



Instructor: Chet Scoville

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Course Number: ENG300Y5Y

Course Title: Chaucer

Course Description: The poems of Geoffrey Chaucer are among the greatest works of world literature. We will consider them in the context of his life in the courts of 14th-century England, as both a reflection and a critique of the major intellectual, political, and cultural issues of his time. We will also consider his pioneering use of the English language, his use of philosophical ideas and of popular story genres, and his consideration of matters such as class and gender in the creation of a uniquely vibrant fictional world.

Rationale: This course provides students with an overview of one of the great English writers. It also provides an introduction to the study of the Middle Ages from a cultural and intellectual perspective.

Goals: To help students gain an understanding and appreciation of the intellectual and literary history of medieval England, and to teach the skill of reading Middle English texts in their original language.

Required Reading: All readings will be taken from *The Riverside Chaucer*, available in the UTM bookroom.

Method of Instruction: Lecture/discussion.

Method of Evaluation: Four tests worth 10% each, two essays worth 30% each. There will be no final exam.