Summer 6-15-1998

ENG 5000-021: Chaucer and Gender

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English 5000: Chaucer and Gender  
Summer 1998, MTuWTh 10:30-12:30  
David Raybin

Office: 324 Coleman  
Office Hours: TuWTh 9:30-10:30  
Telephone: 581-6980 (office); 330/678-2628 (home, weekends, before 8:00pm)

Biedler, Peter G. The Wife of Bath  
Hansen, Elaine Tuttle. Chaucer and the Fictions of Gender

Tentative Schedule of Assignments

Chaucer Readings

June 8 Introduction  
9 The Wife of Bath's Prologue  
10 The Wife of Bath's Tale  
11 The Clerk's Tale

15 The Merchant's Tale  
16 The Franklin's Tale  
17 The Man of Law's Tale / Response Essay due (500-600 words)

Critical Approaches, ten-minute reports

18 The New Historicism--Patterson (Beidler 115-54); and Marxist Criticism--Finke (Beidler 155-88)

22 Psychoanalytic Criticism--Fradenburg (Beidler 189-220); and Deconstruction--Leicester (Beidler 221-54)

23 Feminist Criticism--Hansen (Beidler 255-89) and Hanning (handout)

24 Feminist Criticism--Dinshaw (handout) and Mann (handout)

Critical Essays, five-minute reports

25 Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale (Hansen, 2)

29 Clerk's Tale (Hansen, 7)  
30 Merchant's Tale (Hansen, 9)  
July 1 Franklin's Tale (Hansen, 10)  
2 Man of Law's Tale (Raybin, handout)

Seminar Essays

6 Independence Day Holiday: No Class  
7 Chaucer Reading: The Manciple's Prologue and Tale  
Seminar Essay due (3000-3500 words)

8 Oral Essays, ten-minute presentations: Group A  
9 Oral Essays, ten-minute presentations: Group B

Grading

Grading: Seminar Essay, 75%; Response Essay, reports, participation, etc., 25%  
Note: To pass the course, you must complete all assignments.
Assignments

Individual Meetings: During the first two weeks of the course, students will meet with me in groups of two for 20-30 minutes each week to practice reading and translating Chaucer's Middle English. During the fourth week, students will meet with me individually for 15 minutes to discuss their seminar essays.

[Note: These meetings are required. They replace the class scheduled for July 13 and the first hour of three other Monday classes.]

Response Essay: Write a short essay (500-600 words) exploring in as stimulating a way as you can some one thing you found particularly interesting in one of the tales we have read. Begin the essay by focusing on a passage in the text that is important to illustrating your main idea.

Critical Approaches, ten-minute reports: All students will read the material listed in the syllabus for these classes. In addition, each student will be asked to read a relevant article or chapter and report on it in a way that is helpful to the class.

Critical Essays, five-minute reports: For each of these five classes, each student will select an article and be prepared to report on it in a way that is helpful to the class. (We will all read the relevant sections in Hansen.)

Seminar Essay: The seminar essay is your major project for the course. You are expected to write a substantial research paper of 3000-3500 words in which you explore an idea that sheds some interesting light on one or more of The Canterbury Tales. The essay should make serious use of critical sources and be thoroughly and accurately documented. As you see fit, you may focus on a tale, a part of a tale, or a group of tales; on a Chaucerian theme, attitude, or approach; or on the ideas expressed by a critic or group of critics. I will discuss your essay with you in an individual meeting on June 29-30. You are welcome to consult with me sooner as well.

*** It is essential that all essays be turned in on time. ***

[Note: If this kind of essay seems inappropriate to your educational goals, arrange to speak to me about an alternative project.]

Oral Essays, ten-minute presentations: Students will present summaries of their seminar essays, followed by brief discussion.

Course/University Policies

Typing. All essays must be typed (double-spaced with one-inch margins).

Honor Policy. Education depends on trust. Should you cheat and I find out about it, you can expect to fail the course. The University may take additional action.

Plagiarism. If you use other people's words or ideas without citing your sources and indicating when you have quoted, you risk failing an assignment or even the course depending on how serious I deem the offense. If you are not sure what plagiarism is, or whether a particular use of language constitutes plagiarism, ask me before you turn in an assignment.

Students with Disabilities. "If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accomodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible."