

Unit Outline

HEA238/338
Reading The Canterbury Tales
Semester 1, 2008
www.utas.edu.au/english

Convenor:	Dr Jenna Mead Room: HUM 545 Phone: 6226 7160 Email: jenna.mead@utas.edu.au
Consultation Hours:	Monday 12:00pm-2:00pm
Unit Description:	This unit offers students the opportunity to read closely some tales selected from Geoffrey Chaucer's <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> . The unit uses modern and Middle English texts with emphasis on genre and narrative, language and discourse, material histories of reading and a limited range of critical scholarship. Students will experience a range of performances 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, and b) oral <i>communication</i>, through participation in seminar activities; and 3. 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>Closed Reserve <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>E-texts Primary Texts The Hengwrt Chaucer, ed. Ceredwin Lloyd-Morgan, NLW, 2003 (n.b. CDRom only available in lectures/seminars). Bill Bailey, <i>Bill Bailey Live. Cosmic Jam</i>, 2005/06 Baba [Brinkmann], <i>The Rap Canterbury Tales</i>, 2004</p> <p>E-texts Secondary Texts http://artsci.wustl.edu/~chaucer/ http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/ Further secondary reading will be available through e-Reserve.</p> <p>Film Texts 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, 2004/2005</p>
When Taught:	<p>Lecture Mon 11:00-11:50 HUM 548 [Lectures will be recorded and uploaded to MyLo website.]</p> <p>Seminar Wed 9:00-10:50 HUM477A Thurs 10:00-11:50 Soc Sci 322 Thurs 2:10-5:00 Life Sci 256m.LT2 [screening times to be confirmed]</p>
Assessment:	<p>1 x 2500-3000 word essay</p> <p>1 x 2hr examination</p>

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Lecturer
Week 1 25 Feb	Introduction: manuscripts, Middle English and modes of text	All lectures by Dr Jenna Mead
Week 2 3 Mar	'General Prologue'	Seminars begin
Week 3 10 Mar	n.b. Monday 10 March – Public Holiday NO LECTURE BUT SEMINARS WILL BE HELD	Baba Brinkman, <i>The Rap Canterbury Tales</i> , 'General Prologue' (lyrics & cd)
Week 4 17 Mar	The Prologue to the Nun's Priest's tale; 'The Nun's Priest's Tale'; Epilogue to the Nun's Priest's tale	Beast fable — 'The cock and the hen'; Seminar Wed 19 Mar
	Easter Break – Thurs 20 – Wed 26 March	Seminar Thurs 27 Mar
Week 5 31 Mar	The Manciple's 'Prologue'; 'The Manciple's Tale'	Fable — 'The tell-tale bird' Essay questions posted
Week 6 7 Apr	Introduction to the Pardoner's tale; the Pardoner's 'Prologue'; 'The Pardoner's Tale'	Sermon and exemplum
Week 7 14 Apr	Bill Bailey, 'Pubbe Gagge'; Baba Brinkman, 'The Pardoner's Tale'	Stand-up comic; rap/exemplum
Week 8 21 Apr	n.b. Friday 25 April – Anzac Day Public Holiday NO LECTURE OR SEMINARS THIS WEEK	ESSAY DUE 4:00pm Thurs 24 Apr
Week 9 28 Apr	The Wife of Bath's 'Prologue'; 'The Wife of Bath's Tale'	Arthurian legend Screening Thurs 1 May @ 2:10-5:00 Life Sci 256m.LT2
Week 10 5 May	'The Wife of Bath's Tale,' dir. John Mackay [The Canterbury Tales, [video recording (DVD)] (London: BBC Worldwide, c2005)	
Week 11 12 May	'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'	Miracle story
Week 12 19 May	'Introduction' to the Squire's tale; 'The Squire's Tale'; 'Heere folwen the wordes of the Frankeleyn to the Squier and the wordes of the Hoost to the Frankelyn'	Romance
Week 13 26 May	The Parson's 'Prologue'; 'The Parson's Tale' 75-315; 'Heere taketh the makere of this book his leve' [Retraction]	Handbook of penance
	Study Period: 2-6 June	
	Examination Period: 7-24 June	

ASSESSMENT

Assessment in this unit takes the form of a critical essay 2500-3000 words in length and a formal paper in the examination period. You are strongly advised to attend the weekly seminar since this 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 and students will be expected to read the texts beforehand and prepare questions for discussion in seminars.

ESSAY (2500 – 3000 words)

The essay is due 4:00 pm **Thurs 24 April** in hardcopy and via Turnitin; it is worth 60% of the overall result.

The essay will cover texts read in weeks 1-7. The emphasis in the critical essay will be on close reading, supported by secondary reading only where it is relevant.

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

EXAMINATION (2 hrs) will be scheduled in the official examination period; the timetable is published on the UTAS website. The examination is worth 40% of the final result and the paper will focus on texts from weeks 9-13.

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/service/it/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)