

English 142
Chaucer
Professor Stork
Fall 2017
MW 900-1015
Office Hours: M 1030-1130, W 1500-1600 and by appointment
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This course counts as an upper division elective for the English major. It has recently been revamped from 3 units to 4 and covers the major works of Geoffrey Chaucer, the first major English poet. We will read his works in the original and pay particular attention to the grammatical structures of Middle English. Students will be called upon to read the text aloud in Middle English pronunciation and to translate in class. When we get to the Canterbury Tales, please read the description of each pilgrim who appears in the General Prologue for the same class we read the corresponding tale. The Nun's Priest does not appear in the GP.

Suggested Texts (choose just one!):

Baugh, Chaucer's Major Poetry
Fisher, The Complete Poetry and Prose of Geoffrey Chaucer
Benson, The Riverside Chaucer
F. N. Robinson, The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer (2nd edition)
<http://englishcomplit.unc.edu/chaucer/chttexts.htm>

Any of these texts is fine. The Baugh is probably the easiest to use and should be available used at a reasonable price on Amazon or at the SJSU bookstore.

Grading:

2 midterms	40%
word study	20%
critical paper	20%
final reading exam	20%

Schedule of Classes:

Aug 23	Introduction
Aug 28	Book of the Duchess
Aug 30	Book of the Duchess

Sep 4	Labor Day – no class
Sep 6	Troilus and Criseyde, Book One
Sep 11	Troilus and Criseyde, Book Two
Sep 13	T and C, Book Three
Sep 18	T and C, Finish Book Three, Begin Book Four
Sep 20	T and C, Book Four
Sep 25	T and C, Book Five
Sep 27	T and C, Book Five
Oct 2	<u>FIRST MIDTERM - translation</u>
Oct 4	General Prologue, lines 1-100 and 715-858; Knight's Tale, Book One
Oct 9	Knight's Tale, Book Two, Begin Book Three
Oct 11	Knight's Tale, Book Three and Four
Oct 16	Miller's Tale
Oct 18	Reeve's Tale
Oct 23	Man of Law's Tale <u>WORD STUDY DUE</u>
Oct 25	Man of Law's Tale
Oct 30	Wife of Bath's Prologue
Nov 1	Wife of Bath's Tale
Nov 6	<u>SECOND MIDTERM - translation</u>
Nov 8	Clerk's Tale
Nov 13	Clerk's Tale
Nov 15	Pardoner's Tale
Nov 20	Instructor Holiday – no class
Nov 22	Thanksgiving break – no class
Nov 27	Prioress's Tale
Nov 29	Sir Thopas and Melibee (up to "flatereres and wise advocatz lerned in the lawe.")
Dec 4	Monk's Tale (Lucifer, Adam, Hercules, De Julio Cesare), Nun's Priest's Tale
Dec 6	Nun's Priest's Tale
Dec 11	Chaucer's Retraction <u>CRITICAL PAPER DUE</u>

Final Exam: December 18, 715-930 AM. The final consists of passages drawn from Chaucer for you to recognize and identify briefly. If you have done the reading for the course, you will be well prepared.