

ENGL 407 MEDIEVAL STUDIES: TROY AND TROILUS

Trimester 2 2009

30 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2009

Study week: 19 to 23 October 2009

Examination/Assessment period: 27 October to 15 November 2009

Note: Students who enrol in courses with examinations are expected to be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Professor Robert Easting Robert.Easting@vuw.ac.nz 463-6803 VZ 901

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS; COURSE DELIVERY

Lectures

Tuesday 11 am -12 midday, Friday 11 am – 1 pm, Kirk 203.

The classes will be taught principally as a seminar. The success of the course will depend on your being well prepared and willing to contribute fully to discussion: ‘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).

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Notices relating to the courses will be posted on Blackboard.

COURSE CONTENT

ENGL 307 is co-taught with ENGL 407.

These 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.

Assessment tasks offer students the opportunity to demonstrate the quality of their reading of these texts.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students passing the course should be able to demonstrate a detailed understanding of the set texts.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

As a 30-point course, ENGL 407 should occupy a total of about 300 hours—or 25 hours per week (hpw) of the twelve teaching weeks of the trimester; 3 of these hours will be absorbed by classes, leaving 22 for reading, the preparation of written work, and study for the final examination. This figure can be reduced from 25 to 21 hpw if regular work is spread also over the two-week mid-trimester break.

READINGS

Essential texts:

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

This 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.

Additional readings will also be supplied in class.

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

In-term: three assignments: a commentary on Chaucer/Boccaccio (10%); an essay on the additional texts (1500 words and 20%); and an essay on Chaucer (2500 words and 30%). The commentary question will be handed out in class on Tuesday 18 August, and your answer is due back in class on Friday 21 August. The essay on additional texts is due Tuesday 8 September. The Chaucer essay is due on Friday 25 September.

Final examination: a three-hour examination, comprising an essay on Henryson; a commentary on Shakespeare/Dryden; and an essay on Shakespeare. 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.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

If work is handed in late, then one grade is subtracted and no comments are offered.

If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date and submit it to the Course Co-ordinator. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You must complete all the in-term written work (see above) and the examination.

You must attend a minimum of 70% of the classes; you are expected to attend 100%.

You are expected to come to class having completed the necessary reading, and be well prepared to participate in discussion (this will include reporting to the class on some of your additional reading).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

You should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

This website can be accessed at:
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcademic/Publications.aspx>

COURSE PROGRAMME

We shall try to stick to the following schedule but there may be some variation.

You need to be well prepared for classes by having read the texts thoroughly in advance. On Tuesdays in weeks 5, 7, and 11, members of 407 will report to 307 on the additional readings.

Film showing: we shall probably be able to show the BBC video of Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida* in the latter part of the course. If this proves impossible for reasons of time, then you should watch it in your own time in the audio-visual suite in the Library.

Week 1	Orientation Tuesday 14 July Friday 17 July	Also reading Homer Classical background Starting Chaucer and Boccaccio
Week 2	Chaucer and Boccaccio Tuesday 21 July Friday 24 July	Also reading Virgil Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book I Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book I
Week 3	Chaucer and Boccaccio Tuesday 28 July Friday 31 July	Also reading Dares & Dictys Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book I Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book II
Week 4	Chaucer and Boccaccio Tuesday 4 August Friday 7 August	Also reading Guido Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book II Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book III
Week 5	Chaucer and Boccaccio Tuesday 11 August Friday 14 August	Also reading Benoît 407 reports on Homer, Virgil, Dares, Dictys Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book III
Week 6	Chaucer and Boccaccio Tuesday 18 August Friday 21 August	Also reading Lydgate Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book IV Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book IV
Commentary due Friday 21 August		
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 24 August– Friday 4 September 2009		

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
ENGLISH PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE ENGL 407

Week 7	Chaucer and Boccaccio	
	Tuesday 8 September	407 reports on Guido, Benoît, Lydgate
	Friday 11 September	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book V
Week 8	Chaucer and Boccaccio	
	Tuesday 15 September	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book V
	Friday 18 September	Chaucer, <i>TC</i> , Book V
Week 9	Henryson, <i>The Testament of Cresseid</i>	Also reading Caxton
	Tuesday 22 September	Henryson, <i>Testament</i>
	Friday 25 September	Henryson, <i>Testament</i>
Week 10	Shakespeare, <i>Troilus and Cressida</i>	Also reading Dryden
	Tuesday 29 September	Shakespeare, <i>TC</i> , Act 1
	Friday 2 October	Shakespeare, <i>TC</i> , Act 2
Week 11	Shakespeare, <i>Troilus and Cressida</i>	
	Tuesday 6 October	407 reports on Caxton and Dryden
	Friday 9 October	Shakespeare, <i>TC</i> , Acts 3 & 4
Week 12	Shakespeare, <i>Troilus and Cressida</i>	
	Tuesday 13 October	Shakespeare, <i>TC</i> , Act 5
	Friday 16 October	Revision

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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 160 items 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.

There is a substantial bibliography for Chaucer on pp. 625-8 of your set edition. The following is a brief list of some other useful works.

- Benson, C. David. *The History of Troy in Middle English Literature: Guido delle Colonne's 'Historia Destructionis Troiae' in Medieval England*. Cambridge, 1980.
- Bullough, Geoffrey. *Narrative and Dramatic Sources of Shakespeare*. Vol. 6. London, 1966.
- Donaldson, E. Talbot. *The Swan at the Well: Shakespeare Reading Chaucer*. New Haven & London: Yale UP, 1985.
- James, Heather. *Shakespeare's Troy: Drama, Politics, and the Translation of Empire*. Cambridge Studies in Renaissance Literature and Culture 22. Cambridge, 1997.
- John, D. A. S. & Turberfield, A. F. *The Voyage of Aeneas: Virgil, Aeneid Books I-VI*. Bristol, 1968.
- Kittredge, George Lyman. *Observations on the language of Chaucer's Troilus*. 1891. Repr. New York, [1969].
- Scherer, Margaret R. *The Legends of Troy in Art and Literature*. New York & London, 1963.
- A seventeenth-century modernisation of the first three books of Chaucer's Troilus and Criseyde*. Ed. Herbert G. Wright. Bern, 1960.
- Thorpe, Martin. *Inside the Ancient World: Homer*. London, 1973.
- Wallace, David. *Chaucer and the Early Writings of Boccaccio*. Woodbridge & Dover, New Hampshire, 1985.
- Willcock, Malcolm M. *A Companion to the Iliad*. Chicago & London, 1976.
- Windeatt, Barry. *Troilus and Criseyde*. Oxford, 1992.
- Young, K. *The Origin and Development of the Story of Troilus and Criseyde*. London, 1908.

Some additional texts

- Caxton; Chapman's Homer, etc., see Bullough, above.
- Colonne, Guido delle. *Historia destructionis Troiae*. Trans. Mary Elizabeth Meek. Bloomington, 1974.
- The Trojan War: The chronicles of Dictys of Crete and Dares the Phrygian*. Trans. R. M. Frazer. Bloomington, [1966].
- Excidium Troiae*. Ed. E. Bagby Atwood and Virgil K. Whitaker. Cambridge, Mass., 1944.
- Joseph of Exeter. *Trojan War I-III*. Ed. with translation and notes by A. K. Bate. Bristol, 1986.
- Lydgate's Troy Book*. Ed. Henry Bergen. EETS 97, 103, 106, 126 (1906-35, repr. 1975).