Chaucer and His Times
English 411.001

Spring 2002       Dr. G. F. Snelson
Office: Dunkle Hall 139; Telephone: x4316, or (English Office) x4221
Home Page: http://www.frostburg.edu/dept/engl/snelson/
Office Hours: TR, 8:30 – 9:30, MW 10:00 – 11:30, and by appointment

Catalog Description
The world of the Canterbury Tales and other English masterpieces of the high Middle Ages.
Prerequisite: C or better in ENGL 101 or 111 or equivalent.

Student Resources
?? Albert C. Baugh, Ed.          Chaucer's Major Poetry
?? Nevill Coghill, Trans.        The Canterbury Tales (Penguin)
?? Handouts
?? The Library, The Internet
?? Two plays in PAC

General Objectives
This course is designed to help you
?? Appreciate and respond to the literatures of the high Middle Ages,
?? Understand Chaucer’s role in the development of English literature,
?? Become aware of the connections between literature, politics, religion, and everyday living
during the period,
?? Appreciate and respond to filmed representations of the historical and literary period, and
?? Further develop expository writing skills.

Class Activities
Much of class time will be devoted to close explication of the assigned reading with
frequent questions directed to you. There is some lecture material. At other times the class will
take a “workshop” or “seminar” approach with you being expected to make brief presentations
to the class. You should prepare to engage in analysis and explication of the works in class and
in papers and other projects.

Papers
Two typewritten (word-processed) analytical papers, one of 750 words and one of
1000 words, based on primary materials, not on library (or electronic media) research or
secondary materials, are due (complete) on the dates shown on the tentative schedule. *For
one of these, a project may be substituted. The nature of the project will arise from classroom
discussion and the curricular needs of the class. Two less-formal play evaluations of
approximately 200–250 words each are required. Each is due at the beginning of class on the
first Monday after the end of a run. Papers are due at the beginning of class on the dates noted
on the tentative schedule. For any paper to be graded at least a C, minimal English 101
standards must be met. Late papers are penalized at the rate of 5% per day.
Note: Never give the only copy of any project to anyone.
Grades

Grades will be assigned on the basis of ten twenty-minute mini-tests, a final exam, two reviews, and two papers to be assigned during the semester. Class participation is expected, but exemplary participation will be taken into account in borderline cases. The NC grade is not a possibility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance Reviews</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Paper (1st or project)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Paper (2nd)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Quizzes</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class meeting. The real value of a university course in literature lies in the opportunity to share your own ideas and insights derived from the works and to test your reactions against those of the instructor and other members of the class. There is no way to “make up” this experience or recapture a discussion once it is past. On the other hand, emergencies arise. You are allowed to miss three classes for emergencies during the semester. Reserve your allotment for real emergencies. Your semester grade will be penalized three percentage points for each absence after the two (emergency) absences. Special exceptions, such as touring with a FSU theatre production, can be worked out between you and the instructor if your attendance is otherwise exemplary. If you miss a quiz, please see the instructor privately to discuss the possibility of a make-up. Notice that the course schedule has conference days built into it. You may discuss an upcoming paper at any time, but scheduling a conference on the day before a paper is due is strongly discouraged. A missed conference (one that you have scheduled) counts as a missed class meeting unless you reschedule in advance. Three tardies (late arrivals) count as one absence. If your absences reach a total of seven (7), you are no longer a member of the class.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty relates to “any form of cheating and/or plagiarism” as defined and explained in The Pathfinder. The University considers it “to be impermissible and subject to disciplinary action.” Penalties for academic dishonesty in this course will range from a zero (0%) for the assignment to a failing grade in the course and referral to the judiciary board for its consideration. For the full statement regarding academic dishonesty, see The Pathfinder.

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT FOR ENGLISH MAJORS

A major goal of the English Department Assessment Program is to enable
the faculty to assess the effectiveness of the English major and its requirements. By adhering to the following guidelines, you will help us to make improvements when they are needed. If your college curriculum is governed by a catalog prior to the 1999-2001 Undergraduate Catalog, you must submit at least one course paper from each of your English major classes for inclusion in your writing portfolio. These papers can be graded versions or freshly revised versions. This portfolio is to be established and maintained in the department file cabinet in DH 117-D. If, however, your program of study is governed by the 1999-2001 Undergraduate Catalog, you are required to maintain a writing portfolio on your own. You must include in this portfolio at least one graded paper from each of your major courses. Since your writing portfolio will provide a major focus for your work in ENGL 489, English Capstone, be diligent in your efforts each semester to identify and collect your best writing. This collection will also provide you with a body of work to support future applications for jobs and graduate school admission.

Tentative Schedule

January
28 Introduction to the course
30 Biography and language

February
1 General Prologue; Chaucer's Pilgrims; The Castle Comes to England
4 General Prologue; The Lady; The Lord of the Castle
6 Quiz 1, Knight's Tale, part 1; The Making of a Knight; A Knight Ther Was; The Castle as a House
8 Knight's Tale, part 2; A Day in the Castle; The Household
11 Knight's Tale, part 3; The Castle at War, The Castle Year
13 Quiz 2, Knight's Tale, part 4; Hunting as a Way of Life
15 Conferences
18 Miller's Tale; The Village Emerges, The English Village
20 Quiz 3, Reeve's Tale; The Villagers: How They Lived
22 Conferences
25 Shipman's Tale; The Lord, Marriage and the Family
27 Wife of Bath's Prologue; The Wife of Bath; The Village at Work, The Parrish

March
1 Quiz 4, Wife of Bath's Tale; Chaucer's Discussion of Marriage; Village Justice
4 Clerk's Tale; The Debate on Marriage in The Canterbury Tales; William the Conqueror
6 Merchant's Tale; The Debate on Marriage in the Merchant's and the Franklin's Tale
8 Conferences

11 Franklin's Tale; King William the Second ; King Henry I
13 Prioress's Tale; King Stephen
15 Pardoner's Prologue and Tale; Chaucer's Pardoner; Matilda, Queen of England

18 Sir Thopas; King Henry II
20 Quiz 5, Nun's Priest's Tale; King Richard the Lionheart
22 Compensation for play attendance: no class

Spring Break -- March 23 - 31

April
1 Friar's Tale; King John I
3 Quiz 6, Manciple's Tale; King Henry III
5 Conferences

8 Man of Law's Tale; King Edward I
10 Summoner's Tale; King Edward II
12 Conferences

15 Quiz 7, Cannon's Yeoman's Tale; King Edward III
17 Medieval Drama: Introductory material; John of Gaunt
19 Conferences

22 Quiz 8; Medieval drama: The Second Shepherd's play; The York Crucifixion
24 Paper 2 due, but no class this day: compensation for play attendance
26 Medieval drama: Everyman; Edward the Black Prince

29 Quiz 9, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight; King Richard II

May
1 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight; King Henry IV
3 Conferences

6 Quiz 10, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
8 Course evaluation; Catch-up time
10 King Henry V; King Henry VI; King Edward IV

13 Review for final examination

Note: Play reviews are due the Monday following the final performance of the run.

Cumulative final examination: Thursday, May 16, 2002: 8:00 – 10:30