Based on the Reading List format approved by the English Department Graduate Committee in 2011, the
Medieval Studies faculty has created the following reading list of critical texts. It contains a broad
selection of important critical studies many of which we hope you will consult in preparation of your
examination. Specifically, please select ten critical texts from among the *marked texts below, making
sure (together with your advisor) that you cover each of the ten required categories from the texts on your
Reading List I (Middle English Texts and Continental Literature in Translation).

**Middle English Texts and Medieval Literature in Translation: Required Categories**
1) Chaucer & Gower
2) Gawain/Pearl-Poet
3) Langland: *Piers Plowman*
4) Lydgate & Malory
5) Medieval Women Writers
6) Medieval Drama
7) Medieval Romances
8) Medieval Lyrics
9) Mystical Writings and Religious Prose
10) Medieval Literary Theory/Criticism & Medieval Literature in Translation

CRITICISM

Chaucer
Amtower, Laurel and Jacqueline Vanhouette, eds. *A Companion to Chaucer and his Contemporaries: Texts
and Contexts* (Peterborough, 2009).
Benson, C. David, *Critical Essays on Chaucer's 'Troilus and Criseyde' and his Major Early Poems* (Milton
Keynes, 1991).
Benson, Larry D. and Theodore M. Andersson, *The Literary Context of Chaucer's Fabliaux* (Indianapolis,
1971).


Havely, N.R. *Chaucer's Boccaccio* (Cambridge, 1980).
-----------. *Telling Images: Chaucer and the Imagery of Narrative II* (Stanford, 2009)

-----------. *Feminizing Chaucer* (Cambridge, 2002).
Myles, Robert. *Chaucerian Realism* (Woodbridge, 1994).

Travis, Peter. *Disseminal Chaucer: Rereading the Nun's Priest's Tale* (Notre Dame, 2010).
*Trigg, Stephanie. Congenial Souls. Reading Chaucer from Medieval to Postmodern* (Minneapolis, 2002).

-----------. *Chaucer's Dream Poetry: Sources and Analogues* (Cambridge, 1982).
Langland

Clopper, Lawrence M. “*Songes of Rechelesnesse*: Langland and the Franciscans” (Ann Arbor, 1997).


Gawain/Pearl Poet

Keiser, Elizabeth B. *Courtly Desire and Medieval Homophobia* (New Haven, 1997).


Gower


Nitzsche, Jane Chance. *The Genius Figure in Antiquity and the Middle Ages* (New York, 1975).


------. *John Gower: Recent Readings* (Kalamazoo, 1989).

**Romance**

Fewster, Carol, *Traditionality and Genre in Middle English Romance* (Cambridge, 1987).


Maddox, Donald. *The Arthurian Romances of Chrétien de Troyes: Once and Future Fictions* (Cambridge,

*Purdie, Rhiannon. Anglicising Romance: Tail-Rhyme and Genre in Medieval English Literature (Cambridge, 2008).


Wittig, Susan, Stylistic and Narrative Structure in the Middle English Romances (Austin, 1978).

**Lyrics, Carols, and Ballads**

Boklund-Lagopoulou, Karen, ed. “I Have a Young Suster”: Popular Song and the Middle English Lyric (Dublin, 2001).


Duncan, Thomas G. A Companion to the Middle English Lyric (Cambridge, 2005).


Hirsh, John C., ed. Medieval Lyric: Middle English Lyrics, Ballads, and Carols (Malden, 2005).


**Mystical Writings and Religious Prose**


Beer, Frances. Women and Mystical Experience in the Middle Ages (Woodbridge, 1992).


Glasscoe, Marion, ed. The Medieval Mystical Tradition in England (Exeter, 1980).


**Early Drama**

Clopper, Lawrence M. *Drama, Play, and Game: English Festive Culture in the Medieval and Early Modern Period* (Chicago, 2001).
Davies, David. *Gesture in Medieval Drama and Art* (Kalamazoo, 2001).
-------. *Death by Drama and Other Medieval Urban Legends* (Chicago, 2002).
*Gibson, Gail McMurray. *Theatre of Devotion: East Anglian Drama and Society in the Late Middle Ages* (Chicago, 1989).
*King, Pamela M. *The York Mystery Cycle and the Worship of the City* (Cambridge, 2006).
Owens, Margaret E. *Stages of Dismemberment: The Fragmented Body in Late Medieval and Early Modern Drama* (Newark, 2005).
Sceoville, Chester. *Saints and the Audience in Middle English Biblical Drama* (Toronto, 2004).
Twycross, Meg, ed. *Festive Drama* (Cambridge, 1996).
Malory
Mine--.*The Life and Times of Sir Thomas Malory* (Cambridge, 1993).
Spisak, James W., ed. *Studies in Malory* (Kalamazoo, 1985).

Lydgate

Fifteenth-Century Poetry


**General Background Studies**


**Useful Companions**


**Literary Criticism**


Benson, C. David. *The History of Troy in Middle English Literature* (Woodbridge, 1980).


------. *Etymologies and Genealogies: A Literary Anthropology of the French Middle Ages* (Chicago, 1983).


------. *The Scandal of the Fabliaux* (Chicago, 1986).


Holsinger, Bruce W. *Neomedievalism, Neoconservatism, and the War on Terror* (Chicago, 2007).


------. *Music, Body, and Desire in Medieval Culture: Hildegard of Bingen to Chaucer* (Stanford, 2001).


Scattergood, V.J., *Politics and Poetry in Middle English Literature* (Woodbridge, 1980).


------. *Readings in Medieval Poetry* (Cambridge, 1987).


**Literature, Visual Arts, and Technology**


------. *Technology, Guilds & Early English Drama* (Kalamazoo, 1996).


Rickert, M. *Painting in Britain: The Middle Ages* (Harmondsworth, 1954).

**Linguists, Translation, and Rhetoric**
-----, *Middle English Literature: A Cultural History* (Cambridge, 2008).
Fisiak, Jacek, ed., *Studies in Middle English Linguistics* (Berlin, 1997).

**Historical and Cultural Contexts**
Davidson, Clifford. Illustrations of the Stage and Acting in England to 1580 (Kalamzaoo, 1991).
Duby, Georges. The Knight, the Lady and the Priest: The Making of Modern Marriage in Medieval France. Trans. B. Bray (Harmondsworth, 1983).
Green, Richard Firth. Poets and Princepleasers: Literature and the English Court in the Late Middle Ages (Toronto, 1980).
------. The European World (Oxford, 2005).
------. Slavery and Society in Medieval Scandinavia (New Haven, 1988).
Russell, Frederick H. The Just War in the Middle Ages (Cambridge, 1975).
Religious, Philosophical, and Pedagogical Contexts

Aston, Margaret. Lollards and Reformers: Images and Literacy in Late Medieval Religion (London, 1984).
------. Wonderful Blood: Theology and Practice of Late Medieval Northern Germany and Beyond (Philadelphia, 2007).
------. Jesus as Mother: Studies of Spirituality of the High Middle Ages (Los Angeles, 1984).
Clark, James G., ed. The Culture of Medieval English Monasticism (Woodbridge, 2007).
Southern, R.W. Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages (Harmondsworth, 1970).