

Wilfrid Laurier University
Department of English and Film Studies
Reading List for Comprehensive Area Examination - Medieval Literature

Old English

(a) Poetry (original language)*

Beowulf. Recommended Editions Klaeber's Fourth edition, eds. Fulk, Bjork, and Niles
[recommended translations: D. Howell Chickering's dual language edition and
Seamus Heaney's dual language edition].

"The Wanderer"

"The Battle of Maldon"

"The Dream of the Rood"

"Genesis A"

"The Seafarer"

Four of the following: "Widsith," "Deor," "Wulf and Eadwacer," "The Wife's Lament,"
"The Husband's Message," "The Ruin," "The Battle of Brunanburh," "Christ I, II,
and II," Judith, Juliana, Exodus"

10 Riddles from *The Exeter Book*

[*Anglo-Saxon Poetic Records (Exeter Book)*, ed. Gollancz, Krapp and Dobbie, or Muir;
anthologies or Methuen individual editions exist for most of these poems.]

(b) Prose (in translation)*

King Alfred's Preface to Gregory's *Cura Pastoralis*

Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: sections concerning the Anglo-Saxon invasions of
England, the story of Alfred, the two waves of Viking invasions, and 1066

Wulfstan, *Sermo lupi ad anglos* (selections)

Aelfric: at least three homilies from the *Catholic Homilies* and at least three saints' lives
from the *Lives of Saints* or a combination. [Editions of Skeat for *Lives*, Godden
for *Catholic Homilies*.]

*Mitchell and Robinson's *Guide to Old English* is a good place to start.

Early Middle English Literature

Ancrene Wisse

Hali Meidhad

The Owl and the Nightingale

Fourteenth Century

Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales* (Fragments I, III, IV, V, VI, VIII, X), *Troilus and Criseyde*, and **two** of *The Book of the Duchess*, *The House of Fame*, *The Parliament of Fowls*, and *The Legend of Good Women* (Prologue only) (*The Riverside Chaucer*, ed. Benson et al.)

William Langland, *Piers Plowman B* (ed. Schmidt)

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (ed. Tolkien, Gordon and Davis or Andrew and Waldron)

Pearl, ed. Andrew and Waldron, Gordon or Vantuono.

Gower, *Confessio Amantis* (Prologue, *The Tale of Florent*, *The Tale of Medea*, and the *Tale of Narcissus*)

Romances: **one** of *Guy of Warwick*, *Lybeaus Desconus*, or *Bevis of Hampton*
Sir Orfeo, *The Marriage of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnelle*, *Sir Launfal*, and **four** of
Ywain and Gawain, the *Alliterative Morte Arthur*, the *Stanzaic Morte Arthur*, *Havelock*
the Dane, *King Horn*, or *The Squire of Low Degree*

Middle English Lyrics (ed. Luria and Hoffman)

Fifteenth Century

One of Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe* or Julian of Norwich, *A Revelation of Love* (ed. Watson and Jenkins, Crampton, or Baker)

Richard Rolle - Selections from his English Writings.

Malory, *Le Morte D'Arthur* (the Cooper, Vinaver, or Shepherd editions)

The Paston Letters. (selections)

One of *The Towneley Cycle*, *The Chester Cycle* or *The York Cycle* of mystery plays.

One of *Everyman*, *Mankind*, or *The Castle of Perseverance*.

Mandeville's Travels (in translation)

Preface to Wycliffe Bible

Caxton's Introduction to the *Morte D'Arthur*

John Lydgate, *The Troy Book* (Book II), *The Temple of Glass*, 2 Selected Shorter Poems

John Skelton, *The Boke of Phyllyp Sparowe, Ware the Hawk*, "Ageynst Garnische,"
 "The Tunnyng of Elynore Rummyng"
 Robert Henryson, *The Testament of Cresseid*
 William Dunbar, *The Golden Targe*
 James I, *The Kingis Quair*

Medieval Non-English Works

The Song of Roland
 Andreas Capellanus, *The Art of Courtly Love*
 Augustine, selections from *The Confessions*, *On Christine Doctrine*, or *The City of God*
 Boccaccio's *Decameron*
 Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*
 Christine de Pizan, *The City of Ladies*
 Dante's *Inferno*
 Geoffrey of Vinsaulf, *Poetria Nova*
 Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun's *Roman de la Rose*
 Marie de France, *Lays*
 Snorri Sturluson, *The Prose Edda*
Woman Defamed and Woman Defended: An Anthology of Medieval Texts (ed.
 Blamires)
 Vinland Sagas (Penguin edition)

Secondary Sources

A New Critical History of Old English Literature (ed. Greenfield, Calder, and Lapidge)
A Concise Companion to Middle English Literature (ed. Corrie)
A Companion to Chaucer (ed. Brown)
A Beowulf Handbook (ed. Robert E. Bjork and John D. Niles)
A Companion to the Gawain-Poet (ed. Derek Brewer and Jonathan Gibson)
A Companion to Middle English Prose (ed. Edwards)
 Aers, *Community, Gender, and Individual Identity*
 Bahktin, *Rabelais and His World; Discourse in the Novel*
 Burrow, *Ricardian Poetry*
 Bynum, *Holy Feast and Holy Fast*
 Calin, *The French Tradition and the Literature of Medieval England*
 Carruthers, *The Book of Memory*
 Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record*
 Cooper, *English Romance in Time*
 Copeland and Jaeger

- Copeland, *Rhetoric, Hermeneutics, and Translation in the Middle Ages*
- Dinshaw, *Chaucer's Sexual Poetics*
- Drout, *How Tradition Works: A Meme-Based Cultural Poetics of the Anglo-Saxon Tenth Century*
- Frantzen, *Desire for Origins: New Language, Old English, and Teaching the Tradition*
- Fulk and Cain, *A History of Old English Literature*
- Furrow, *The Expectations of Romance*
- Gibson, *The Theatre of Devotion*
- Gillespie, *Print culture and the medieval author: Chaucer, Lydgate, and their books, 1473-1557*
- Green, *Poets and Princepleasers*
- Jaeger, *Ennobling Love In Search of a Lost Sensibility*
- Kerby-Fulton, *Books Under Suspicion: Censorship and Tolerance of Revelatory Writing in Late-Medieval England*
- Mann, *Chaucer and Medieval Estates Satire*
- Millward, *A Biography of the English Language*
- Minnis, *Medieval Theory of Authorship: Scholastic Literary Attitudes in the Later Middle Ages*
- Mitchell, *Ethics and Exemplary Narrative in Chaucer and Gower*
- Murphy, *Rhetoric in the Middle Ages: A History of Rhetorical Theory from St Augustine to the Renaissance*
- Muscatine, *Chaucer and the French Tradition*
- Oxford Handbook of Medieval English Literature* (ed. Treharne and Walker)
- Parkes, *Scribes, Scripts, and Readers*
- Patterson, *Chaucer and the Subject of History*
- Queering the Middle Ages* (ed. Kruger and Burger)
- Somerset, *Clerical Discourse and Lay Audience in Late Medieval England*
- The Idea of the Vernacular* (introductions to the various sections)
- The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Women's Writing* (ed. Dinshaw and Wallace)
- The Cambridge Companion to Medieval English literature, 1100-1500* (ed. Scanlon)
- Woolf, *The English Religious Lyric in the Middle Ages*