

ENGL 344A: The Canterbury Tales
Instructor: Dr. Anna Dow
Email: annadow@uvic.ca

COURSE OVERVIEW

In ENGL 344A 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 the contexts behind them. Through discussions and assignments you will develop your skills in reading Middle English, as well as your critical thinking, research and academic writing skills. Consequently, you will further your understanding of medieval literature and the *Canterbury Tales* in particular.



PROPOSED ASSIGNMENTS

- Translation exercises 20%
- Short essays 20%
- Research essay 30%
- Take-home final exam 30%

PROPOSED TEXT

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

