

WEA Course information sheet 2019-20

Course title: Geoffrey Chaucer. Civil Servant and Poet		Course ID: C2226791
Start date: 16/01/2020	End date: 26/03/2020	Day(s)/time(s): Thu 14:00
Number of sessions: 10	Hours per session: 2	Tutor Graham Platts
Additional hours:	Online Learning Hours: 0	
Specific funder/partner requirements: Half term 20/02/2020		
Awarding body (if any): Title of qualification to be gained:		Level: Level 2
Fee: £85.00 or Free if you are in receipt of an income related benefit (only SFA funded) Accreditation Fee (if applicable):		
Venue: Kings Centre, King Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 1PH		
<p>Theme(s): The WEA has four themes it uses for planning its provision. Employability – helping students to get a job or to make progress in their employment Health and Wellbeing – making a positive contribution to their own or others health and wellbeing Community Engagement – encouraging students to be positively involved in their communities Culture – learning about diverse cultures, identities and environments</p> <p>The Theme(s) used in planning your course is/ are:</p> <p>1. Culture Education 2.</p>		

Course Aim
To learn about Chaucer, his family, upbringing and professional life as well as contemporary events and some of the ideas and literary heritage that were the background to his writing.

Course Description
Geoffrey Chaucer has had an immense influence on British culture during the last six hundred years. We begin by looking at the main events of Chaucer's lifetime (c.1343-1400) and his family background, before turning to aspects of the English and European literary traditions from which he drew and the milieu within which he worked as a 'courtly writer'. We consider contemporary perceptions of society and the groups/types of people of which it comprised, before looking at how Chaucer used this material in The Canterbury Tales. From this will emerge the different Chaucers inside and outside his writings. We then focus on two of the pilgrims and their tales, contrasting characters who tell stories for very different purposes, and we see how each tale links with other parts of the poem. The final sessions bring us back to the 'real' world to consider Chaucer 'the civil servant' and the changing attitudes of people at the end of the fourteenth century.

Do I need any particular skills or experience?

What will I achieve?
By the end of the course I will be able to:
1. State the main events of Chaucer's lifetime.

2. Describe the main phases of Chaucer's life from his early years until his death.
3. Name five (or more) of Chaucer's writings and put them broadly in chronological order.
4. Read Chaucerian English with some understanding and speak his lines in an authentic way.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of how Chaucer's motivation towards his writing changed and how other features of late medieval mentality were changing.

What teaching methods will be used and will there be work outside of the class?

- The WEA tutor will use a range of different teaching and learning methods and encourage you and the group to be actively involved in your learning
- You will be invited to write a pen portrait of a modern person in Chaucerian style, along the lines of the character descriptions in the General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales.

What kind of feedback can I expect from the tutor?

- A range of informal activities will be used by the tutor to see what you are learning which may include quizzes, question and answer, small projects and discussion
- You will be encouraged to share your work with the group and discuss your learning.
- Confirmation at the mid-point of the course that you are making some (or much) progress.
- A note of your progress at the end of the course on the Student Learning Record, with suggestions for further research.

What else do I need to know? Is there anything I need to bring?

- A selection of materials and basic equipment will be provided but you are welcome to bring additional materials with you
- It would be helpful if you had access to the internet (Mobile phone, tablet or computer at home or through a library etc.)
- You will be expected to bring a notebook and pen or pencil to each session.

Pre-course work, reading and information sources

- No pre reading is required but research on the subject on the internet or in the library may be helpful

Possible next steps after this course (including career opportunities if appropriate)

- Progress to another WEA course
- Progress to a course with another provider
- Become involved with the WEA in a range of voluntary work and other activities including campaigning as a WEA member
- Become involved as a volunteer for a WEA partner or another organisation
- Access the WEA What Next? booklet here <http://www.wea.org.uk/learn-wea/what-can-i-do-next>
- Progress to more focused (structured) museum visits.

Learning with the WEA

WEA courses increasingly make use of the rich variety of educational tools and material available on the internet and from digital devices. The WEA's digital learning platform, Canvas will play an increasing role in all WEA courses to provide resources or support, or to conduct lessons, enable assessment, provide learner feedback and for other activities for individuals away from the course. It is helpful, although not essential if you have access to a computer or smartphone to support your course.

You can read about your entitlements and responsibilities as a WEA student in our leaflet, Student Handbook here <http://www.wea.org.uk/learn-wea/student-support> This includes information on fees, learning support and financial support. As part of your course you accept our Learning Agreement and Privacy Notice. Full details of the Learning Agreement and privacy notice can be found on our website at <http://www.wea.org.uk/policies>. This applies to all courses you take in this academic year.

You can enrol online for some courses <http://www.wea.org.uk/learn-wea/course-search> or contact: WEA Support Services, Suite 10B Joseph's Well, Hanover Way, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS3 1AB Tel: 0300 303 3464 Email: courseenquiries@wea.org.uk



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