

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

ENGL 4203 Chaucer

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 2113 Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies

Prerequisite or corequisite: RHET 3203 Textual Research Methods

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A reading-intensive course meant to introduce the student to the major works of Chaucer, as well as to a selection of critical theory and studies of the works. Readings of Chaucer will be from the Middle English text, and students will be required to become fluent in the language.

B. Additional Information – None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Read Middle English with skill and fluency.
2. Investigate Chaucer's main motifs and literary concerns.
3. Weigh the historical influences of the 14th century on Chaucer's work.
4. Perform an exegesis of Chaucer's major works, including the more well-known of *The Canterbury Tales*.
5. Assemble projects, applying at least two forms of critical literary theory to Chaucer's work.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULOs)

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will use critical thinking skills to identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of

texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Background
 - 1. The 14th Century
 - 2. Previous Literature
 - 3. What is English in 1380?
- B. *Troilus and Criseyde*
- C. *The Canterbury Tales*
- D. Presentations