

Paper Three: Chaucer

1. **Pleasure.** Do any of Chaucer's Tales suggest anything about pleasure? If so, what? What does true pleasure entail? How does Chaucer distinguish between lust and love? Between the body and the flesh? Is there such a thing as spiritual pleasure? If so, what is it? Please do not answer all these questions in your paper, only consider them carefully. Once you have done some thinking, choose one scene from one tale and ruminate on Chaucerian pleasure.

2. **Authority.** Who or what do we believe? And how far should we trust them? Which people are trustworthy? Which books? Does Chaucer imply anything about how books authorize opinion? Please do not answer all these questions in your paper, only consider them carefully. Once you have done some thinking, choose one scene from one tale and ruminate on Chaucerian authority.

3. **Deception.** Why should there be deception in the world? Foxes and wandering dandies seem to make a mess of people's lives—and chickens. What purpose does deception serve? Why is it always a part of life? Is it a necessary evil? What do we learn from those who are deceived and from those who do the deceiving? Please do not answer all these questions in your paper, only consider them carefully. Once you have done some thinking, choose one scene from one tale and ruminate on Chaucerian deception.