

**EN 8513**  
**CHAUCER AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES**  
**THE RICARDIAN POETS**

Holly Johnson  
Spring 2018  
Thursday 3:30-6:20

This course will explore several works by four great writers of the late fourteenth century, called the Ricardian poets because they lived during the reign of Richard II (1377-1399). The group includes Geoffrey Chaucer, John Gower, William Langland, and the *Pearl*-Poet (also referred to as the *Gawain*-poet). We will read all works in Middle English, but no prior experience with Middle English is necessary.



(portrait of Richard II at Westminster Abbey)

Probable Texts:

Geoffrey Chaucer

*Book of the Duchess*

*The Parliament of Fowles*

*The House of Fame*

*The Legend of Goodly Women*

John Gower

*Confessio Amantis* (selections)

William Langland

*Piers Plowman*

The *Pearl*-Poet

*Pearl*

*Patience*

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Requirements include two exams, a presentation, a short translation project, an annotated bibliography, and a research paper.