

## **Middle English Literature**

ENGL 4300, Medieval Literature

Meeting Time: T 6:00-8:40 p.m.

Dr. David Strong, dstrong@uttyler.edu

**Required Texts:** *The Norton Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales*, ed. David Lawton, ISBN: 978-0-393-63446-4.

*Amis and Amiloun, Robert of Cisyle, and Sir Amadace*, ed. Edward Foster, ISBN: 978-1580441254.

Aim of Course:

The study of medieval British Literature involves a submersion into a world that balances chivalric with religious ideals, individual with communal duties, and spiritual pursuits with socially productive ones. Whether reading a romance, an exemplum, or a fable, the genres distinct to this era reveal heightened awareness of the complexities confronting each individual in his quest to attain personal fulfillment. Sometimes the texts explore in artistic detail the psychological motivations of the texts' characters; at other times, character development is sacrificed in favor of episodic adventure. Despite the style embraced by the respective author, medieval literature invites a post-modern reader into a way of thinking that highlights those very concerns underpinning 21st century pilgrims who seek to perfect their being in mundane confines.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. read, analyze, and interpret a number of passages in light of the text's dominant themes.
2. demonstrate an awareness of the cultural or historical significance of the texts.
3. explain how literary genres determine a text's construction.
4. synthesize a detailed knowledge of literary works belonging to a specific time period.

### **Grade Breakdown**

To sharpen our minds, we will have a mid-term, a final examination, and a ten-page research paper. Each task counts for thirty percent of the final grade. In addition, one homework analysis task will be assigned; it will be worth ten percent of the final grade. The exam must be taken during the class period of the assigned day. Regular attendance and participation are mandatory. If more than three absences occur, then the final grade will be lowered one full letter grade.

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Assignments    | 10 points               |
| Exams          | x 30 points = 60 points |
| Research Paper | 30 points               |

**100 points**

A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-70 D = 69-60 F = 59-0

Please note: a college education is meant to teach students to think outside of their own viewpoints—to expose them to multi-faceted ways of thinking and knowing. That is intellectual growth and exploration. A student will not be excused from class discussion or assignments simply

because they do not agree with the text. Topics such as religion, sex, and politics are fundamental in literary studies and, thus, will be examined in detail.

**Syllabus—ENGL 4300**

Week 1:

Jan. 16      The Clerk's Tale

Week 2:

Jan. 23      The Clerk's Tale

Week 3:

Jan. 30      The Clerk's Tale: Census Date is Monday, January 29.

Week 4:

Feb. 6        The Clerk's Tale

Week 5:

Feb. 13      The Wife of Bath's Prologue

Week 6:

Feb. 20      The Wife of Bath's Prologue

Week 7:

Feb. 27      The Wife of Bath's Prologue & Tale

Week 8:

March 5      The Wife of Bath's Tale; **The Mid-Term Exam will administered on Canvas online on Friday, March 8.**

Week 9:

March 12     *Spring Break*

Week 10:

March 19     Amis & Amiloun

Week 11:

March 26     Amis & Amiloun; Last day to withdraw from classes is Monday, March 25.

Week 12:

April 2       Amis & Amiloun

Week 13:

April 9 Amis & Amiloun

Week 14:

April 16 The Second Nun's Tale

Week 15:

April 23 The Second Nun's Tale

Week 16:

April 30 ***Final Exam 6:00-8:00***

### **Course Expectations**

Lectures are the intellectual property of the instructor and may not be recorded under any circumstance. No voice recorder, camera or any type of electronic device can be used unless documentation of a disability which requires such a device has been provided. Cell phones must be turned off and put away before class begins. Texting and talking on the phone is prohibited. According to the university's policies on academic misconduct and non-academic misconduct, you will not engage in any academic misconduct in this course, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, use of unattributed sources, and cheating on exams. Any kind of cheating and/or plagiarism will result in my being turned into the student disciplinary committee and automatically failing the class.

### **Syllabus Changes**

Per the UT-Tyler Syllabus Policy, "The information contained in the syllabus, other than the grading criteria and absence and make-up policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice as long as the change is without prejudice to the students."

### **Students Rights and Responsibilities**

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>Links to an external site..

### **Grade Replacement/Forgiveness**

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in Enrollment Services Center or <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>Links to an external site.. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date.)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade).
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment.
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid.

### **State-Mandated Course Drop Policy**

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the 12th day of class (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

### **Disability Services**

In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services counselor. If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services office in UC 3150, or call (903) 566-7079.

### **Student Absence due to Religious Observance**

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

### **Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

### **Social Security and FERPA Statement**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an

identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.