

Chaucer Section 80

ENGL 142

Spring 2025 Fully Online 4 Unit(s) 01/23/2025 to 05/12/2025 Modified 01/23/2025

Course Information

Course Description and Requisites

Chaucer's language and major poetic works. The Legend of Good Women, The Canterbury Tales and Troilus and Cressida.

Prerequisite: Upper division standing.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

Students may not use AI for their research. Lively discussion is encouraged.

Program Information

The following statement has been adopted by the Department of English for inclusion in all syllabi: In English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System").

Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance:

- A = excellent;
- B = above average;
- C = average;
- D = below average;
- F = failure.

Within any of the letter grade ranges (e.g. B+/B/B-), the assignment of a +(plus) or -(minus) grade will reflect stronger (+) or weaker (-) completion of the goals of the assignment.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon successful completion of an undergraduate degree program in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, students will be able to:

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric.
2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature.
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject.
4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.
5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts, including structures of power.

Department Information:

Department Name: English and Comparative Literature

Department Office: FO 102

Department Website: www.sjsu.edu/english (<https://www.sjsu.edu/english>)

Department email: english@sjsu.edu (<mailto:english@sjsu.edu>)

Department phone number: 408-924-4425

Course Goals

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

1. *Read Middle English aloud*
2. *Translate Middle English to Modern English*
3. *Analyze the literary significance of Chaucer's work and understand its history*

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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

1. *Read Middle English aloud*
2. *Translate Middle English to Modern English*
3. *Analyze the literary significance of Chaucer's work and understand its history*

Course Materials

Textbook

We will use the online Chaucer websites at University of Michigan and Harvard University.

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/cme/CT/1:1.2?rgn=div2;view=fulltext>

<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/text-and-translations>

If you want to buy an actual book, the following texts are fine:

Riverside Chaucer, Larry Benson, ed.

Chaucer's Major Works, Baugh, ed.

Complete Prose and Poetry of Geoffrey Chaucer, Fisher, ed.

Chaucer's Complete Works, Robinson, ed.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

Recitation or reading of 20-30 lines of Middle English	20%
Midterm Exam (translation)	20%
Word Study	30%
Final Exam (including a prepared essay)	30%

"Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities."

Grading Information (Required)

Oral presentations will be graded for accuracy of Middle English pronunciation.

Translations will be graded for technical accuracy.

Word Study will be graded for use of appropriate historical and linguistic resources as well as prose style and clarity.

Final Exam will be graded for intellectual content, reading comprehension, prose style and effectiveness of literary analysis.

University Policies (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> Make sure to review these university policies and resources with students.

✓ Grading Information

Grading Information (Required)

Oral presentations will be graded for accuracy of Middle English pronunciation.

Translations will be graded for technical accuracy.

Word Study will be graded for use of appropriate historical and linguistic resources as well as prose style and clarity.

Final Exam will be graded for intellectual content, reading comprehension, prose style and effectiveness of literary analysis.

University Policies (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> Make sure to review these university policies and resources with students.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance,

counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Week		Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
<i>(Optional)</i>	Date	<i>(If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
1	Jan 23	Introduction to Chaucer's language
1	Jan 28	Book of the Duchess, lines 1-415
2	Jan 30	Personal Day, No class meeting
2	Feb 4	Book of the Duchess, lines 416-847
3	Feb 6	Book of the Duchess, lines 848-end
3	Feb 11	Parliament of Fowles, lines 1-350
4	Feb 13	Parliament of Fowles, lines 351-end
4	Feb 18	General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales, lines 1-100, 715-858 Begin Knight's Tale, Book One
5	Feb 20	Knight's Tale, Books Two and Three
5	Feb 25	Knight's Tale, Book Four

Week <i>(Optional)</i>	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
6	Feb 27	READ OR RECITE A MIDDLE ENGLISH PASSAGE
6	Mar 4	Miller's Tale
7	Mar 6	Prioress' Tale
7	Mar 11	Monk (Lucifer, Adam) Nun's Priest's Tale
8	Mar 13	Finish Nun's Priest Tale
8	Mar 18	Clerk's Tale
9	Mar 20	Clerk's Tale
9	Mar 25	Review
10	Mar 27	MIDTERM EXAM
10	Apr 1	Spring Break
11	Apr 3	Spring Break
11	Apr 8	Wife of Bath's Prologue
12	Apr 10	Wife of Bath's Tale

Week <i>(Optional)</i>	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines <i>(If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
12	Apr 15	Wife of Bath's Tale
13	Apr 17	Franklin's Tale
13	Apr 22	Franklin's Tale
14	Apr 24	Workshop on Word Study
14	Apr 29	Word Study DUE
15	May 1	Pardoner's Tale
15	May 6	Pardoner's Tale
16	May 8	Chaucer's Retraction and Review
Final Exam		Tuesday, May 20, 830-1030 AM Final Exam