

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 3315E (001)

Disenchanted Chaucer: Authority and Literature in Medieval England

Fall-Winter 2024-25

Instructor: Dr. Anne Schuurman
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UC 3428

Antirequisites: The former English 3116E.

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

Plague, famine, and rebellion marked the 1300s in England. In this time of crisis, many people questioned the authority of the institutions, church and crown, that governed daily life and the social order. What is an author? What gives a king the right to rule? Where does law come from and why should we obey it? This course will explore the idea of authority and the many ways in which authority was criticized, challenged, and subverted in the writings of Geoffrey Chaucer and his contemporaries, in a wide range of genres, including romance, dream vision, drama, and satire.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Read and pronounce Middle English with sufficient competency that they can examine the content, themes, rhetoric, and prosody of Middle English literature;
- Describe and explain the literary and aesthetic expectations of a variety of medieval genres, including (but not limited to) lyric, romance, fabliaux, hagiography, and dream vision;
- Construct and present in writing a complex argument about one or more Middle English texts which demonstrates mastery of the points above, and is firmly placed within existing theoretical and critical debates about the literature.

Course Materials

The following books are required in **hard copy** and in the editions listed. You will be required to bring the relevant text to every class. The final exam in the course will be **open-book** but you will be permitted to bring in **only** these required books in hard copy, with any notes you have made in the margins. All required textbooks are available at Western's Bookstore.

Chaucer, Geoffrey. *The Canterbury Tales*, 2nd ed. Robert Boenig and Andrew Taylor, ed. Peterborough, ON: Broadview.

Chaucer, Geoffrey. *Dream Visions and Other Poems*. Kathryn Lynch, ed. New York: Norton.

Early English Drama: An Anthology. John Coldewey, ed. New York: Garland/Routledge.

Malory, Thomas. *The Morte Darthur*. Helen Cooper, ed. London and Oxford: Oxford UP.

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Recitation*	3%
Reading Responses (6 x 3%)*	18%
Analytical Essay*	17%
Research Essay*	27%
Final Exam	25%

*Assignments marked with an asterisk have flexible deadlines and are **not** eligible for additional academic consideration.

All assignment instructions, guidelines, and due dates will be available on our course Brightspace site.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Policy on late submissions

Work submitted late will be docked 2% per day late (including weekends).

Policy on digital devices

Cellphones are not permitted in class. Laptops are not permitted unless it is your turn to serve as the designated note-taker. The reason for this policy is that screens and internet access detract both from the communal, social environment of the classroom and from your own learning experience. You will learn more and retain more of what you have learned if you work with your textbooks in class and write down notes by hand, or listen actively and rely on the note-taker's notes. We will all communicate better with each other if we do not have screens in front of our faces.

Please note that this policy extends to students with approved accommodations. Because our class will always have at least one designated note-taker using a laptop, students with accommodations will not require their own laptops and will not be permitted to use them except when it is their turn to serve as designated note-taker.

Statements

Academic Consideration

Students may request academic consideration in cases of extenuating circumstances – that is, personal circumstances beyond the student's control that have a **substantial but temporary** impact on the student's ability to meet essential academic requirements.

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of the student's Faculty of Registration.

2. Requests for academic consideration include the following components:
 - a. Self-attestation signed by the student;
 - b. Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) relevant to the request;
 - c. Supporting documentation as relevant.

Requests without supporting documentation are **limited to one per term per course**.

Instructors may designate one assignment or assessment as exempt from this allowance. In this course, since all assignments other than the Final Exam have flexible deadlines, there is no assessment designated as exempt.

Assignments with flexible deadlines and any term work that does not count towards the course grade are **not** eligible for additional consideration. **Please note that ALL of the assignments in this course, with the exception of Attendance/Participation and the Final Exam, have flexible deadlines.

Documentation for medical illness, when required, includes the completion of a [Western Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation, by a health care practitioner.

Requests linked to examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods as well as practice laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled in the last week of term **always** require formal supporting documentation.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like

OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support & Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) is **not permitted** in this course. The course objectives include the development of advanced reading and writing skills, such that, upon successful completion of the course, students are able to read, comprehend, and write about a range of texts written in historical dialects of the English language, as well as reading, comprehending, and making use of scholarly writing on these texts. These objectives would be undermined by the use of generative AI at any stage of the writing process. Note: for the purposes of this course, grammar-checking software or writing aids such as Grammarly, ClickUp, Wordtune, and ProWritingAid are also prohibited.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism includes the use of ChatGPT or other kinds of generative AI.

Plagiarism Checking

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Schedule of Class and Assignments

TBD