will have some experience of the performance of the texts. Some film texts may be used for comparison.
Unit Aims and Objectives:	The aims of this unit are to enable students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• develop the skills of close reading, critical thinking and textual analysis through the close reading of the set texts;• become familiar with key terms and concepts in the study of Middle English literature; and• develop a knowledge of the historical context, generic and linguistic features and interpretation of some Chaucer texts.
Learning Outcomes:	Students taking this unit will: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. build <i>knowledge</i> in the areas described in the Unit Aims and Objectives (above);2. enhance skills in<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) written <i>communication</i>, with special emphasis on writing practice in the form of essays, andb) oral <i>communication</i>, through participation in seminar activities; and3. enhance skills in <i>problem solving</i> through assessment tasks and seminar activities, which develop critical analysis techniques in English.

Required Texts:	Unit Reader <i>The Riverside Chaucer</i> , gen. ed. Larry D Benson (Oxford: OUP, 1988) is optional.
Recommended Texts:	<p><i>Closed Reserve</i> <i>The Riverside Chaucer</i>, gen. ed. Larry D Benson (Oxford: OUP, 1988) Peter Brown ed, <i>A Companion to Chaucer</i> (Oxford: Blackwell, 2000, 2002) Helen Cooper, <i>Oxford Guides to Chaucer. The Canterbury Tales</i>, 2nd edn (Oxford: OUP, 1989, 1996) Norman Davis, et al, <i>A Chaucer Glossary</i> (Oxford: OUP, 1988) [library use only] Steve Ellis ed, <i>An Oxford Guide to Chaucer</i> (Oxford and New York: OUP, 2005) Jill Mann, <i>Chaucer and the Medieval Estates Satire. The Literature of Social Classes and the 'General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales</i> (Cambridge; CUP, 1973) Derek Pearsall, <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> (London and New York: Routledge, 1985, 1993)</p> <p><i>E-texts Primary Texts</i> The Hengwrt Chaucer, ed. Ceredwin Lloyd-Morgan, NLW, 2003 (n.b. CDRom only available in lectures/seminars).</p> <p><i>E-texts Secondary Texts</i> http://artsci.wustl.edu/~chaucer/ http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/ Further secondary literature will be available through e-Reserve.</p> <p><i>Film Texts</i> Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, <i>A Canterbury Tale</i>, 1944 Pier Paolo Pasolini, <i>Il Racconti di Canterbury</i>, 1971 Brian Helgeland, <i>A Knight's Tale</i>, 2001 Andy De Emmony, John MacKay, Mark Munden and Julian Jarrold, <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>, BBC, 2004</p>
When Taught:	<p><u>Lecture</u></p> Tues 10am-10:50am, SB.SocSci 209; recorded through Lectopia and available online. <p><u>Seminar</u></p> 1 x 1.5 hr seminar per week: Tues 11:00-12:30 SocSci313; Thurs 3:10-4:40 SocSci 580 <p>This unit is also supported by webCT through a Vista site which hosts Turnitin and a regular email newsletter.</p>
Assessment:	1 x 2hr examination; 1 x 2500-3000 word essay

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Lecturer
27 Feb	Manuscripts of <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> and introduction to Middle English language	All lectures taken by Dr J Mead
6 Mar	'General Prologue'	
13 Mar	'The Miller's Tale', Optional: Words between the Miller and the Host	
20 Mar	'The Miller's Tale'	
27 Mar	'The Pardoner's Tale', Optional: the Pardoner's 'Prologue'	
3 Apr	'The Pardoner's Tale'	
5 – 11 Apr	EASTER NO LECTURES OR SEMINARS	
17 Apr	The Canon's Yeoman's 'Prologue' and 'Tale'	ESSAY DUE 4:00pm Fri 20 Apr in hardcopy and via Turnitin
24 Apr	The Canon's Yeoman's 'Prologue' and 'Tale'	
1 May	'The Wife of Bath's Tale', Optional: the Wife of Bath's 'Prologue'	
8 May	'The Wife of Bath's Tale'	
15 May	Host to the Shipman and the Prioress; Prioress's 'Prologue' and 'Tale'	
22 May	Host to the Shipman and the Prioress; Prioress's 'Prologue' and 'Tale'	
29 May	'Prologue to Sir Thopas' and 'Sir Thopas' and/or 'Chaucer's Retraction'	
	Study Period: 4-8 June	
	Examination Period: 9-26 June	

Attendance requirements

Regular tutorial attendance is required and an attendance roll will be taken. If you fail to satisfy the attendance requirements and/or complete all assessments you may be deemed ineligible to sit the exam or be required to submit additional work.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment in this unit takes the form of a critical essay 2500-3000 words in length and a formal examination in the examination period. You are strongly advised to attend the weekly seminar which is where most close reading and textual analysis will be done. While there is no formal seminar component in the final result, Learning Outcome 2b is relevant.

ESSAY (2500 – 3000 words)

The essay is due 4:00 pm **Fri 20 April** in hardcopy and via Turnitin.

This assignment is worth 60% of the overall result.

This essay will assess learning outcomes 1, 2a, and 3.

EXAMINATION (2 hrs) will be scheduled in the official examination period. The examination timetable is published on the UTAS website. The examination is worth 40% of the final result.

The examination will assess learning outcomes 1, 2a, and 3.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Submission of Assignments

Students are required to submit a signed cover sheet with every assignment. This includes a declaration that all material submitted is their own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others and that they have read the University statement on Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism) on the University website at www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism or in the Student Information Handbook.

Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a signed cover sheet will not be marked.** Students who submit assignments without a signed cover sheet will be contacted once via their UTAS email address; in such instances the cover sheet must be completed within two weeks of the due date.

All assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email) and placed in the essay box at the School office on or before 5pm on the due date. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments. Assignments submitted on time will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once on time assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted. All marked assignments will be returned in tutorials unless otherwise advised.

Late Assignments

Late submissions will be penalized as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter. Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or a letter from a counsellor in the case of a serious non-medical reason.

Difficulties with your Studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Disability Adviser
- Careers Adviser
- Student Counsellor

University Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

"Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>.

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/>.

The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.

Assignment Presentation

The English discipline uses MLA Style, which is characterized by in-text referencing and a list of works cited. See the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Ed. Joseph Gibaldi (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003). For a brief introduction, refer to http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/mla_citation_syst.doc, MLA Citations System: A Brief Guide.

Marking Scale

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Fail (NN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the essay:

- Effectiveness of introduction
- Relevance and coherence of argument
- Effectiveness of conclusion
- Scope of textual referencing
- Use of critics
- Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading and stylesheet.

IT Support

Learning online—for online learning and Vista support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>
Information Technology Services—for general IT Support (includes link to UTAS download website)
<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>

Library Services—for information literacy support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>
Help Desk (email HelpDesk@utas.edu.au or 6226 1818, within University 1818)