

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Fourth Year Examination in Arts (English), Semester 1, 2018/2019

ENG 4180 Medieval Poetry: Geoffrey Chaucer

Two Hours

Open Book Examination

Answer TWO questions, selecting one from Part A and one from Part B.

Part A

EITHER

1. Critically comment on the Wife of Bath's wit in Chaucer's *The Wife of Bath's Prologue*.

OR

2. "The lack of justice at the end of the tale—where a rapist is rewarded with a wife both faithful and fair—is a call to activism, not a vision of equity achieved." Discuss the argument that Chaucer's *The Wife of Bath's Tale* "does not promote a retributive payback model of justice", but instead shows that "the law can be deployed as an agent of systemic social change".

OR

3. Do you agree that Chaucer's *The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale* simultaneously address a "masculine coterie of readers" as well as "a feminine discourse community", thereby "complicat[ing] a pat masculine response and [asking] its reader to consider events from multiple gendered positions"? Discuss.

Part B

EITHER

1. Discuss the relationship between the Pardoner and his audience in Chaucer's *The Pardoner's Prologue*.

OR

2. Critically explore the use of the "other-worldly" in Chaucer's *The Pardoner's Tale*.

OR

3. "Thus the teller illustrates in himself the negative side of his own exemplum, as if he is most in need of the folk wisdom he is unable to receive." Critically examine this argument in relation to your reading of Chaucer's *The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale*

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