

**University of Arkansas – Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3469**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3469**  
**479-788-7000**

**General Syllabus**

**ENGL 46043 Chaucer**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 21143 Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies

Prerequisite or corequisite: ENGL 32503 Textual Research Methods

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

A reading-intensive course meant to introduce the student to the major works of Chaucer, as well as to a selection of critical theory and studies of the works. Readings of Chaucer will be from the Middle English text, and students will be required to become fluent in the language.

**B. Additional Information – None**

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Read Middle English with skill and fluency.
2. Investigate Chaucer's main motifs and literary concerns.
3. Weigh the historical influences of the 14<sup>th</sup> century on Chaucer's work.
4. Perform an exegesis of Chaucer's major works, including the more well-known of *The Canterbury Tales*.
5. Assemble projects, applying at least two forms of critical literary theory to Chaucer's work.

**B. University Learning Outcomes (ULOs)**

**Analytical Skills**

**Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will use critical thinking skills to identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of

texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

**Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

**Ethical Decision Making**

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

**Global & Cultural Perspectives**

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

**III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Background
  - 1. The 14<sup>th</sup> Century
  - 2. Previous Literature
  - 3. What is English in 1380?
- B. *Troilus and Criseyde*
- C. *The Canterbury Tales*
- D. Presentations