

Final Exam: Friday, May 5, 7pm

To be written with references to notes contained on an 8 ½ x 11” sheet of paper.

Part I. (1/3 of the test grade)
Pick one of the following passages from Chaucer’s *The Miller’s Tale* and analyze it in relation to *The Knight’s Tale*.

1. Fair was this younge wyf, and therwithal (3233)
As any wezele hir body gent and small.
A ceynt [bolt] she werede, barred al of silk,
A barncloth as whit as morne milk
Upon hir lendes, ful of many a goore [slash].
....
Ful smale y pulled were hir browes two,
And tho were bent and blake as any sloo.
She was ful moore blissful on to see
Than is the new pere-jonette tree,
And softer than the wolle is of a wether.
....
Thereto she koude skippe and make game,
As any kyde or calfe folwyng his dame.
Hir mouth was sweete as bragot [ale] or the meeth [mead],
Or hoord of apples leyd in hey or heeth.
Wynshyng she was, as is a joly colt,
Long as a mast, and upright as a bolt.
2. The moone, what it was nyght, ful brighte shoon, (3353)
And Absolon his gyterne hath ytake
For paramours he thoughte for to wake.
And forth he gooth, jolif and amorous,
Til he cam to the carpenters hous
A litel after cokes hadde ycrowe,
And dressed hym up by a shot-wyndowe
That was upon the carpenteris wal.
He syngeth in his voys gentil and small,
'Now, deere lady, if thy will be,
I praye yow that ye wole rewe on me'
....
Fro day to day this joly Absolon
So woweth hir that hym is wo bigon.
He waketh al the nyght and al the day;
He kembeth his lokkes brode, and made hym gay;

3. This carpenter to blessen hym bigan, (3450)
And seyde, ‘Help us, Seinte Frydeswyde!
A man woot litel what hym shal bityde.
This man is falle, with his astromye,
In some woodnesse or in some agonye.
I thoughte ay wel how that it sholde be!
Men sholde nat knowe of Goddes pryvetee.
Ye, blessed be alwey a lewed [unlearned, simple] man
That noght but oonly his bileve kan!
So ferde another clerk with astromye;
He walked in the feeldes for to pryde
Upon the sterres, what ther sholde bifalle,
Til he was in a marle-pit yfalle [clay-pit];

Part II. Choose **one** the following three essay questions: (2/3 of the test grade)

1. What images and characterizations of the common people emerge from the materials we have examined from 1381? You might consider consulting the following texts, among others:

Trés Riches Heures

1381 Chronicles

The Miller’s Tale

The Book of Margery Kempe

2. Picking an area of specific focus, go back to the three 1381 Chronicle texts and compare the different perspectives of Peasant’s Revolt. You might, for example, compare the different portrayals of Richard II, Wat Tyler, the infamous dagger incident, Wat Tyler’s death. You might also think about how the commoners were portrayed and/or how the nobility was portrayed. You might also want to think about what was at stake for any given chronicler—what were they trying to accomplish with their account?

3. Go back to characters of the schism debate and give an analysis of the Peasant’s Revolt from the point of view of two characters—how would they respond and why? Be sure to choose your characters in such a way as to provide contrasting views of the situation. You are free to choose whether to treat this answer as a straightforward essay, or to reproduce a first-person dialogue. In either case, be sure to stay true to the facts and circumstances of each person’s life.

Pope Urban VI

Pope Clement VII

Charles V of France

Catherine of Siena

Chaucer

Ambrogio Lorenzetti

John Ball

William Ockham