English 621 – Studies in Chaucer

Tues/Thurs 2:10-3:25 Dr. Laura L. Howes
McClung Tower 201 413 McClung Tower
Section # 41072 974-6963
Office hour: Tues 1-2 lhowes@utk.edu
& by appointment. web.utk.edu/~lhowes

Required Texts:

Optional Texts:

Requirements:
Two oral reports, one with annotated bibliography (worth 20% each);
Research paper, 20-25 pages (50%);
Class participation (10%).

Class Schedule: [Please read Chaucer and the appropriate section in Cooper for each class meeting, in addition to other secondary reading for the week, on reserve, as noted below.]

Jan. 16 Fragment I: General Prologue.
Also: “Chaucer’s Life” and “Language and Versification” in Benson.
Jan. 21 General Prologue.
Jan. 23 The Knight’s Tale.
Jan. 28 The Miller’s Prologue and Tale.

Feb. 4 The Reeve’s Prologue and Tale; The Cook’s Prologue and Tale.
Also: Carolyn Dinshaw, “Chaucer’s Sexual Poetics” and “The Law of Man and Its ‘Abhominacions’,” in Chaucer’s Sexual Poetics, pp. 3-27; 88-112.
Feb. 11  *Fragment III*: The Wife of Bath’s Prologue.
Also: H. Marshall Leicester, Jr., “Chaucer’s Subject” in *The Disenchanted Self*, pp. 1-158 (& continuing into the following week).

Oral Report: ___________________

Feb. 13  The Wife of Bath’s Tale.

Feb. 18  The Friar’s Prologue and Tale.
Feb. 20  The Summoner’s Prologue and Tale.

Feb. 25  *Fragment IV*: The Clerk’s Prologue and Tale.
Also: Elaine Tuttle Hansen, “The Powers of Silence: The Case of the Clerk’s Griselda” and “The Merchant’s Tale, or Another Poor Worm,” in *Chaucer and the Fictions of Gender*, pp. 188-207; 245-266.

Oral Report: ___________________

Feb. 27  The Merchant’s Prologue, Tale, and Epilogue.

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Feb. 27-28: Second Annual MARCO Symposium on “Books and Readers in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance,” 7 pm Thursday, 9-4 Friday.
web.utk.edu/~marco for titles, times & places.
*Of special note: “Getting Chaucer Wrong” at 11:30am on Friday, Feb. 28th in the Hodges Library Auditorium.

Mar. 4  *Fragment V*: The Squire’s Introduction and Tale.
Also: John M. Ganim, “Poetics in the Prologues,” “The Noise of the People,” and “Forms of Talk,” in *Chaucerian Theatricality*, pp. 92-135.

Mar. 6  The Franklin’s Prologue and Tale.

Oral Report: ___________________

Mar. 11  *Fragment VI*: The Physician’s Tale.
Also: Lee Patterson, “Chaucer’s Pardoner on the Couch: Psyche and Clio in Medieval Literary Studies,” in *Speculum* 76.3 (July 2001): 638-680 [E-reserve].

Mar. 13  The Pardoner’s Introduction, Prologue, and Tale.

[Mar. 17-21  Spring Break]

Mar. 25  Second Oral Reports, with Annotated Bibliography.
Mar. 27  Second Oral Reports, with Annotated Bibliography.

Apr. 1  *Fragment VII*: The Shipman’s Tale.

Apr. 3  The Prioress’s Prologue and Tale.

Apr. 8  The Prologue and Tale of Sir Thopas; The Tale of Melibee.
Also: Robert W. Hanning, “‘And countrefete the speche of every man / He koude, whan he sholde telle a tale’: Toward a Lapsarian Poetics for *The Canterbury Tales*,” in *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 21 (1999): 29-58 [E-reserve].
Apr. 10  The Monk’s Prologue and Tale.

Apr. 15  The Nun’s Priest’s Prologue, Tale, and Epilogue.

Apr. 17  Fragment VIII: The Second Nun’s Prologue and Tale.

Apr. 22  The Canon Yeoman’s Prologue and Tale.
Apr. 24  Fragment IX: The Manciple’s Prologue and Tale.

Apr. 29  Fragment X: The Parson’s Prologue and Tale; Chaucer’s Retraction.

May 6  [Exam Period] – Research Papers Due.

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A note about the oral reports:

The first reports should seek to (1) introduce the fragment of that week, summarizing for the class the most important issues covered in Cooper, (2) perform a limited close reading of one of the tales in that fragment, and (3) suggest a series of questions for further class discussion.

The second oral reports will be focused on the secondary research the student has completed for his/her research paper topic. An annotated bibliography should accompany the second report, consisting of at least 15 items of specific relevance to the student’s topic. You may use secondary material assigned for the class in addition to print articles and books you find on your own.

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List of Books on Reserve with Call Numbers:

Articles on E-reserve: