



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEA410
Rereading Chaucer
Semester 1, 2007
<http://www.utas.edu.au/english>

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| 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: | Gives students the opportunity to reread Chaucer's most famous text, <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , through recent critical/theoretical perspectives that draw attention to aspects of gender, power, narrative structure and cultural analysis. Students read the text in both Modern and Middle English. |
| 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 critical scholarship relevant to selected Chaucer texts at a level appropriate to the Honours course. |
| Learning Outcomes: | Honours 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. develop appropriate research skills;3. develop a knowledge of the appropriate critical scholarship';4. 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; andc) <i>problem solving</i> through assessment tasks and |

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| | seminar activities, which develop critical analysis techniques in English. |
| Required Texts: | <i>The Riverside Chaucer</i> , gen. ed. Larry D Benson (Oxford: OUP, 1988) |
| Recommended Texts: | <p><i>Closed Reserve</i> 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> |
| When Taught: | Wed 1.10pm – 4.10pm, SB.SocSci309 (except weeks 3 and 4 Rm SB.Hum565) |
| Assessment: | 5,000-word essay due Monday 28 May |

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

| Date | Topic | Lecturer |
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| 28 Feb | 'General Prologue'; review of Middle English language; introduction to manuscript culture | All seminars given by Dr J Mead |
| 7 Mar | 'The Miller's Prologue' and 'Tale' (Fragment I) | fabliau |
| 14 Mar | 'Introduction to the Man of Law's Tale' and 'The Man of Law's Tale' (Fragment II) | romance/saint's life |
| 21 Mar | 'The Wife of Bath's Prologue' and 'The Wife of Bath's Tale' (Fragment III) | fairy tale/romance |
| 28 Mar | 'The Physician's Tale' (Fragment VI) | exemplum |
| 4 Apr | 'The Introduction to the Pardoner's Tale,' 'The Pardoner's Prologue' and 'The Pardoner's Tale' (Fragment VI) | exemplum |
| 11 Apr | EASTER BREAK – NO SEMINAR | |
| 18 Apr | 'Bihoold the murie wordes of the Hoost to the Shipman and to the lady Prioress,' 'Prologue to the Prioress's Tale,' 'The Prioress's Tale' (Fragment VII) | miracle |
| 25 Apr | ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY | |
| 2 May | 'The Canon's Yeoman's Prologue' and 'The Canon's Yeoman's Tale' (Fragment VIII) | swindle/fraud |
| 9 May | 'Prologue to Sir Thopas,' 'Sir Thopas,' 'The Tale of Melibee' (ll. 967-1065) (Fragment VII); 'Heere taketh the makere of this book his leve' | Parody/tail-rhyme romance/ closure |

Attendance requirements

Regular seminar attendance is strongly advised.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment in this unit takes the form of a 5,000-word essay on a topic of the candidate's devising. You are advised to discuss the development of the topic with the Unit Co-ordinator. Submission dates for essays are treated as examination dates.

The essay will assess learning outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4a.

Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the essay:

- 1. Research skills**
 - Evidence of well-developed information retrieval skills
 - Evidence of familiarity with previous and recent work in the field of inquiry
 - Ability to identify relevant materials
 - Ability to formulate a viable topic
- 2. Clarity and strength of argument**
 - Ability to construct an engaging, persuasive argument
 - Capacity to develop and sustain the argument throughout the essay
 - Ability to present an effective conclusion that draws the long essay together
- 3. Contribution to knowledge**
 - Evidence of independent thinking
 - Contribution to knowledge or understanding of a subject as appropriate to Honours level
- 4. Structure and writing style**
 - Ability to structure the essay in a clear and logical way
 - Ability to write lucidly
 - Accuracy of grammar, punctuation and spelling
- 5. Presentation and observation of scholarly conventions**
 - Quality of layout and general presentation
 - Correctness of referencing techniques

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: 10% of the available marks per day for the first five (5) working days and 50% on the following day. 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).

Honours Marking Scale

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

- First Class (HF)—80-100%
- Third Class (HT)—50-59%
- Second Class upper division (HU)—70-79%
- Fail (HN)—0-49%
- Second Class lower division (HL)—60-69%

All marks are subject to moderation.

Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the essay:

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