ENGL310A Chaucer I  
The Dream Visions and *Troilus and Criseyde*  
Fall 2002  
Prof. Sarah Tolmie

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Office Hours Tue/Thur 10:15-11:15  
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Course description  
This course is an introduction to the poetic work of Geoffrey Chaucer, the fourteenth-century poet often hailed as the father of the English literary tradition. It will not address the *Canterbury Tales* (the subject of a companion course, ENG310B) or his prose translations. All texts will be read in Middle English, and ongoing instruction in the language will be provided. The course will examine Chaucer’s earlier literary works and his professional life as a poet and bureaucrat; to some extent it will also address his posthumous reputation and critical reception, the beginnings of the Chaucer tradition in scholarship.

Requirements  
In addition to a research essay, each student is required to do a ten-minute presentation on some aspect of Chaucer’s work, and field questions from the class and instructor afterward. Students are required to consult with me in office hours about the presentation as part of the grade. Essay topics must be devised by the student, and topic proposals must be submitted separately as part of the grade. Consultation by e-mail or in office hours is highly advised as part of this process. Essays must be formatted according to MLA style and contain a bibliography of five items. Daily class participation is also an important part of the final grade.

PLEASE NOTE: Middle English is almost a foreign language to modern readers. Regular attendance in class and work at home on translation during the initial weeks of the course will be necessary to achieve comfortable reading proficiency. **Missed tests or presentations cannot be rescheduled without a doctor’s note. Essays submitted late will be marked down ten percent (a letter grade) unless a doctor’s note is provided.**

Required Textbook (bring it to class every time)  
*The Riverside Chaucer*

Mark breakdown  
Midterm test (including translation) **17 Oct**  20%  
Oral presentation  10%  
Research essay, 3000 words, bibliography of five items, **due 26 Nov**  30%  
Exam  30%  
Participation  10%
Department of English Contacts and Resources

Contacts:

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THE FACULTY OF ARTS REQUIRES THAT WE NOTIFY YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

"Note on avoidance of academic offenses: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p. 1:11). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean."

Dean of Arts: Robert R. Kerton
ML 236, ext. 2217

Associate Dean of Arts, Undergraduate Affairs
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