

## ENGL 344A: The Canterbury Tales (Fall 2022)

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### COURSE OVERVIEW

In this course we will study Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* in detail. The *Tales* represents a unique turning point in English Literature: a culmination of literary and social traditions presented in the form of numerous narratives told by a large cast of characters. In addition to the infamous framing narrative, the text includes a variety of literary genres, such as romance and fabliau, and tales that defy classification. In addition to close reading, we will delve into the language of the tales and explore the historical and literary contexts behind them. Through lectures, discussions, and assignments you will develop your knowledge of *The Canterbury Tales* and your skills in reading Middle English, and as a class we will work together to demystify some of the enigmas that appear within the text.



Boccaccio, *La Teseida*. Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, MS 2617, fol. 53r

### PROPOSED ASSIGNMENTS

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|-------------------------|-----|
| • Translation exercises | 20% |
| • Short Essay           | 20% |
| • Research essay        | 30% |
| • Take-home final exam  | 30% |

### TEXT

*The Canterbury Tales*, ed. Jill Mann. Penguin, 2005.



Ellesmere Chaucer. San Marino, Huntington Library, MS EL C9, fol. 153v