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English 3801
Course Syllabus
Spring 1999
Shonk

3801-002



- Jan. 11 Intro. to course/ Backgrounds
- 13 Backgrounds (cont.); sounds of Middle English
- 15 General Prologue
- 18 King's Birthday--No Classes
- 20 General Prologue (cont.)
- 22 Miller's Tale
- 25 Reeve's Tale
- 27 Wife of Bath's Prologue
- 29 Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale
- Feb. 1 Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale
- 3 Friar's Tale
- 5 Summoner's Tale
- 8 Clerk's Tale
- 10 Clerk's Tale
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday--No Classes
- 15 Merchant's Tale
- 17 Merchant's Tale
- 19 Franklin's Tale
- 22 Pardoner's Tale
- 24 Pardoner's Tale
- 26 Nun's Priest's Tale
- Mar. 1 Nun's Priest's Tale

PAPER DUE

	3	Prioress' Tale	
	5	Parson's Tale and Retraction	
	8	<u>MIDTERM EXAM</u>	
	10	Book of the Duchess	
	12	Book of the Duchess	
	15-19	Spring Break--No Classes	
	22	Parliament of Fowls	
	24	Parliament of Fowls	
	26	House of Fame--Book I	
	29	House of Fame--Book II	
	31	House of Fame--Book III	
Apr.	2	Boece: 816-18, 826-31, 835-37, 845-49	
	5	Boece: 856-59, 880-85, 886-96, 899-903	
	7	Troilus and Criseyde--Book I	
	9	Troilus and Criseyde--Book I	
	12	Troilus and Criseyde--Book II	
	14	Troilus and Criseyde--Book II	
	16	Troilus and Criseyde--Book II	
	19	Troilus and Criseyde--Book III	
	21	Troilus and Criseyde--Book III	
	23	Troilus and Criseyde--Book IV	
	26	Troilus and Criseyde--Book IV	
	28	Troilus and Criseyde--Book V	<u>PAPER II DUE</u>
	30	Troilus and Criseyde--Book V	<u>FINAL EXAM--TBA</u>

English 3801
Policies and Procedures
Spring 1999
Shonk

Dr. Timothy A. Shonk
Office: 339B Coleman Hall

Phone: 581-6310
Hours: MW 2-3, WF 9-11
R 1-3

Course Objectives. The primary objective of the course is to give you a sound reading knowledge of fourteenth-century English and an understanding of the major works of Geoffrey Chaucer. To this end, we will be reading Chaucer's texts in Middle English and discussing important philosophical, religious, and political ideas and events behind them. Papers require you to demonstrate your ability to read Middle English and to set forth in clear prose your insights into Chaucer's works and your understanding of his major themes. Exams are designed to allow you to set forth your understanding of the works, your familiarity of the issues and themes raised in class discussions, and your ability to synthesize ideas. To demonstrate your understanding of the sounds and syntax of Middle English, you are required to come to my office anytime during the semester to read aloud 20-25 lines from any Chaucer piece you choose.

Text. The Complete Poetry and prose of Geoffrey Chaucer, ed. John H. Fisher

Course Requirements and Grading Summary:

Midterm Exam	15%
Paper I (6-8 pages)	15%
Paper II (10-12 pages)	25%
Final Exam	20%
Quizzes	15%
Reading	5%
Attendance/participation	5%

Quizzes. During the semester you will take a number of brief (10 points) quizzes over the reading assignments. The quizzes focus upon the basic elements of plot, theme, and character. They are intended to keep you reading Middle English daily to improve your fluency and to reward you for doing so. At semester's end, I will drop two (probably) scores and assign a letter grade to the total of all quizzes.

Attendance/Participation. Success in this category does not demand that you answer every question at every opportunity. Rather, you need merely to be familiar with the reading for a given day, respond intelligently when called upon, and, especially, ask good questions about the material.

Papers. Both paper assignments ask that you present an *argument* of some sorts, not merely a summation of plot or of the instances in which something appears. Rather, you should try to persuade your reader that your thesis is true and you should make efforts to explain what is significant about your thesis and evidence. While I prefer that students invent their own paper topics, some time before the papers' due dates, I will give more specific information about the individual assignments and present a number of sample topics. In grading your essays, I look for a precise thesis, arguments well supported from evidence from the text, analysis of the evidence you provide, clear logic, and clear, error-free prose.

Exams. The examinations are standard in their form: an objective section (e.g. identification of key characters, symbols, passages, terms, background information, etc.) and an essay section. Both sections will carry approximately the same weight.

Reading. You will select 20-25 lines from any Chaucer piece you wish and come to my office *no later than April 26* to read those lines aloud to me for a grade which comprises 5% of your course grade. At any time during the term, you may come by my office to practice reading the lines you have selected (i.e. reading not for a grade at that time but for a critique of your reading and some advice about the sounds). The practice reading, of course, is not required.