

## B.EP.301 Aufbaumodul 2: Chaucer

<b>Term:</b>	Summer 13/14	<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr P.S. Langeslag
<b>Time:</b>	Wed 10–12	<b>Office:</b>	SEP 2.306
<b>Room:</b>	MZG 1940	<b>Phone:</b>	0551/3919706
<b>Credits:</b>	3/6	<b>Office hours:</b>	Wed 2–3
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Aufbaumodul 1	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:planges@gwdg.de">planges@gwdg.de</a>

### Course Description

Chaucer's literary output is rightfully regarded as a high point of Middle English literature. Like most works of art, however, his writings can be fully appreciated only when viewed in the wider cultural context from which they emerged. In this course, we will study a balanced selection of Chaucer's works as a microcosm of the literary and cultural landscape of the fourteenth century. Reading selections from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, dream visions, Boethius translation, and *Troilus and Criseyde*, we will also investigate the international character of late medieval learned culture, thereby gaining an appreciation of the cultural context of Chaucer's writings.

In-class activity will consist of discussion and short lectures. At home, students are expected to read at average 750 lines of verse and (part of) one scholarly article per week, as well as write regular short response assignments.

**Please note: this course requires extensive weekly reading in Middle English!**

### Aims

Students will improve their knowledge of and skills in

- Middle English reading comprehension;
- literary analysis; and
- medieval culture.

### Assessment

Assessment will be in the form of a written exam (90 minutes) consisting of close readings and open questions on both narrative content and cultural context. You will also be required to write regular short assignments. These and your in-class performance will go unmarked, but both will inform rounding practice as well as my flexibility with regards to any special requests.

### Required Texts and Resources

Texts for this course will be made available on StudIP. If you like, however, you could pick up a copy of the primary texts:

Benson, Larry D., ed. *The Riverside Chaucer*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987.

Handouts, lecture slides, and lists of key concepts will be made available at [studium.langeslag.org/chaucer13](http://studium.langeslag.org/chaucer13), so bookmark this site right away. You will also be expected to follow @LeVostreGC and @ChaucerGoe on Twitter throughout the term.

## Schedule

wk	date	topic	reading
1	23 Apr	Chaucer	
2	30 Apr	NO CLASS!	Rossignol, "Geoffrey Chaucer"; and READ AHEAD ↓
3	7 May	<i>The Canterbury Tales</i>	<i>General Prologue</i> (858 lines); pp. 179–86 of Ferster, "Genre"
4	14 May	The Fabliau	<i>The Miller's Prologue and Tale</i> (746 lines); pp. 255–8 of Nelson and Thomson, "The Fabliau"
5	21 May	Universities	<i>The Reeve's Prologue and Tale</i> (470 lines); Hanna, "Literacy, Schooling, Universities"
6	28 May	Fortune	<i>Boece Book V, prosae &amp; metra 1–2</i> (184 lines); <i>The Monk's Prologue and Tale</i> (776 lines); Utz, "Philosophy"
7	4 June	READING WEEK	NO CLASS; READ AHEAD ↓
8	11 June	Dreams & Visions	<i>The Nun's Priest's Prologue, Tale, and Epilogue</i> (696 lines); Kruger, "Dreaming"; pp. 69–79 of Gastle, "The Beast Fable"
9	18 June	Debates & Rhetoric	<i>The Parliament of Fowls</i> (699 lines); pp. 118–22 of Lambdin and Lambdin, "Debate Poetry"
10	25 June	Troy	<i>Troilus and Criseyde</i> ; pp. ix–xvi of Federico, "Troy and the Later Middle Ages"
11	2 July	Romance	<i>Troilus and Criseyde</i> ; Chism, "Romance"
12	9 July		<i>Troilus and Criseyde</i>
13	16 July		<i>Troilus and Criseyde</i>
14	23 July	Wrap-up/film	<i>Retraction</i>
15	30 July	EXAM: KWZ 0.606 @ 10:15–11:45	

## References and Further Reading

- Boitani, Piero. "Old Books Brought to Life in Dreams: The *Book of the Duchess*, the *House of Fame*, the *Parliament of Fowls*." In *The Cambridge Companion to Chaucer*, 2nd ed., edited by Piero Boitani and Jill Mann, 58–77. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Boitani, Piero, and Jill Mann, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Chaucer*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Brown, Peter, ed. *A Companion to Medieval English Literature and Culture c. 1350–c. 1500*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007.
- Burrow, J.A. "The *Canterbury Tales* I: Romance." In *The Cambridge Companion to Chaucer*, 2nd ed., edited by Piero Boitani and Jill Mann, 143–159. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Butterfield, Ardis. "Lyric." In *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval English Literature 1100–1500*, edited by Larry Scanlon, 95–109. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Cartlidge, Neil. "Marriage, Sexuality and the Family." In *A Concise Companion to Chaucer*, edited by Corinne Saunders, 218–240. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2006.
- Chism, Christine. "Romance." In *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval English Literature 1100–1500*, edited by Larry Scanlon, 57–69. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Eleazar, Ed. "Visions of the Afterlife." In *A Companion to Old and Middle English Literature*, edited by Laura Cooner Lambdin and Robert Thomas Lambdin, 376–397. Westport, CT, and London: Greenwood, 2002.
- Ellis, Steve, ed. *Chaucer: An Oxford Guide*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

- Federico, Sylvia. "Troy and the Later Middle Ages." In *New Troy: Fantasies of Empire in the Late Middle Ages*, ix–xxiv. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2003.
- Ferster, Judith. "Genre in and of the *Canterbury Tales*." In *A Concise Companion to Chaucer*, edited by Corinne Saunders, 179–198. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2006.
- Fuller, David. "Reading Chaucer Aloud." In *A Concise Companion to Chaucer*, edited by Corinne Saunders, 263–84. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2006.
- Gastle, Brian. "The Beast Fable." In *A Companion to Old and Middle English Literature*, edited by Laura Cooner Lambdin and Robert Thomas Lambdin, 69–85. Westport, CT, and London: Greenwood, 2002.
- Hahn, Thomas, and Dana M. Symons. "Middle English Romance." In *A Companion to Medieval English Literature and Culture c. 1350–c. 1500*, edited by Peter Brown, 341–357. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007.
- Hanna, Ralph. "Literacy, Schooling, Universities." In *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval English Culture*, edited by Andrew Galloway, 172–94. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- Kruger, Steven F. "Dialogue, Debate, and Dream Vision." In *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval English Literature 1100–1500*, edited by Larry Scanlon, 71–82. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- . "Dreaming." In *A Concise Companion to Chaucer*, edited by Corinne Saunders, 71–89. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2006.
- Lambdin, Laura Cooner, and Robert Thomas Lambdin, eds. *A Companion to Old and Middle English Literature*. Westport, CT, and London: Greenwood, 2002.
- Lambdin, Robert Thomas, and Laura Cooner Lambdin. "Debate Poetry." In *A Companion to Old and Middle English Literature*, edited by Laura Cooner Lambdin and Robert Thomas Lambdin, 118–53. Westport, CT, and London: Greenwood, 2002.
- Lynch, Andrew. "Love in Wartime: *Troilus and Criseyde* as Trojan History." In *A Concise Companion to Chaucer*, edited by Corinne Saunders, 113–133. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2006.
- Nelson, Marie, and Richard Thomson. "The Fabliau." In *A Companion to Old and Middle English Literature*, edited by Laura Cooner Lambdin and Robert Thomas Lambdin, 255–76. Westport, CT, and London: Greenwood, 2002.
- Pearsall, Derek. "The *Canterbury Tales* II: Comedy." In *The Cambridge Companion to Chaucer*, 2nd ed., edited by Piero Boitani and Jill Mann, 160–177. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Phillips, Helen. "Dream Poems." In *A Companion to Medieval English Literature and Culture c. 1350–c. 1500*, edited by Peter Brown, 374–386. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007.
- Rosignol, Rosalyn. *Critical Companion to Chaucer: A Literary Reference to His Life and Work*. New York: Facts on File, 2006.
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- Spearing, A.C. "The *Canterbury Tales* IV: Exemplum and Fable." In *The Cambridge Companion to Chaucer*, 2nd ed., edited by Piero Boitani and Jill Mann, 195–213. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Utz, Richard. "Philosophy." In *Chaucer: An Oxford Guide*, edited by Steve Ellis, 158–73. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.