

CHAUCER and the LATE MEDIEVAL PERIOD, EN401 60
Chaminade University
Instructor: Dan Furst

WE '00
Pm
Winter 2000
Mon. 4:45 - 8:55pm
Pearl Harbor

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Textbooks: Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, edited and translated by Ron Ecker and Gene Crook. Palatka, Florida; Hodge and Braddock, 1993

The Pearl Poet, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight and other Works*, edited and translated by J. R. R. Tolkien. New York, Ballantine Books, 1975.

General Course Requirements:

Attendance is required at all classes. Students are expected to read all assigned materials and be prepared to discuss them, orally and in writing.

There will be a MidTerm Exam in the sixth class, and a Final Exam in the last. Exams will be cumulative: that is, the Final Exam will consist mainly of material covered in weeks 7 to 9, but will also cover material from weeks 1 - 5.

Each student will also deliver an oral report on a topic relevant to the class, either from a topic in the Syllabus or on a subject chosen by the student with instructor's approval.

The two Exams and the oral report each count for 30% of the student's grade. Class participation counts for 10%.

Grading: The final grade will be one of the following:

- A Outstanding teamwork, creativity and initiative
- B Superior work done in a consistent and intelligent manner
- C Average grade, representing a basic grasp of the subject and adequate effort
- D Work of below-average quality, but still passing
- F Failure to grasp the minimum of the subject material, OR failure to withdraw officially from the course
- W Official withdrawal from the course
- I Incomplete. This grade means that the student has been unable, for a valid reason, to complete the course work on the assigned schedule. If the student wishes to complete the course and receive another grade, he or she must sign a contract with the instructor, specifying the completion requirements and deadlines.

COURSE SYLLABUS

- 1/10 Course Requirements review. Introduction to Medieval Europe and Middle English Literature
- 1/24 **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight**
 Reports: The Code of Chivalry (Leanna Chuw)
 The Green Man (Reychelle Ayau)
 Introduction to **Canterbury Tales'** General Prologue
- 1/31 **The General Prologue**
 Report: The Life of Chaucer (Melanie Royer)
 Introduction to **The Knight's Tale**
- 2/7 **The Knight's Tale**
 Reports: The Crusades of the 14th Century (Jenny Hay)
 How did the 14th Century Understand Time?
- 2/14 **The Merchant's Tale**
 Report: The Feudal Economy
The Miller's Tale
 Report: Boccaccio and the French fabliau (Richard Deboard)
- 2/28 **MidTerm Exam**
- 3/6 **The Prioress's Tale**
 Report: The Position of Women in Chaucer's England
The Wife of Bath's Tale
 Report: Sex and Courtly Love in the Middle Ages (Mark Hendricks)
- 3/13 **The Nun's Priest's Tale**
 Report: The Power of the Church, 1200 – 1400 (Barry Salas)
The Pardoner's Tale
 Report: Salvation for Sale: the Corruption of the Church (Melissa Bettag)
- 3/20 **The Reeve's Tale**
 Report:
The Tale of Sir Thopas (Chaucer's Tale)
 Report:
- 3/22 **Final Exam**

ORAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS:

You must select no later than Jan. 24 one of the report topics listed in the Syllabus, or another topic that you have chosen with the instructor's approval. Reports will be scheduled so that two or more will be given in each class, except for Exam days.

Your oral report should run 10 – 15 minutes. You are free to use audio, video and overhead projector equipment if you want to include music and visual images in your presentation. Video and overhead projector must be reserved through the Chaminade office at Pearl Harbor. The Education Center does not have audio equipment; you will have to bring or borrow it from outside.

A written summary of your report, about 1,000 words in length, is due a week after you have given your report and the class discusses it. This gives you a chance to revise the report in response to class feedback and your own new insights. You must give your oral report and hand in your written report on the days you have chosen, unless special circumstances make this impossible for you.

If you can't deliver your report on the scheduled day, you are responsible for alerting me on or before the due date, so that I can change the class plan in time.

COMMUNICATIONS:

If you have questions, need help or must change plans, please call or e-mail me:

Telephone: 263 - 4674
Pager: 363 - 4003
e-mail: hermes3@lava.net