

Middle English Field Examination Reading List
2010

Candidates for this exam are expected to show complete knowledge of the core reading list, both the primary readings and the secondary criticism, thus being able to discuss both the works themselves and their evolving status in the field. Additionally, they must prepare one specialization relating to their proposed PhD dissertation area. This reading list is long and diverse, and preparation for the exam should be undertaken with the help of the examination chair and examination committee.

Core List (Primary Works)

Note: Several of the works listed are not in Middle English but in other European vernaculars, Anglo-Saxon or Latin. These may be read in translation. Works listed in the core list will not be repeated in the specialization lists, though they may be relevant to them.

Augustine, *Confessions*

Aquinas, *On Nature and Grace*

Beowulf

The Song of Roland

Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*

The Book of Margery Kempe

Geoffrey Chaucer

Troilus and Criseyde

Canterbury Tales

As a minimum, candidates should read the frequently anthologized tales (for instance, the ones in the Norton Critical Edition, ed. Kolve and Olson), and all of Fragments I, III, and VII in *The Riverside Chaucer* (ed. Benson, 3rd ed.).

Dante Alighieri, *Commedia*

Guillaume de Lorris, *Roman de la rose* [first part, excluding Jean de Meun's continuation]

Sir Orfeo

William Langland, *Piers Plowman* (B-Text)

Thomas Malory, *Morte Darthur*

Pearl-Poet, *Pearl, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

York Cycle

Anonymous Middle English lyrics

Available in anthologies, e.g., *Medieval Lyric*, ed. Hirsh (2004) or *Middle English Lyrics*, ed. Luria and Hoffman (1974)

Middle English Marian Lyrics, ed. Karen Saupe (1998)

Core List (Criticism)

Note: Some of the scholarship below is introductory and comprehensive, providing overviews of fields within medieval studies, or critical history; some are monuments in particular fields, such as Chaucer studies or exegesis; some are influential recent monographs that have shaped recent critical dialogue. It is important here to get an overall sense of the history of the discipline and the place of important scholars and schools within it.

Monographs and Essay Collections

David Aers, ed., *Culture and History 1350-1600* (1992)

John Bossy, *Christianity in the West 1400-1700* (1985)

Christopher Cannon, *Middle English Literature: A Cultural History* (2008)

Mary Carruthers, *The Book of Memory: A Study of Memory in Medieval Culture* (1990)

Peter Dronke, *The Medieval Lyric*, 2nd ed. (1978)

Framing Medieval Bodies, ed. Sarah Kay and Miri Rubin (1996)

Douglas Grey, *Later Medieval English Literature* (2008)

Literary Practice and Social Change in Britain, 1380-1530 (1990), ed. Lee Patterson

Middle English Literature: A Guide to Criticism, ed. Roger Dalrymple (2004)

Medieval Religion: New Approaches, ed. Constance H. Berman (2005)

Lee Patterson, "On the Margin: Postmodernism, Ironic History, and Medieval Studies," *Speculum* 65 (1990)

Brian Stock, *The Implications of Literacy* (1983)

—, *Listening for the Text: On the Uses of the Past* (1990)

Paul Strohm, *England's Empty Throne* (1998)

—, ed., *Middle English* (2007)

Diane Watt, *Medieval Women's Writing: Works by and for Women in England, 1100–1500* (2007)

Anthologies and Histories

The Cambridge History of Medieval English Literature, ed. David Wallace (1999)

The Idea of the Vernacular: An Anthology of Middle English Literary Theory, 1280–1520, ed. Jocelyn Wogan-Browne et al. (1999)

James Simpson, *The Oxford English Literary History, Volume 2: 1350-1547: Reform and Cultural Revolution* (2002)

Specialization 1: Chaucer and Court Poetry

Texts

Geoffrey Chaucer

The Canterbury Tales (all)

The Book of the Duchess

The House of Fame

The Parliament of Fowls

The Legend of Good Women

Short poems

Giovanni Boccaccio, *Il Filostrato*
 Guillaume de Machaut, *Le Livre dou Voir Dit* (trans Palmer, 1996)
 Petrarch, *Canzoniere*
 Geoffrey of Vinsauf, *Poetria Nova*

John Gower, *Confessio amantis*

Thomas Usk, *The Testament of Love*

Criticism

Carolyn Dinshaw, *Chaucer's Sexual Poetics* (1989)
 Elaine Tuttle Hansen, *Chaucer and the Fictions of Gender* (1992)
 Donald R. Howard, *The Idea of the Canterbury Tales* (1976)
 V. A. Kolve, *Chaucer and the Imagery of Narrative* (1984)
 Lerer, Seth, ed., *The Yale Companion to Chaucer* (2006)
 Jill Mann, *Chaucer and Medieval Estates Satire* (1973)
 Anne Middleton, "The Idea of Public Poetry in the Reign of Richard II," *Speculum* 53 (1978)
 Charles Muscatine, *Chaucer and the French Tradition* (1965)
 Lee Patterson, *Chaucer and the Subject of History* (1991)
 Paul Strohm, *Social Chaucer* (1989)
 David Wallace, *Chaucerian Polity* (1997)
 James Simpson, *Medieval Sciences and the Self* (1995)

Specialization 2: Langland and the Piers Plowman TraditionTexts

William Langland, *Piers Plowman*, C Text (2nd rev. ed., Pearsall 2008)
 [Note: B Text is in core list]
 Kane-Donaldson, eds. *Piers Plowman* (Athlone Press, revised edition 1988)
Pierce the Ploughman's Crede
Richard the Redeless
Mum and the Sothsegger

Criticism

Charlotte Brewer, *Editing Piers Plowman: The Evolution of the Text* (1996)
 Steven Justice, *Writing and Rebellion: England in 1381* (1994)
 Madeleine Kasten, *In Search of "Kynde Knowynge": Piers Plowman and the Origin of Allegory* (2007)
 Kathryn Kerby-Fulton, *Reformist Apocalypticism and Piers Plowman* (1990)
 — and Steven Justice, eds., *Written Work: Langland, Labor, and Authorship* (1997)
 — and Denise L. Despres, *Iconography and the Professional Reader* (1999)

- Anne Middleton, "William Langland's 'Kynde Name'" in Lee Patterson, ed., *Literary Practice and Social Change in Britain, 1380–1530* (1990)
- Maureen Quilligan, *The Language of Allegory: Defining the Genre* (1992)
- William Elford Rogers, *Interpretation in Piers Plowman* (2002)
- Wendy Scase, *Piers Plowman and the New Anticlericalism* (1989)
- James Simpson, *Piers Plowman: An Introduction to the B-Text* (1990)
- Nicolette Zeeman, *Piers Plowman and the Medieval Discourse of Desire* (2006)

Specialization 3: Fifteenth Century Authorship

Texts

Thomas Hoccleve

La Male Regle

The Regiment of Princes

Series

Minor Poems

John Lydgate

The Temple of Glas

The Siege of Thebes

The Troy Book (selections, ed. R Edwards for TEAMS 1996)

The Minor Poems

Christine de Pizan, *Book of the City of Ladies*

Charles d'Orleans, *Fortunes Stabilnes*

Pearsall, ed., *Chaucer to Spenser, an Anthology* (1999)

Criticism

Lisa H. Cooper and Andrea Denny-Brown, eds., *Lydgate Matters: Poetry and Material Culture in the Fifteenth Century* (2008)

David Lawton, "Dullness and the Fifteenth Century," *ELH* (1987)

Seth Lerer, *Chaucer and his Readers* (1993)

Meyer-Lee, Robert J., *Poets and Power from Chaucer to Wyatt* (2007)

Nigel Mortimer, *John Lydgate's Fall of Princes: Narrative Tragedy in its Literary and Political Contexts* (2005)

Maura Nolan, *John Lydgate and the Making of Public Culture* (2005)

Larry Scanlon and James Simpson, eds., *John Lydgate: Poetry, Culture, and Lancastrian England* (2006)

Paul Strohm, *Theory and the Premodern Text* (2000)

Specialization 4: Drama

Texts

The Castle of Perseverance

Chester Cycle

Croxton *Play of the Sacrament*

Digby *Conversion of St Paul*

Digby *Killing of the Children*

Digby *Mary Magdalen*

Everyman

Jeu d'Adam

Mankind

Henry Medwall, *Fulgens and Lucreces*

N-Town Cycle

Wakefield Cycle

Wisdom

Criticism

The Cambridge Companion to Medieval English Theatre, ed. Richard Beadle (1994)

Lawrence M. Clopper, *Drama, Play, and Game: English Festive Culture in the Medieval and Early Modern Period* (2001)

A Companion to the Medieval Theatre, ed. Ronald W. Vince (1989)

Contexts for Early English Drama, ed. Marianne G. Briscoe and John C. Coldewey (1989)

Clifford Davidson, *Technology, Guilds, and Early English Drama* (1996)

Jody Enders, *The Medieval Theater of Cruelty: Rhetoric: Memory, Violence* (2002)

Christina Marie Fitzgerald, *The Drama of Masculinity and Medieval English Guild Culture* (2007)

Leonard Goldstein, *The Origin of Medieval Drama* (2004)

Bruce W. Holsinger, "Analytical Survey 6: Medieval Literature and Cultures of Performance," *New Medieval Literatures* 6 (2003)

V. A. Kolve, *The Play Called Corpus Christi* (1966)

Anne Lancashire, *London Civic Theatre: City Drama and Pageantry from Roman Times to 1558* (2002)

A New History of Early English Drama, ed. John D. Cox and David Scott Kastan (1997)

Katie Normington, *Gender and Medieval Drama* (2004)

The Performance of Middle English Culture, ed. James J. Paxson et al. (1996)

Claire Sponsler, *Drama and Resistance: Bodies, Goods, and Theatricality in Late Medieval England* (1997)

Specialization 5: Devotional Writing

Texts

Ancrene Wisse

Augustine, *De doctrina Christiana*

The Ayenbite of Inwyt

Clemence of Barking, *Life of St Catherine*

The Early South English Legendary

Hali Meidenhad

Walter Hilton

Scale of Perfection

Mixed Life

Julian of Norwich, *Revelations* (Long Version)

The Life of Christina of Markyate

Lollard writing

The Trial of William Thorpe

Norwich Heresy Trials

Prologue to the Wycliffite Bible

Lantern of Light

Lollard Sermons (ed. Cigman, EETS)

Nicholas Love, *Mirroure of the Blessed Life of Jesu Crist*

Pearl-Poet

Cleanness

Patience

Richard Rolle

Form of Living

Fire of Love

Criticism

David Aers and Lynn Staley, *The Powers of the Holy* (1996)

Denise Baker, *Julian of Norwich's "Showings": From Vision to Book* (1994)

Anne Clark Bartlett, *Male Authors, Female Readers: Representation and Subjectivity in Middle English Devotional Literature* (1995)

Sarah Beckwith, *Christ's Body: Identity, Culture and Society in Late Medieval Writings* (1993)

Caroline Walker Bynum, *Holy Feast and Holy Fast: The Religious Significance of Food to Medieval Women* (1987)

Theresa Coletti, *Mary Magdalene and the Drama of Saints: Theater, Gender, and Religion in Late Medieval England* (2004)

Eamon Duffy, *The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England c. 1400-c. 1580* (1992)

Barbara Newman, *From Virile Woman to WomanChrist: Studies in Medieval Religion and Literature* (1995)

Christine Peters, *Patterns of Piety: Women, Gender and Religion in Late Medieval and Reformation England* (2003)

Miri Rubin, *Corpus Christi: The Eucharist in Late Medieval Culture* (1991)

Lynn Staley, *Margery Kempe's Dissenting Fictions* (1994)

Nicholas Watson, *Richard Rolle and the Invention of Authority* (1991)

—, "The Composition of Julian of Norwich's *Revelation of Love*," *Speculum* 68 (1993)

—, "Censorship and Cultural Change," *Speculum* 70 (1995)

Specialization 6: Romance

Texts

Middle English Romances (Arthurian)

The Awntyrs of Arthur
The Prose Merlin
 Stanzaic *Le Morte Arthur*
 Alliterative *Morte Arthur*
Golagrus and Gawain
The Avowyinge of Arthur
Ywain and Gawain
The Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnell
Libeaus Desconus

Middle English Romances (Non-Arthurian)

Havelock the Dane
King Horn
Sir Gowther
Sir Isumbras
Amis and Amiloun
The Tale of Gamelyn
Sir Beues of Hamtoun
Le Bone Florence of Rome
Octovian

Continental Romance

Chrétien de Troyes, *Romances*
 Gottfried von Strassburg, *Tristan and Isolt*
 Marie de France, *Lais*
 Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Parzifal*

Criticism

Arthurian Women: A Casebook, ed. Thelma S. Fenster (1996)
 W. J. R. Barron, *English Medieval Romance* (1987)
The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Romance, ed. Roberta L. Kruger (2000)
 Helen Cooper, *The English romance in time : transforming motifs from Geoffrey of Monmouth to the death of Shakespeare* (2004)
 Susan Crane, *Insular Romance* (1987)
 Geraldine Heng, *Empire of Magic: Medieval Romance and the Politics of Cultural Fantasy* (2003)
 Alan Lupack, *The Oxford Guide to Arthurian Literature and Legend* (2005)
 Derek Pearsall, *Arthurian Romance: A Short Introduction* (2003)
Pulp Fictions of Medieval England: Essays in Popular Romance, ed. Nicola McDonald (2004)
 Louise Sylvester, *Medieval Romance and the Construction of Heterosexuality* (2008)
 K. S. Whetter, *Understanding Genre and Medieval Romance* (2008)

Women and Medieval Epic: Gender, Genre, and the Limits of Epic Masculinity, ed. Sara S. Poor and Jana K. Schulman (2007)

Specialization 7: Historiography

Texts

Chronicle and History

Augustine of Hippo, *City of God*

Paulus Orosius, *Seven Books Against the Pagans*

The Battle of Agincourt: Sources and Interpretations, ed. Anne Curry (2000)

Brut chronicles (ed. Brie, EETS)

Chronicles of the Revolution 1397-1400: The Reign of Richard II, trans. Chris Given-Wilson (1993)

Froissart, *Chronicles*

Geoffrey of Monmouth, *History of the Kings of Britain*

Gesta Henrici Quinti, trans. Frank Taylor and John S. Roskell (1975)

Guido delle Colonne, *Historia destructionis Troiae* (trans. M. E. Meek (1974))

Romances

Alexander and Dindimus

The King of Tars

Richard Coer de Lyon

The Siege of Jerusalem

The Siege of Melayne

Sir Ferumbras

The Sowdone of Babylon

The Siege of Jerusalem

Titus and Vespasian

The Wars of Alexander

Criticism

C. David Benson, *The History of Troy in Middle English Literature: Guido delle Colonne's Historia Destructionis Troiae in Medieval England* (1980)

Antonia Gransden, *Historical Writing in England: ii. c. 1307 to the Early Sixteenth Century* (1982)

Chris Given-Wilson, *Chronicles: The Writing of History in Medieval England* (2004)

Robert W. Hanning, *The Vision of History in Early Britain from Gildas to Geoffrey of Monmouth* (1966)

Richard J. Moll, *Before Malory: Reading Arthur in Later Medieval England* (2003)

Lee Patterson, *Negotiating the Past: The Historical Understanding of Medieval Literature* (1987)

—, *Chaucer and the Subject of History* (1991)

Reading the Medieval in Early Modern England, ed. Gordon McMullan and David Matthews (2007)

John Taylor, *English Historical Literature in the Fourteenth Century* (1987)
Writing Medieval History, ed. Nancy Partner (2005)

Specialization 8: Travel Writing

Texts

The Chronicle of Fulcher of Chartres
 Gerald of Wales: *Itinerarium Cambriae, Descriptio Cambriae, Expugnatio Hiberica*
 Jean de Joinville, *The Life of Saint Louis*
 John of Plano Carpini, *History of the Mongols*
The Journal of Friar Odoric
The Journey of William of Rubruck
Mandeville's Travels
The Travels of Marco Polo
 Geoffrey de Villehardouin, *The Conquest of Constantinople*

Criticism

Suzanne Conklin Akbari, *Idols in the East: European Representations of Islam and the Orient, 1100-1450* (2009)
 Siobhain Bly Calkin, *Saracens and the Making of English Identity: The Auchinleck Manuscript* (2005)
 Mary Campbell, *The Witness and the Other World: Exotic European Travel Writing, 400-1600* (1988)
 Nichole Chareyron, *Pilgrims to Jerusalem in the Middle Ages* (2002)
 Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, ed., *The Postcolonial Middle Ages* (2000)
 Evelyn Edson, *Mapping Time and Space: How Medieval Mapmakers Viewed their World* (1997)
 Carol Falvo Heffernan, *The Orient in Chaucer and Medieval Romance* (2003)
 Geraldine Heng, *Empire of Magic: Medieval Romance and the Politics of Cultural Fantasy* (2003)
 Iain Higgins, *Writing East: The Travels of Sir John Mandeville* (1997)
 Steven F. Kruger, *The Spectral Jew: Conversion and Embodiment in Medieval Europe* (2006)
Marco Polo and the Encounter of East and West, ed. Suzanne Conklin Akbari and Amilcare Iannucci (2008)
 Maria Rosa Menocal, *The Arabic Role in Medieval Literary History* (1987)
 David Nirenberg, *Communities of Violence: Persecution of Minorities in the Middle Ages* (1996)
Pilgrimage: The English Experience from Becket to Bunyan, ed. Colin Morris and Peter Roberts (2002)
Postcolonial Approaches to the European Middle Ages: Translating Cultures, ed. Ananya Jahanara Kabir and Deanne Williams (2005)
 John Tolan, *Saracens: Islam in the Medieval European Imagination* (2002)
 David Wallace. *Premodern Places: Calais to Surinam, Chaucer to Aphra Behn* (2004)

Specialization 9: Scots Literature

Texts

John Barbour, *The Bruce*

Blind Harry, *The Wallace*

Gavin Douglas

Palace of Honour

Aeneid (minimum: Books 1, 13)

William Dunbar

The Treatise of the Two Married Women and the Widow

The Flyting of Dunbar and Kennedy

The Golden Targe

Lament for the Makaris

The Thrissill and the Rois

Short poems (in *The Complete Works*, ed. John Conlee (2006))

Golagrus and Gawain

Robert Henryson

The Moral Fables

Orpheus and Eurydice

The Testament of Cresseid

Short poems (in *The Poems of Robert Henryson*, ed. Robert L. Kindrick (1997))

Richard Holland, *Buke of the Howlat*

James I, *The Kingis Quair*

The Tail of Rauf Coilyear

Andrew Wyntoun, *Chronicle*

Criticism

Bards and Makars: Scottish Language and Literature: Medieval and Renaissance, ed. A. J. Aitken (1977)

Priscilla Bawcutt, *Gavin Douglas: A Critical Study* (1976)

—, *Dunbar the Makar* (1992)

Bryght Lanternis: Essays on the Language and Literature of Medieval and Renaissance Scotland, ed. J. Derrick McClure and Michael R. G. Spiller (1989)

A Companion to Medieval Scottish Poetry, ed. Priscilla J. Bawcutt and Janet Hadley Williams (2006)

Lois Ebin, *Illuminator, Makar, Vates: Visions of Poetry in the Fifteenth Century* (1988)

Louise Olga Fradenburg, *City, Marriage, Tournament: The Arts of Rule in Late Medieval Scotland* (1991)

R. James Goldstein, *The Matter of Scotland: Historical Narrative in Medieval Scotland* (1993)

Douglas Gray, *Robert Henryson* (1979)

History, Literature, and Music in Scotland, 700–1560, ed. Russell Andrew McDonald (2002)

The History of Scottish Literature, ed. R. D. S. Jack et al. (1988)

Robert L. Kindrick, *Henryson and the Medieval Arts of Rhetoric* (1993)

Edmund Reiss, *William Dunbar* (1979)

The Renaissance in Scotland, ed. A. A. MacDonald et al. (1994)

Ian Simpson Ross, *William Dunbar* (1981)

Bruce Webster, *Medieval Scotland: The Making of an Identity* (1994)