

Course Description Form

Course number and section: Engl. 428-001
Course Topic: Chaucer's Canterbury Tales
Credits: 3

Term: 1

Instructor: Martin Blum

Course Description

This course examines the diverse themes, genres, and voices of Chaucer's unfinished Canterbury Tales. Chaucer's Tales allow its readers a unique glimpse into the society and culture of late medieval England, and the negotiation of its values, issues, and anxieties. A brief introduction to Middle English - the language of Chaucer - allows us to read the original medieval text with the help of a detailed glossary. Particular emphasis will be on Chaucer's development of the narrative voice of both, himself, and that of his individual narrator-characters, in order to discover the diverse themes, genres, and perspectives in his Tales. The format of this course will be based on lectures and discussions. Individual background topics that will be explored in seminar presentations.

Tentative Reading List:

Geoffrey Chaucer. The Canterbury Tales. Eds. Robert Boening and Andrew Taylor. Peterborough, ON.: Broadview, 2012.

Please note: In order to be cost effective, the Broadview edition of the complete Canterbury Tales has been selected for this course. Only this edition is acceptable for use in this class.