

Fall 2008 ♦ ENGL 351-001 (16085-001)
TTh 11:00-12:15 ♦ MH 121
Dr. Obermeier ♦ Chaucer's Love Visions
Office Hours: TTh 1:30-2:30, and by appointment in HUM 321
☎ and Voice Mail: 505.277.2930
Email: AObermei@unm.edu
Website: <http://www.unm.edu/~aobermei>
Mailbox on office door or in English Department Office via receptionist



Required Texts

Boethius. *The Consolation of Philosophy*. Trans. P. G. Walsh. Oxford UP, 2000.
Chaucer, Geoffrey. *Dream Visions and Other Poems*. Ed. Kathryn L. Lynch. Norton, 2007.
---. *Troilus and Criseyde*. Ed. Stephen A. Barney. Norton, 2006.
OR *The Riverside Chaucer*. Ed. Larry D. Benson. Houghton Mifflin, 1987.
Class website: <http://www.unm.edu/~aobermei/Eng351Love/index351.html>
Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun. *The Romance of the Rose*. Trans. Frances Horgan. Oxford UP, 1994.
Obermeier, Anita, and Gregory Castle. *Guide to Style*. 2005. On class website.
Ovid. *Heroides*. Selections on eReserves: link is on class website. Password: lobo351.
eReserves: link on class website.

Recommended Texts

Chaucer Studio Recordings on eReserves.
Chaucer, G. *Troilus and Criseyde*. Trans. Barry Windeatt.
---. *Love Visions*. Trans. Brian Stone. Penguin, 1983.

Course Requirements

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| Translation Exercise | worth 5% | |
| 4-5-page Paper | worth 15% | |
| 8-10-page Research Paper | worth 25% | |
| In-class Midterm | worth 10% | Grading is done on a standard 0-100 scale. |
| In-class Final | worth 20% | For grading rubrics and scale, |
| 10 1-page Written Responses | worth 10% | see class website. |
| Class Participation | worth 15% | |
| Middle English Reading Test; see #6 under policies. | | |

Tentative Syllabus

- T 8.26 Introduction to the Course. Video presentation: *Prologue to Chaucer*.
Th 8.28 *Chaucer's Life: Troilus and Criseyde (TC) xix-xx and Dream Visions (DV) 385-88. Preliminary Linguistic Discussion: Video on Middle English, English Goes Underground. TC xx-xxiv and DV xvii-xx.*
- T 9.2 Getting Familiar with Middle English: As you read the following poems in *DV*, pick out ONE stanza and examine the language in it carefully. We will discuss those poems' language in class based on the principles of the linguistic introduction. Short Poems: Intro (207-11), "Merciles Beaute" (217-18), "Against Women Unconstant" (eR), "To Rosemound" (218-19), "Womanly Noblesse" (eR), "Complaint unto Pity" (eR), "The Complaint of Chaucer to His Purse" (225).
- Th 9.4 Introduction to Medieval Theories of Love. Two excerpts from Andreas Capellanus' *De Amore (CW)*; *The Romance of the Rose* 3-42.
- F 9.5 **Last day to add courses or change sections.**
- T 9.9 Browse *The Romaunt of the Rose*, Fragment A (CW). Compare to *RR* 3-21.
Response 1 due.
- Th 9.11 *The Romance of the Rose* 43-61, 319-35.
- T 9.16 "Complaint of Mars," "Complaint of Venus" (eR); *Anelida and Arcite* (191-205); audio file on eR. **Response 2 due.**
- Th 9.18 *Book of the Duchess* (3-17) to line 486. Audio file on eR; listen to it while you are reading.
- F 9.19 **Last day to change grading options.**
- T 9.23 *Book of the Duchess* (17-37). Audio file on eR; listen to it while you are reading.
Response 3 due.
- Th 9.25 *House of Fame*, Books I and II (39-68).
- T 9.30 *House of Fame*, Book III (69-92). **Response 4 due.**
- Th 10.2 *Parliament of Fowls* (93-116). Alain de Lille (*DV* 273-75). Audio file on eR.
Translation Exercise due.
- F 10.3 **Last day to drop a course without a grade.**
- T 10.7 *Parliament of Fowls* cont. "An ABC" (211-17). **Midterm Exam Review. Response 5 due.**

- Th 10.9 Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*, Intro, Books I-III (1-57). Compare Chaucer's translation, if you like (CW).
- T 10.14 **Midterm Exam.** Blue books are optional, but some form of paper is required.
Th 10.16 **Fall Break.**
- T 10.21 Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*, Books IV-V (57-114). **Paper 1 due.**
Th 10.23 *Troilus and Criseyde*, Intro ix-xix, 4-7. Book I (8-39) to line 539. Some Audio files will be on eR. **Response 6 due.**
- T 10.28 *Troilus and Criseyde*, Books I (39-67), Book II (68- 87).
Th 10.30 *Troilus and Criseyde*, Book II (88-127). **Response 7 due.**
- T 11.4 *Troilus and Criseyde*, Books II (128-49), III (149-67).
Th 11.6 *Troilus and Criseyde*, Book III (168-209).
- T 11.11 *Troilus and Criseyde*, Books III (210-223), IV (223-59). **Response 8 due.**
Th 11.13 *Troilus and Criseyde*, Book IV (260-311).
F 11.14 **Last day to drop a course without approval of college dean.**
Chaucerian Dalliance Dinner 6:30 pm. Invitation Issued in late October.
- T 11.18 *Troilus and Criseyde*, Book V (311-63).
Th 11.20 *Troilus and Criseyde*, Book V (364-428). **Response 9 due.**
- T 11.25 T&C Wrap-up.
Th 11.27 **Thanksgiving Break.**
- T 12.2 Selections from Ovid's *Heroides* (eR).
Th 12.4 *Legend of Good Women*, Prologue (117-37). **Paper 2 due.**
- T 12.9 *Legend of Good Women*, Legends I-V (137-63). **Response 10 due.**
Th 12.11 *Legend of Good Women*, Legends VI-IX (164-89). **Final Exam Review.**
- T 12.16 **Final Exam** at 12:30-2:30 in regular classroom. Blue books are optional, but some form of paper is required.

Course Objective

In this course, you will read Chaucer's first major poem, along with everything else he wrote aside of the *Canterbury Tales*. Students often think of Chaucer as the poet who brought us the Miller's Tale and the Wife of Bath in the colorful and earthy idiom of our ancestor language—Middle English. But Chaucer is more than the author of the *Canterbury Tales*—for his medieval audience, he was the “neo-pagan singer of love,” the poet who extensively engaged the classical past and its authors. This course is designed to offer interested students an opportunity to study critically Chaucer's best poem, *Troilus and Criseyde*, his most intriguing female figure, Criseyde, and all his other love visions. Delve into the medieval anatomy of love and find out where many of our modern romantic notions come from.

Our goal in the course is to read every word of Chaucer's poetry in Middle English and to discuss every poem. If you find the Middle English difficult and unfamiliar at first, I suggest you use a translation into modern English (see Recommended Texts or the online translations listed on the course webpage) to help you follow the narrative line; but try to get free of the translation as soon as possible. In other words, use the translation as a crutch; however, since **all** discussions and examinations will be based on **the Middle English text**, you absolutely need to read the ME text, not just the translation.

Course Policies

1. Tests and Papers: Separate instructions will be handed out for each test and paper. Tests are closed book and emphasize detail knowledge through ids, analysis and close reading skills through passage ids, and synthesis abilities through essay questions.

2. Attendance is mandatory. Since your progress in the course will depend a great deal on what we discuss in class, I expect class attendance and participation (actual contributions to the class discussion). I will pass out attendance sheets, and it is your responsibility to sign the sheets. So if the sheet passed you by, come up to the desk and sign at the end of class. Your participation grade will be affected after **2** unexcused absences (from a B+ to a B for one additional absence, etc.). An excused absence is a doctor's note, letter from an employer, etc. If you have an emergency situation, you can leave a message on my voice mail or email. **Note:** While you are welcome to check with me on what you have missed, I do not "reteach" class periods you missed during my office hours or over email. Please consult with your fellow students for notes.

3. Written Responses: You are expected to write a 1-page response for each session indicated, discussing the readings for that day or since the last response. These responses should be informal, journal-like, **typed** pieces, expressing your thoughts and reactions to the text. Do not be afraid to express puzzlement and unfamiliarity or even delight and interest. I am interested in your untutored reactions to the texts. We will leave more structured and analytical writing for the formal papers. Each fully-fledged response will receive 10 points of credit; flimsy or superficial responses will receive only partial credit.

4. Assignments: Students must attempt **all** assignments to pass the course. This means that you cannot simply skip an assignment because you are happy with your grade at the time; hence you cannot, for instance, skip the final.

5. Pertinent Websites: Generally, all handouts will also be posted to the course website. I will keep you apprised as to the availability of other materials and links to background info. For now, you might try these:

6. Middle English Reading Test: Each student will be required to read aloud a passage of 20-30 lines from Chaucer in Middle English with the appropriate pronunciation. Listen your tape/CD, the online clips, or check out a tape from my extensive Chaucer collection; study the pronunciation guide in the *Riverside Chaucer*. Students will be encouraged to do this reading aloud in class, as they can learn from each other; however, you can also read your passages privately in my office. The reading will not be graded, but thoughtful and dedicated attempts will weigh positively on your final grade.

7. Plagiarism: Don't do it! For clarification, see statements **#102-7** in *Guide to Style*.

8. Cell Phones: Please turn them off or put them on vibrate.