

## VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

### COURSE ORGANIZATION

#### SEFTMS, ENGL 403 Medieval Studies: Chaucer, FY, 2009

**Staff:** Professor Robert Easting, VZ 901, tel. 463-6803, e-mail address: Robert.Easting@vuw.ac.nz  
Available by arrangement.

**Trimester dates:** 02/03/09-15/11/09

**Classes:** Wednesday 9-11, VZ 901, during trimester 1 and the first six weeks of trimester (2 March—21 August 2009). Additional information will be made available via classes and Blackboard. Examination timetable for the end-of-year examination will be posted on the English noticeboard on Floor 8 of Von Zedlitz.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES & CONTENT

**Outline of course content:** The course attempts a detailed reading of the complete *Canterbury Tales*, examining each tale both as an independent item and as part of a larger structure. The course also requires a reading of *The Book of the Duchess*, *The Parliament of Fowls*, Boethius, *On the Consolation of Philosophy*, and the Guillaume de Lorris section of the *Le Roman de la Rose* in the Middle English translation. It helps if students have read *Troilus and Criseyde*, and are they encouraged to read *The House of Fame* and *The Legend of Good Women* (although there are not usually classes on these texts), and a selection of critical writing on the Tales.

**Learning objectives:** Students completing the course satisfactorily should have achieved a good ability to read Chaucer closely, with a heightened awareness of his linguistic, literary, and historical contexts, as demonstrated in assessed work: a critical commentary, an essay, and a final examination.

**Course delivery:** seminars. Class members will introduce each week's material for discussion.

**Expected workload:** About 18 hours per week including class contact hours. This means you should be able to read the appropriate tales and annotations at least twice before each session, and also consult secondary material.

**Readings:** set text: *The Riverside Chaucer*, ed. Larry D. Benson (Boston, 1987). Select bibliography supplied.

### ASSESSMENT & MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### Course work 60%

- (i) commentaries on selected excerpts: approximately 1500 words, worth 20%  
**due no later than 13 May 2008**
- (ii) an essay: approximately 3500 words, worth 40%  
**due no later than 11 September 2008**

Due dates and extensions: if you need an extension for handing in either of these required pieces of work, you should apply to me **before** it is due, providing supporting documentation (e.g. medical certificate, note from Counselling Service) as appropriate. If work is handed in **without an extension**, it will be accepted but will be penalized by lowering the result by one grade for each week late.

#### End-of-year (19 Oct.—15 Nov. 2008), three-hour, Registry-conducted examination 40%

Candidates will be required to answer one or more questions. You will be permitted to take an edition of Chaucer into the examination.

Assignments and examination questions will give students an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to read Chaucer in an informed and intelligent way. Students will be assessed on the quality of their thought, as evidenced by the quality of their written expression.

**Mandatory course requirements:** Students must complete the assessment requirements, and are expected to be prepared for, attend, and participate fully in classes.

## **PENALTIES**

If work is handed in late, then one grade is subtracted and no comments are offered.

## **Extensions**

If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Extension requests must be submitted to the Course Co-ordinator.

## **Communication of additional information**

Via classes, Blackboard, or email.

## **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## **General University Requirements**

### **General University policies and statutes**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

Robert Easting