

**VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
SCHOOL OF ENGLISH, FILM, THEATRE, AND MEDIA STUDIES**

ENGL 307/407 TROY AND TROILUS 2006 (2/3)

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Teaching staff

Dr Ian Jamieson	VZ 907, tel. 971 8535, jamiesons2@paradise.net.nz
Assoc. Prof. Kathryn Walls	VZ 916, tel. 463 6898, kathryn.walls@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Christine Franzen	VZ 919, tel. 463 6805, christine.franzen@vuw.ac.nz

Class times and places

Monday 2-3, Wednesday 2-4, both in Cotton 245.

The classes will be taught principally as seminars:

...talking about literature is a part of what literature is about, and talking about it with passion, precision and out of a rich store of reading is a rare and precious gift...

(Gabriel Josipovici)

Additional information

Notices relating to the courses will be posted on the courses' Blackboard site as well as on the notice board on level three of the Hugh Mackenzie building, outside HM 206.

AIMS, OBJECTIVES, AND CONTENT

ENGL 307 is designed for inclusion in both the English Language and the English Literature majors; it is co-taught with ENGL 407.

Both courses entail a close study of what has been called 'the greatest narrative poem in English', Chaucer's romantic tragedy *Troilus and Criseyde*, the story of two of the most famous lovers in the Western tradition. The poem will be read in the context of other stories of Troy and Troilus that influenced Chaucer, or were influenced by him, particularly Shakespeare's play on the same subject. Chaucer's principal source, the Italian author Boccaccio's *Il Filostrato*, is read in translation

In addition to the texts read by students in ENGL 307, students in ENGL 407 will read extracts from Homer (in Chapman's and Pope's translations) and from Virgil (in Dryden's translation), from other texts before and after Chaucer (e.g. Dares and Dictys, Guido, Benoit, Lydgate's 'Troy Book', and Caxton), and Dryden's *Truth Found Too Late*, his reworking of Shakespeare's play.

By the end of the course, students in ENGL 307 will have made a detailed study of two substantial and complex texts by major authors, Chaucer and Shakespeare, and have studied

them in the context of Chaucer's and Shakespeare's other principal sources, Boccaccio and Henryson, respectively. In addition, students in ENGL 407 will have studied a wider range of related accounts of Troy and Troilus from Homer to the seventeenth century.

Set texts

ENGL 307

Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde with facing-page Il Filostrato*, ed. Stephen A. Barney (New York & London: Norton, 2006). ISBN 0-393-92755-5

This new edition contains Chaucer's poem, Boccaccio's Italian poem in English prose translation, and Robert Henryson's poem *The Testament of Cresseid*; all three are studied in the course.

Shakespeare, *Troilus and Cressida*, ed. Kenneth Muir (Oxford World's Classics)

These two set editions are available from the university bookshop.

ENGL 407

As for ENGL 307, plus excerpts from other authors as outlined above. These excerpts will be distributed in class.

ASSESSMENT

ENGL 307

In-term: two assignments: an overnight commentary on Chaucer/Boccaccio (20%) and an essay on Chaucer (3000 words and 40%). Commentary due Thursday 17 August; essay due Friday 22 September.

Final examination: a three hour examination, on Henryson and Shakespeare, with editions of set texts allowed: 40%.

ENGL 407

In-term: three assignments: an overnight commentary on Chaucer/Boccaccio (10%); an essay on the additional texts (1500 words and 20%); and essay on Chaucer (2500 words and 30%). Commentary due Thursday 17 August; essay on additional texts due Friday 8 September; essay on Chaucer due Friday 22 September.

Final examination: a three hour examination, on Henryson and Shakespeare, with editions of set texts allowed: 40%.

Written work should be posted in the appropriate slot at the English Office on the 8th floor of Von Zedlitz.

The essays and examination will give students the opportunity to explore the set texts further and to demonstrate their capacity to read and understand them well.

Due dates and extensions

(i) Extensions

If you need an extension beyond the due date for any piece of work, you should apply to Dr Jamieson (or Dr Franzen if he is not available) in writing at least 24 hours before the date. Work submitted when an extension has been granted will be graded in the normal way.

(ii) Late work without extensions

Work submitted late without an extension will be counted, as long as it is received **within two weeks** of the due date. You will, however, be penalized by a lowering of the grade by one step (e.g. B > B-) for each week late and comments will be minimal. **N.B.** If you fail to hand in work before this two-week deadline, you may be considered as having failed to meet a mandatory requirement, and therefore fail the course.

WORKLOADS AND MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ENGL 307 (24 points)

16 hours per week. Students must attend a minimum of 70% of classes, be well prepared to participate in discussion (this may include reporting to the class on selected passages of your set works), and complete the written assignments.

ENGL 407 (30 points)

24 hours per week. Students are expected to be well prepared; to attend all the classes; to participate in discussion (this may include reporting to the class on selected passages of your set works); and to complete the written assignments.

Mandatory course requirements include attempting all the assignments and the examination.

CLASS SCHEDULE

You need to be well prepared for classes by having read the texts thoroughly in advance. The number of texts is not large for 307, but they are complex. This course is a chance to get to know really well a limited number of superb key texts.

The schedule for ENGL 407 is the same as for 307 with the addition of the texts specially provided.

Ian Jamieson
Kathryn Walls
Christine Franzen

ENGL 307/407 Schedule

Week One (10 and 12 July): Introductory. During this week Professor John Davidson and Dr Diana Burton, both from the Classics area, will introduce the story of Troy as told in classical sources.

Weeks Two to Eight (17 July to 20 September): Chaucer.

(N.B. The mid trimester break is from Friday 18 August until Monday 4 September)

Week 9 (18 and 20 September): Henryson.

Weeks 10 to 12 (25 September to 11 October): Shakespeare.

Troy and Troilus: Select Bibliography

There are very many books and articles written on Chaucer's and Shakespeare's texts; a search, for instance, on the Title Keyword 'Troilus' in the University Library catalogue brings up over 70 books alone. However, this course is not a review of critical writing. It is primarily about three texts and their source material and about your own understanding of the relationships between these. That understanding will come only from your own detailed work on the primary material.

Chaucer: There is a full bibliography on pp. 625 – 8 of your set text.

You might note particularly the lives of Chaucer by Howard and Pearsall.

Of the work on *Troilus and Criseyde*, the edition and the commentary by Barry Windeatt are widely regarded as indispensable. (The commentary is listed under 'Bibliographies and Handbooks' in Barney.)

Some students in classes Dr Jamieson has taught have found the following novels to be for them the most useful commentary on the poem:

Graham Greene, *The End of the Affair* (1951 etc)
Rose Macaulay, *The Towers of Trebizond* (1956 etc)
Andrea Newman, *An Evil Streak* (1977 etc)

Shakespeare: Associate Professor Walls may well provide a separate bibliography for this section of the course.