

**VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
SCHOOL OF ENGLISH, FILM, THEATRE, AND MEDIA STUDIES**

ENGL 307/407 TROY AND TROILUS 2008 (2/3)

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Teaching staff

Professor Robert Easting Robert.Easting@vuw.ac.nz 463-6803 VZ 901

Class times and rooms

Tuesday 10-12, Thursday 11-12 VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED: CHECK BLACKBOARD BEFORE THE FIRST MEETING.

The classes will be taught principally as a seminar. The success of the course will depend on your being well prepared and willing to contribute fully to discussion: ‘talking about literature is a part of what literature is about, and talking about it with passion, precision and out of a rich store of reading is a rare and precious gift’ (Gabriel Josipovici).

Additional information

Notices relating to the courses will be posted on Blackboard.

COURSE CONTENT & OBJECTIVES

ENGL 307 is designed for inclusion in both the English Language and the English Literature majors; it is co-taught with ENGL 407.

These courses entail a close study of what has been called ‘the greatest narrative poem in English’, Chaucer’s romantic tragedy *Troilus and Criseyde*, the story of two of the most famous lovers in the Western tradition. The poem will be read in the context of other stories of Troy and Troilus that influenced Chaucer, or were influenced by him, particularly Shakespeare’s play on the same subject. Chaucer’s principal source, the Italian author Boccaccio’s *Il Filostrato*, is read in translation.

In addition to the texts read by students in ENGL 307, students in ENGL 407 will read extracts from Homer (in Chapman’s and Pope’s translations) and from Virgil (in Dryden’s translation), from other texts before and after Chaucer (e.g. Dares and Dictys, Guido, Benoit, Lydgate’s ‘Troy Book’, and Caxton), and Dryden’s *Truth Found Too Late*, his reworking of Shakespeare’s play.

By the end of the course, students in ENGL 307 will have made a detailed study of two substantial and complex texts by major authors, Chaucer and Shakespeare, and have studied them in the context of Chaucer’s and Shakespeare’s other principal sources, Boccaccio and Henryson, respectively. In addition, students in ENGL 407 will have studied a wider range of related accounts of Troy and Troilus from Homer to the seventeenth century.

Assessment tasks offer students the opportunity to demonstrate the quality of their reading of these texts.

Set texts

ENGL 307

Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde with facing-page Il Filostrato*, ed. Stephen A. Barney (New

York & London: Norton, 2006). ISBN 0-393-92755-5

This new edition contains Chaucer's poem, Boccaccio's Italian poem in English prose translation, and Robert Henryson's poem *The Testament of Cresseid*; all three are studied in the course.

Shakespeare, *Troilus and Cressida*, ed. Kenneth Muir (Oxford World's Classics)

These two set editions are available from the university bookshop.

ENGL 407

As for ENGL 307, plus excerpts from other authors as outlined above. These excerpts will be distributed in class.

ASSESSMENT

ENGL 307

In-term: two assignments, an overnight commentary on Chaucer/Boccaccio (20%) and an essay on Chaucer (3000 words and 40%). The commentary is designed to take no longer than two hours or so; it will be handed out in class on Thursday 14 August, and your answer is due by noon the following day, Friday 15 August. The Chaucer essay is due on Friday 19 September.

Final examination: a three-hour examination, comprising an essay on Henryson; a commentary on Chaucer/Shakespeare; and an essay on Shakespeare. Editions of set texts allowed: 40%.

ENGL 407

In-term: three assignments, an overnight commentary on Chaucer/Boccaccio (10%); an essay on the additional texts (1500 words and 20%); and an essay on Chaucer (2500 words and 30%). The commentary is designed to take no longer than two hours or so; it will be handed out in class on Thursday 14 August, and your answer is due by noon the following day, Friday 15 August. The essay on additional texts is due Friday 5 September. The essay on Chaucer is due Friday 19 September.

Final examination: a three-hour examination, comprising an essay on Henryson; a commentary on Shakespeare/Dryden; and an essay on Shakespeare. Editions of set texts allowed: 40%.

Written work should be posted in the appropriate slot at the English Office on the 8th floor of Von Zedlitz.

The essays and examination will give students the opportunity to explore the set texts further and to demonstrate their capacity to read and understand them well.

Extensions, penalties, deadlines

(i) Extensions

If you need an extension beyond the due date for any piece of work, you should apply to me in writing at least 24 hours before the date. Work submitted when an extension has been granted will be graded in the normal way.

(ii) Penalties for late work without extensions

Work submitted late without an extension will be counted, as long as it is received **within two weeks** of the due date. You will, however, be penalized by a lowering of the grade by one step (e.g. B > B-) for each week late (starting the day after the deadline), and comments will be minimal. **N.B.** If you fail to hand in work before this two-week deadline, you may be considered as having failed to meet a mandatory requirement, and therefore fail the course.

(iii) Deadlines are taken seriously in these courses.

WORKLOADS AND MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ENGL 307 (24 points)

16 hours per week. Students must attend a minimum of 70% of classes, be well prepared to participate in discussion (this may include reporting to the class on selected passages of your set works), and complete the written assignments.

ENGL 407 (30 points)

24 hours per week. Students are expected to be well prepared; to attend all the classes; to participate in discussion (this may include reporting to the class on selected passages of your set works); and to complete the written assignments.

Mandatory course requirements also include attempting all the assignments and the examination.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

A copy of the General University Statutes and Policies can be found on Blackboard.

CLASS SCHEDULE

We shall try to stick to the following schedule but there may be some variation.

You need to be well prepared for classes by having read the texts thoroughly in advance. The number of texts is not large for 307, but they are complex, and the Chaucer is long. This course is a chance to get to know really well a limited number of superb key texts.

The schedule for ENGL 407 is the same as for 307 with the addition of the texts/excerpts listed below in the right-hand column. On Thursdays in weeks 4, 7, and 11, members of 407 will report to 307 on these additional readings.

Film showing: we shall probably be able to show the BBC video of Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida* in the latter part of the course. If this proves impossible for reasons of time, then you should watch it in your own time in the audio-visual suite in the Library.

Robert Easting

Week	ENGL 307/407	ENGL 407 also reading
1	Orientation	Homer
Tuesday	8 July	Classical background
Thursday	10 July	Starting Chaucer and Boccaccio
2	Chaucer and Boccaccio	Virgil
Tuesday	15 July	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book I
Thursday	17 July	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book I
3	Chaucer and Boccaccio	Dares & Dictys
Tuesday	22 July	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book I
Thursday	24 July	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book II
4	Chaucer and Boccaccio	Guido
Tuesday	29 July	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book II
Thursday	31 July	407 student report on Homer, Virgil, Dares & Dictys
5	Chaucer and Boccaccio	Benoit
Tuesday	5 August	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book III
Thursday	7 August	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book III
6	Chaucer and Boccaccio	Lydgate
Tuesday	12 August	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book IV
Thursday	14 August	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book IV
	307 & 407 Commentary due noon Friday 15 August	
	BREAK 16 -31 August	
7	Chaucer Boccaccio	
Tuesday	2 September	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book V
Thursday	4 September	407 student report on Guido, Benoit, Lydgate
	407 essay on additional texts due 5.00pm Friday 5 September	
8	Chaucer and Boccaccio	
Tuesday	9 September	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book V
Thursday	11 September	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book V
9	Henryson, <i>The Testament of Cresseid</i>	Caxton
Tuesday	16 September	Henryson, <i>Testament</i>
Thursday	18 September	Henryson, <i>Testament</i>
	307 & 407 essay on Chaucer due 5.00pm Friday 19 September	
10	Shakespeare, <i>Troilus and Cressida</i>	Dryden
Tuesday	23 September	Shakespeare, <i>TC</i> , Act 1 & 2
Thursday	23 September	Shakespeare, <i>TC</i> , Acts 3
11	Shakespeare, <i>Troilus and Cressida</i>	
Tuesday	30 September	Shakespeare, <i>TC</i> , Acts 4 & 5
Thursday	2 October	407 student report on Caxton and Dryden
12	Shakespeare, <i>Troilus and Cressida</i>	
Tuesday	7 October	Shakespeare and Chaucer
Thursday	9 October	Revision

Troy and Troilus: Select Bibliography

There are very many books and articles written on Chaucer's and Shakespeare's texts: a search, for instance, on the Title Keyword 'Troilus' in the University Library catalogue brings up over 160 items alone. However, this course is not a review of critical writing. It is primarily about three texts and their source material and about your own understanding of the relationships between these. That understanding will come only from your own detailed work on the primary material.

There is a substantial bibliography for Chaucer on pp. 625-8 of your set edition. The following is a brief list of some other useful works.

Benson, C. David. *The History of Troy in Middle English Literature: Guido delle Colonne's 'Historia Destructionis Troiae' in Medieval England*. Cambridge, 1980.

Bullough, Geoffrey. *Narrative and Dramatic Sources of Shakespeare*. Vol. 6. London, 1966.

Donaldson, E. Talbot. *The Swan at the Well: Shakespeare Reading Chaucer*. New Haven & London: Yale UP, 1985.

James, Heather. *Shakespeare's Troy: Drama, Politics, and the Translation of Empire*. Cambridge Studies in Renaissance Literature and Culture 22. Cambridge, 1997.

John, D. A. S. & Turberfield, A. F. *The Voyage of Aeneas: Virgil, Aeneid Books I-VI*. Bristol, 1968.

Kittredge, George Lyman. *Observations on the language of Chaucer's Troilus*. 1891. Repr. New York, [1969].

Scherer, Margaret R. *The Legends of Troy in Art and Literature*. New York & London, 1963.

A seventeenth-century modernisation of the first three books of Chaucer's Troilus and Criseyde. Ed. Herbert G. Wright. Bern, 1960.

Thorpe, Martin. *Inside the Ancient World: Homer*. London, 1973.

Wallace, David. *Chaucer and the Early Writings of Boccaccio*. Woodbridge & Dover, New Hampshire, 1985.

Willcock, Malcolm M. *A Companion to the Iliad*. Chicago & London, 1976.

Windeatt, Barry. *Troilus and Criseyde*. Oxford, 1992.

Young, K. *The Origin and Development of the Story of Troilus and Criseyde*. London, 1908.

Some additional texts

Caxton; Chapman's Homer, etc., see Bullough, above.

Colonne, Guido delle. *Historia destructionis Troiae*. Trans. Mary Elizabeth Meek. Bloomington, 1974.

The Trojan War: The chronicles of Dictys of Crete and Dares the Phrygian. Trans. R. M. Frazer. Bloomington, [1966].

Excidium Troiae. Ed. E. Bagby Atwood and Virgil K. Whitaker. Cambridge, Mass., 1944.

Joseph of Exeter. *Trojan War I-III*. Ed. with translation and notes by A. K. Bate. Bristol, 1986.

Lydgate's Troy Book. Ed. Henry Bergen. EETS 97, 103, 106, 126 (1906-35, repr. 1975).