

ENGL 4230 Chaucer
Dr. Cristina Maria Cervone
cmcervone@memphis.edu
fall 2022, TR 2:40 – 4:05

Multiple Chaucer(s)

<i>Pale Chaucer ...</i>	<i>... Black Chaucer</i>
<i>Feminist Chaucer ...</i>	<i>... Animal Chaucer</i>
<i>Dreaming Chaucer ...</i>	<i>... Queer Chaucer</i>
<i>Boethian Chaucer ...</i>	<i>... Pagan Chaucer</i>
<i>Cognitive Chaucer ...</i>	<i>... French Chaucer</i>
<i>Victorian Chaucer ...</i>	<i>... Erasure Chaucer</i>

...

This course reads Chaucer through a variety of critical lenses that have proved productive (or not), emphasizing recent important work in medieval studies that prompts us to ponder how ideologies and contemporary conversations influence how we read and how our myopias might affect our interpretations of the past. Topics include, for example, current conversations on racism in medieval studies, feminist readings, queer readings, cognitive approaches, animal studies, materiality, manuscript contexts, and present-day poets' interest in Middle English and Chaucer. If you have no experience with medieval literature or presume Chaucer is old-fashioned or irrelevant, his amazing poems will show you what you have been missing and why his work is beloved of so many today. Prior knowledge of Middle English is not expected; coursework will include language practice as well as close analysis of poetic forms.

The readings and topics provide something of interest for students from all concentrations and all are welcome. Major assignments can be adapted in ways useful to concentrators working in areas other than literature (particularly creative writing). Work on many of the fundamental critical questions can be applied readily to other subfields of English studies.