This course counts as an upper division elective for the English major. It has recently been revamped from 3 units to 4 and covers the major works of Geoffrey Chaucer, the first major English poet. We will read his works in the original and pay particular attention to the grammatical structures of Middle English. Students will be called upon to read the text aloud in Middle English pronunciation and to translate in class. When we get to the Canterbury Tales, please read the description of each pilgrim who appears in the General Prologue for the same class we read the corresponding tale. The Nun’s Priest does not appear in the GP.

Suggested Texts (choose just one!):

Baugh, Chaucer’s Major Poetry
Fisher, The Complete Poetry and Prose of Geoffrey Chaucer
Benson, The Riverside Chaucer
http://englishcomplit.unc.edu/chaucer/chtexts.htm

Any of these texts is fine. The Baugh is probably the easiest to use and should be available used at a reasonable price on Amazon or at the SJSU bookstore.

Grading:

2 midterms  40%
word study  20%
critical paper  20%
final reading exam  20%

Schedule of Classes:

Aug 23   Introduction
Aug 28   Book of the Duchess
Aug 30   Book of the Duchess
Sep 4  Labor Day – no class
Sep 6  Troilus and Criseyde, Book One
Sep 11 Troilus and Criseyde, Book Two
Sep 13  T and C, Book Three
Sep 18  T and C, Finish Book Three, Begin Book Four
Sep 20  T and C, Book Four
Sep 25  T and C, Book Five
Sep 27  T and C, Book Five

Oct 2  FIRST MIDTERM - translation
Oct 4  General Prologue, lines 1-100 and 715-858; Knight’s Tale, Book One
Oct 9  Knight’s Tale, Book Two, Begin Book Three
Oct 11 Knight’s Tale, Book Three and Four
Oct 16  Miller’s Tale
Oct 18  Reeve’s Tale
Oct 23  Man of Law’s Tale  WORD STUDY DUE
Oct 25  Man of Law’s Tale
Oct 30  Wife of Bath’s Prologue

Nov 1  Wife of Bath’s Tale
Nov 6  SECOND MIDTERM - translation
Nov 8  Clerk’s Tale
Nov 13  Clerk’s Tale
Nov 15 Pardoner’s Tale
Nov 20 Instructor Holiday – no class
Nov 22 Thanksgiving break – no class
Nov 27 Prioress’s Tale
Nov 29  Sir Thopas and Melibee (up to “flatereres and wise advocatz lerned in the lawe.”)

Dec 4  Monk’s Tale (Lucifer, Adam, Hercules, De Julio Cesare), Nun’s Priest’s Tale
Dec 6  Nun’s Priest’s Tale
Dec 11  Chaucer’s Retraction  CRITICAL PAPER DUE

Final Exam: December 18, 715-930 AM. The final consists of passages drawn from Chaucer for you to recognize and identify briefly. If you have done the reading for the course, you will be well prepared.