

**LITR 408 – Chaucer**  
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Chaucer the Pilgrim from the  
Ellesmere Manuscript

**LITR 408 – Chaucer:** In this course we will analyze some of Chaucer's major works, his place in English literary history, and examine various critical approaches to Chaucer. Students will also learn about the Medieval world: love, food, romance, religion, and science and study Chaucer's cultural medieval settings. Students will read some works in Middle English and learn pronunciation.

**Books:**

1. Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*
2. Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Wife of Bath*

(*Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism*;  
ed. Peter G. Beidler)

3. Geoffrey Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde*  
And other readings and Movie/s.

**The Canterbury Tales – in  
Middle English (Sample):**

- 1: Whan that aprill with his shoures soote
- 2: The droghte of march hath perced to the roote,
- 3: And bathed every veyne in swich licour
- 4: Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
- 5: Whan zephirus eek with his sweete breath
- 6: Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
- 7: Tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
- 8: Hath in the ram his halve cours yronne,
- 9: And smale foweles maken melodye,
- 10: That slepen al the nyght with open ye
- 11: (so priketh hem nature in hir corages);
- 12: Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages,
- 13: And palmeres for to seken straunge strondes,
- 14: To ferne halwes, kowthe in sondry londes;
- 15: And specially from every shires ende
- 16: Of engelond to caunterbury they wende,
- 17: The hooly blisful martir for to seke,
- 18: That hem hath holpen whan that they were seeke.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To gain a broad familiarity with several of Chaucer's works and era (*The Canterbury Tales*, *Troilus and Criseyde*, and others)
2. To gain a and introductory idea of Chaucer's language
3. To gain a an introduction and of literary terms and critical approaches, applicable to Chaucer's works and other literature
4. To explore Chaucer's interests and his world, and to grasp how he used stories, language, and social relationships to understand the body, masculinity, and femininity.