

Late Medieval English Literature Ph.D. Reading List
I: Middle English Texts and Medieval Literature in Translation

Department of English

Western Michigan University

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 ten required texts and textual corpora. Please note that the following list represents a **minimal foundation** for graduate study in this field and should be used as a guide for professional development, etc. All selections indicated here are based on sound pedagogical, editorial, and scholarly principles.

A) Required Middle English texts:

1) Chaucer & Gower

John Gower, *Confessio Amantis*, Vol.1, ed. Russell A. Peck with Latin translations by Andrew Galloway (2000; second edition 2006)

John Gower, *Confessio Amantis*, Vol. 2, ed. Russell A. Peck with Latin translations by Andrew Galloway (2003)

John Gower, *Confessio Amantis*, Vol. 3, ed. Russell A. Peck with Latin translation by Andrew Galloway (2004)

The Riverside Chaucer, gen. ed. Larry D. Benson (1989)

----- *The Canterbury Tales*

----- *Troilus and Criseyde*

----- *House of Fame*

----- *Parliament of Fowles*

----- *Book of the Duchess*

----- *Legend of Good Women*

----- Short poems (selections)

2) Gawain/Pearl-Poet

Pearl, ed. Sarah Stanbury (2001)

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, ed. J. R. R. Tolkien and E. V. Gordon (1967; reprint 1993)

3) Langland: **Piers Plowman**

Piers Plowman: A Parallel Text Edition of A, B, C and Z Versions, ed. A. V. C. Schmidt (1995)

4) Lydgate & Malory

John Lydgate, *Troy Book: Selections*, ed. Robert R. Edwards (1998)

Thomas Malory, *Morte Darthur*, ed. Eugene Vinaver (1948; second edition, 1977)

5) Medieval Women Writers

Julian of Norwich, *The Shewings of Julian of Norwich*, ed. Georgia Ronan Crampton (1994; revised edition 1996)

The Book of Margery Kempe, ed. Lynn Staley (1996)

In addition, please choose three texts from the list of non-English Medieval Women Writers provided below.

6) Medieval Drama

Please choose five texts from the list of Medieval Drama below. Choices should include examples of the following genres: liturgical, morality, miracle, saints' plays, a complete mystery cycle, and interlude.

7) Medieval Romances

Please choose five romances from the list of Middle English Literature (TEAMS/METS editions) below.

8) Medieval Lyrics

Please choose 30 lyrics, making sure to include examples of different genres from the twelfth through the fifteenth centuries from the list of editions of Medieval Lyrics below.

9) Mystical Writings and Religious Prose

Please choose two texts from the list of Middle English Literature (TEAMS/METS editions) below.

10) Medieval Literary Theory/Criticism & Medieval Literature in Translation

a) From **The Norton Anthology of Theory & Criticism**, gen. ed. Vincent B. Leitch (second edition 2010), please read the sections by Plato, Aristotle, Longinus, Augustine, Maimonides, Macrobius, Thomas Aquinas, Dante, Boccaccio, and Christine de Pizan

b) From the list of Medieval Literature in Translation below, please choose three texts, each representing a different genre.

B) Full Selection of Recommended Medieval Texts

Middle English Literature

The following editions are available online at the TEAMS/METS website; print editions are published by Medieval Institute Publications (MIP), Kalamazoo, MI.

Amis and Amiloun, Robert of Cisyle, and Sir Amadace, ed. Edward E. Foster (1997; second edition, 2007)

Ancrene Wisse, ed. Robert Hasenfratz (2000)

The Book of John Mandeville, ed. Tamarah Kohanski and C. David Benson (2007)

The Canterbury Tales: Fifteenth-Century Continuations and Additions, ed. John M. Bowers (1992)

Chaucer and the Poems of "Ch", ed. James I. Wimsatt (2009)

The Chaucerian Apocrypha: A Selection, ed. Kathleen Forni (2005)

Chaucerian Dream Visions and Complaints, ed. Dana M. Symons (2004)

The Cloud of Unknowing, ed. Patrick J. Gallacher (1997)

The Dicts and Sayings of the Philosophers, ed. John William Sutton (2006)

The Floure and the Leafe, The Assemblie of Ladies, and The Isle of Ladies, ed. Derek Pearsall (1990)

Four Middle English Romances; Sir Isumbras, Octavian, Sir Eglamour of Artois, Sir

Tryamour, ed. Harriet Hudson (1995; second edition 2006)

Four Romances of England: King Horn, Havelok the Dane, Bevis of Hampton, Athelston, ed. Ronald B. Herzman, Graham Drake, and Eve Salisbury (1999)

Gavin Douglas, *The Palis of Honoure*, ed. David J. Parkinson (1992)

Heroic Women from the Old Testament in Middle English Verse, ed. Russell A. Peck (1991)

John Capgrave, *The Life of Saint Katherine*, ed. Karen A. Winstead (1999)

John Lydgate, *The Siege of Thebes*, ed. Robert R. Edwards (2001)

John Lydgate, *The Temple of Glas*, ed. J. Allan Mitchell (2007)

King Arthur's Death: The Middle English Stanzaic Morte Arthur and Alliterative Morte Arthure, ed. Larry D. Benson and Edward E. Foster (1994; second edition 1996)

The Kingis Quair and Other Prison Poems, ed. Linne R. Mooney and Mary-Jo Arn (2005)

Lancelot of the Laik and Sir Tristrem, ed. Alan Lupack (1994)

The Middle English Breton Lays, ed. Anne Laskaya and Eve Salisbury (1995)

Middle English Legends of Women Saints, ed. Sherry L. Reames (2003)

The Poems of Robert Henryson, ed. Robert L. Kindrick (1997)

Prose Merlin, ed. John Conlee (1998)

Richard the Redeless and Mum and the Sothsegger, ed. James M. Dean (2000)

Robin Hood and Other Outlaw Tales, ed. Stephen Knight and Thomas Ohlgren (1999)

Saints' Lives in Middle English Collections, ed. E. Gordon Whatley, with Anne B. Thompson and Robert K. Upchurch (2004)

Sentimental and Humorous Romances, ed. Erik Kooper (2006)

Sir Gawain: Eleven Romances and Tales, ed. Thomas Hahn (1995)

Sir Perceval of Galles and Ywain and Gawain, ed. Mary Flowers Braswell (1995)

Six Ecclesiastical Satires, ed. James M. Dean (1991)

Stanzaic Guy of Warwick, ed. Alison Wiggins (2004)

Thomas Hoccleve, *The Regiment of Princes*, ed. Charley R. Blyth (1999)

Thomas Usk, *The Testament of Love*, ed. R. Allen Shoaf (1998)

Three Middle English Charlemagne Romances, ed. Alan Lupack (1990)

Three Purgatory Poems: The Gast of Gy, Sir Owain, The Vision of Tundale, ed. Edward E. Foster (2004)

The Trials and Joys of Marriage, ed. Eve Salisbury (2002)

The Wallace: Selections, ed. Anne McKim (2003)

Walter Hilton, *The Scale of Perfection*, ed. Thomas H. Bestul (2000)

William Caxton, *The Game and Playe of the Chesse*, ed. Jenny Adams (2009)

William Dunbar, *The Complete Works*, ed. John Conlee (2004)

Wynnere and Wastoure and The Parlement of the Thre Ages, ed. Warren Ginsberg (1992)

Non-TEAMS/METS selections/editions

Layamon's Arthur: The Arthurian Section of Layamon's Brut (lines 9229-14297), ed. and trans. W. R. J. Barron and S. C. Weinberg

Medieval Drama

Two Moral Interludes: The Pride of Life and Wisdom, ed. David N. Klausner (2009)

The N-Town Plays, ed. Douglas Sugano (2008)

The Castle of Perseverance, ed. David N. Klausner (2010)

Everyman and Its Dutch Original, Elckerlijc, ed. Clifford Davidson, Martin W. Walsh, and Ton J. Broos (2006)

Mankind, ed. Kathleen M. Ashley and Gerard NeCastro (2010)

John Lydgate, *Mummings and Entertainments*, ed. Claire Sponsler (2010)

York Corpus Christi Plays, ed. Clifford Davidson (2011)

Digby Mary Magdalene, ed. Theresa Coletti (2011)

Croxton Play of the Sacrament, ed. John. T. Sebastian (2011)

The Towneley Plays, ed. Walter Epp (2011)

Medieval Drama, ed. David Bevington (Boston, 1975)

Medieval Women Writers

Birgitta of Sweden, *Revelations*, trans. Marguerite Tjader Harris

Catherine of Siena, *The Dialogue*, trans. Suzanne Noffke

Christine de Pizan, *Book of the City of Ladies*, trans. Earl Jeffrey Richards

-----. *The Selected Writings of Christine de Pizan*, trans. Kevin Brownlee
Dhousa, *Handbook for William*, trans. Carol Neel
Hildegard of Bingen (selections), trans. Mark Atherton
Hrotsvit of Gandersheim, *The Plays of Hrotsvit of Gandersheim*, trans.
Katarina Wilson (1989)
Marie de France, *Lais*, trans. Judith P. Shoaf
-----. *The Fables*, trans. Mary Lou Martin, and/or *Saint Patrick's Purgatory*,
trans. Michael J. Curley
Letters of Abelard and Heloise, trans. Betty Radice

Medieval Literature in Translation

The Nibelungenlied, trans. A. T. Hatto
Reynard the Fox, trans. D. D. R. Owen
Silence, trans. Sarah Roche-Mahdi
The Song of Roland, trans. Glyn S. Burgess
Boccaccio, *On Famous Women*, trans. Virginia Brown
-----. *Decameron*, trans. Guido Waldman.
Dante, *Commedia*, trans. Allen Mandelbaum
-----. *La Vita Nuova*, trans. David R. Slavitt
Petrarch, *Africa*, trans. Thomas G. Bergin and Alice S. Wilson
-----. *Selections from the Canzoniere and Other Works*, trans. Mark Musa
Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun, *Roman de la Rose*, trans. Charles
Dahlberg
Letters of Abelard and Heloise, trans. Betty Radice
Abelard & Heloise: The Letters and Other Writings, trans. William Levitan
Wace, *Roman de Brut*, trans. Judith Weiss
Gottfried von Strassburg, *Tristan*, trans. A. T. Hatto
Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Parzival*, trans. Cyril Edwards
Chrétien de Troyes, *Lancelot: Knight of the Cart*, trans. Ruth Harwood Cline
-----. *Yvain: Knight of the Lion*, trans. Burton Raffel
-----. *Perceval*, trans. Nigel Bryant

-----. *Erec and Enide*, trans. Ruth Harwood Cline
Andreas Capellanus, *Art of Courtly Love*, trans. John Jay Parry
Geoffrey of Monmouth, *History of the Kings of Britain*, trans. Lewis Thorpe
Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. Garry Wills
-----. *City of God* (excerpts), trans. R. W. Dyson

Medieval Lyrics

Lyrics of the Middle Ages: An Anthology, ed. James J. Wilhelm (1990)
Medieval Lyric: Middle English Lyrics, Ballads, and Carols, ed. John C. Hirsch (2004)
Middle English Lyrics, ed. Maxwell S. Luria and Richard L. Hoffman (1974)
Medieval English Lyrics 1200-1400, ed. Thomas G. Duncan (1996)
Medieval English Lyrics: A Critical Anthology, ed. R. T. Davies (1988)
English Medieval Religious Lyrics, ed. Douglas Gray (1992)
Medieval Ballads: Chivalry, Romance, and Everyday Life: A Critical Anthology, ed. Gwendolyn A. Morgan (1996)
Middle English Marian Lyrics, ed. Karen Saupe (1998)
Moral Love Songs and Laments, ed. Susanna Greer Fein (1998)
One Hundred Middle English Lyrics, ed. Robert D. Stevick (1994)
John the Blind Audelay, *Poems and Carols* (Oxford, Bodleian Library MS Douce 302), ed. Susanna Fein (2009)

Background reading should include Roman authors such as Virgil: *Aeneid*, *Georgics*, *Eclogues*, Ovid: *Metamorphoses*, *Heroides*, *Ars Amatoria*, *Remedia Amoris*, Statius: *Thebaid*, *Achilleid*, Plautus and Terence (selections), Cicero, Horace, *Ars Poetica*, Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*; Greek authors such as Homer, Sappho, Euripides, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Aristophanes, Scriptural texts from Genesis to the Apocalypse (*Revised Standard Version* or *Dhouy-Rheims* or *Biblia Sacra*) and select writings of Augustine, Jerome, Ambrose, and Gregory the Great.

Medieval Literary Theory and Criticism

The Norton Anthology of Theory & Criticism, gen. ed. Vincent B. Leitch (second edition, 2010)

Plato, *Republic, Phaedrus*

Aristotle, *Poetics, Rhetoric*

Augustine of Hippo, *On Christian Doctrine, The Trinity*

Quintilian, *Institutio Oratoria* (excerpts)

Geoffrey of Vinsauf, *Poetria Nova*, trans. Margaret Nims

Macrobius, *Commentary on the Dream of Scipio*

Cicero, *De Republica* (Scipio's Dream)

Hugh of St. Victor, *Didascalicon*

Plotinus, *Fifth Ennead*

Dante, *Il Convivio, Letter to Can Grande*

Boccaccio, *Genealogy of the Gentile Gods* (excerpts)