

# STUDIES IN CHAUCER

(*The Canterbury Tales*)

English 485

Adams  
Evans 110  
Hours: 11-1 MW or by appt.  
294-1419  
eng\_ira@shsu.edu

Recommended Text: *The Riverside Chaucer*, ed. Larry Benson

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Week	Tuesday	Thursday
1		Intro. to Course
2	Chaucer's Times	Chaucer's Life
3	Intro. to <i>Canterbury Tales</i>	<i>General Prologue</i>
4	<i>General Prologue</i>	<i>The Knight's Tale</i>
5	<i>The Knight's Tale</i>	<i>The Miller's Tale</i>
6	<i>The Miller's Tale</i>	<i>The Reeve's Tale</i>
7	<i>The Man of Law's Tale</i>	<i>The Prioress' Tale</i>
8	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b> (Oct 9th)	<i>The Monk's Tale</i>
9	<i>The Nun's Priest's Tale</i>	<i>The Nun's Priest's Tale</i>
10	<i>The Wife of Bath's Prologue</i>	<i>The Wife of Bath's Tale</i>
11	<i>The Friar's Tale</i>	<i>The Summoner's Tale</i>
12	<i>The Clerk's Tale</i>	<i>The Merchant's Tale</i>
13	<i>The Franklin's Tale</i>	<i>The Physician's Tale</i>
14	<i>The Pardoner's Prologue</i>	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>
15	<i>The Pardoner's Tale</i>	<i>The Parson's Tale</i>
16	<i>The Retraction</i>	<b>REVIEW</b>

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**Attendance:** Not mandatory. You may be absent as you see fit, with the exception of test days.

**Tardiness:** Quiet, unobtrusive lateness is never penalized; take a seat near the back of the room.

**Grades:** There will be a mid-term and a final. Both are primarily objective tests and emphasize reading and translation skills for Middle English. A term paper is *optional* for all except graduate students, *who must submit one*. The term paper must be a sociological and historical analysis of one of the medieval vocations or statuses represented by the Canterbury pilgrims (e.g., medieval lawyers; medieval women; medieval friars; parish priests; merchants; etc.). If you do a term paper, it will count **40%** of your final grade, and each of the tests will count **30%**. If you do not do a term paper, each test will count **50%** of your final grade.

**Makeups:** Any missed midterm can be made up (assuming you have a valid health or personal reason for missing) during the 15th or 16th week of classes. Make arrangements with me for a convenient time.

**Grading scale:** A = 100-92    B = 91-83    C = 82-70    D = 69-60    F = 59-0

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

The central purpose of this course is to introduce the study of Middle English (ca. 1100-1500) through the works of the most important author of the period, Geoffrey Chaucer. The text customarily deployed for this purpose is *The Canterbury Tales*. As you learn to deal with the various aspects of this text --historical, social, and intellectual-- the primary emphasis will be on developing accurate reading and translation skills.

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**Random SHSU-mandated information :** Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911(a)(2) defines religious holy days as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. *Americans With Disabilities Act:* SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. Please contact the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling 294-1720. A course evaluation form will be offered near the end of the semester. Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. If anyone creates a serious disturbance in the classroom and refuses to leave, I will have that person removed by force. *For the policy regarding academic dishonesty, check the following link:* <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Course Title: Chaucer; 3 credit hrs. Prerequisite: 15 English hrs. Fall '07 Location: Ev 356 (unless I change the room) Class Meeting Times: 12.30 T/Th