

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL 3570	Course Title: Chaucer in Context	Date of Offering: FALL 2018
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Course Instructor: S. D. Powell	Course Format: Lecture
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This reading-intensive course focuses on the literary production of Geoffrey Chaucer, long (though not unproblematically) considered the most important writer of the English Middle Ages and even the “father” of English literature. To position Chaucer in these ways is misleading because it downplays the rich literary tradition Chaucer inherited and the cultural context in which he worked, but it is nevertheless in some ways also a useful reflection of Chaucer’s profound creativity, frequent innovation, and lasting literary influence. In this course, we will attempt to understand both the historical circumstances in which Chaucer worked and the ways that his use of literary forms and genres sets him apart from that culture and made his works lasting touchstones for later writers.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Weekly in-class writing assignments 25%

Translation quizzes 25%

Midterm exam 20%

Final exam 30%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

The Riverside Chaucer OR *The Wadsworth Chaucer*, ed. Larry D. Benson (3rd ed.)—same book, two different titles

Chaucer: Sources and Backgrounds, ed. Robert P. Miller (Oxford University Press)

Secondary sources will be available either electronically or on reserve at the library.

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: Medieval/Early Modern