

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

PhD QUALIFYING EXAMINATION READING LIST

English 9910 (SF)/ 9930 (PF)

OLD AND MIDDLE ENGLISH

In order to develop a wide-ranging competency to teach and research in the field of Old and Middle English, candidates will prepare a reading list according to the instructions and requirements below.

1. Instructions

- i. **Secondary Field Exam**
Students will read all the material listed as the CORE material. Students are expected to read the material in the original.
- ii. **Primary Field Exam**
Students will read all the material listed as the CORE material and one of the optional sections. Those specializing in Old English will read the material listed separately below as the Primary Field material for Old English. Those specializing in Middle English will read approximately half of the material listed below as Primary Field material for Middle English. Students are expected to read the material in the original.

2. Exam Structure

The examination will have three questions: the first question will offer you two passages, one from Old English and one from Middle English, and ask you to discuss one of them offering a close analysis of its linguistic and stylistic features, and its interpretation. The second question will address Old English texts, and the third will consider Middle English texts.

CORE TEXTS

History of the English Language

John Algeo and Thomas Pyles, *The Origins and Development of the English Language*. 6th ed. Boston: Wadsworth, 2010.

Albert C. Baugh and Thomas Cable, *A History of the English Language*. London: Routledge, 2002.

Strang, Barbara. *A History of English*. London: Methuen, 1970.

Old English

Battle of Brunanburh, Battle of Maldon, Caedmon's Hymn, Deor, The Wanderer, The Seafarer, The Wife's Lament all in *Eight Old English Poems*. Ed. John C. Pope and R.D. Fulk. New York: Norton, 2001.

Klaeber's Beowulf. Ed. R.D. Fulk, Robert E. Bjork, and John D. Niles. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2008.

Riddles 1-17, 24-28 in *The Exeter Book*. Ed. G. P. Krapp and E. van Kirk Dobbie. New York: Columbia UP, 1936.

Cynewulf's Juliana, ed. Rosemary Woolf. Exeter: U of Exeter P, 1977.

The Old English Apollonius of Tyre, ed. Peter Goolden. London: Oxford UP, 1958.

Blickling Homilies 3 "The First Sunday in Lent" and 10 "The End of the World is Near" in R. Morris, ed. *The Blickling Homilies*. EETS OS 58, 63. London: Oxford UP, 1880, rep. 1967.

Ælfric, *Easter Sunday Homily* in P. Clemoes, ed. *Ælfric's Catholic Homilies. The First Series*. EETS SS 17. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1997. 299-306.

Sermo Lupi ad Anglos. Ed. Dorothy Whitelock. Exeter: U of Exeter P, 1976.

An Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. Ed. M.J. Swanton. Exeter: U of Exeter P, 1971.

Middle English

The Brut: or, The Chronicles of England. Ed. Friedrich W.D. Brie. EETS o.s. 131,136. London: Oxford UP, 1906, 1908. [Arthurian selections only: chapters 68-90, pp. 63-91.]

Chaucer, Geoffrey. *The Riverside Chaucer*. 3rd ed. Ed. Larry D. Benson. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1987.

Gower, John. *Confessio Amantis*. In *The Complete Works of John Gower*. Ed. G.C. Macaulay. 3 vols. Oxford: Clarendon, 1899-1902. [Prologue only.]

The Harley Lyrics: The Middle English Lyrics of MS Harley 2253, ed. G.L. Brook. Manchester: Manchester UP, 1956, 4th edn 1968.

Henryson, Robert. *The Testament of Cresseid*. In *The Poems of Robert Henryson*. Ed. Denton Fox. Oxford: Clarendon, 1981.

Kempe, Margery. *The Book of Margery Kempe*. Ed. Barry Windeatt. New York: Longman, 2000.

Langland, William. *The Vision of Piers Plowman: A Critical Edition of the B-text*. Ed. A.V.C. Schmidt. London: Dent, 1978.

Malory, Thomas. *The Works of Sir Thomas Malory*. Ed. Eugene Vinaver. Rev. ed. P.J.C. Field. 3rd ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1990. [Excluding Book V]

Middle English Verse Romances. Ed. Donald B. Sands. Exeter: U of Exeter P,

1986.[Anthology includes: *Horn, Havelok, Athelston, Gamelyn, Orfeo, Launfal, le Fresne, Squire of Low Degree, Floris and Blancheflour, Tournament of Tottenham, Wedding of Sir Gawain, Carl of Carlyle*]

The Owl and the Nightingale. Ed. Neil Cartlidge. Exeter: U of Exeter P, 2001.

The Paston Letters and Papers of the Fifteenth Century. Ed. Norman Davis. EETS SS 20-22. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2004-5. [elections: 13, 124, 125, 126, 14, 129, 130, 444, 131, 132, , 861, 203, 204, 242, 205, 244, 334, 373, 789, 790, 791, 792, 415, 416, 374, 375, 376, 377, 773]

The Poems of the Pearl Manuscript. Ed. Malcolm Andrew and Ronald Waldron. Exeter: U of Exeter P, 1987.

The Summoning of Everyman. Ed. Geoffrey Cooper and Christopher Wortham. Nedlands: U of Western Australia P, 1980.

The Wakefield pageants in the Towneley Cycle. Ed. A.C. Cawley. Manchester: Manchester UP, 1958.

READINGS for Students choosing either Old or Middle English as Primary Field:

Old English

Maxims I & II, Soul and Body I, Judgment Day I from *Poems of Wisdom and Learning in Old English*. Ed. T.A. Shippey. Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 1976.

Waldere, Widsith from *Old English Minor Heroic Poems*. Ed. Joyce Hill. Durham: Durham Medieval Texts, 1983.

Judith, ed. Mark Griffith. Exeter: U of Exeter P, 1997.

The Riming Poem, The Ruin, Resignation, The Husband's Message from Anne L. Klinck, ed. *The Old English Elegies: A Critical Edition and Genre Study*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's UP, 1992.

Exodus, ed. Peter J. Lucas. London: Methuen, 1977.

The Guthlac Poems of the Exeter Book. Ed. Jane Roberts. Oxford: Clarendon, 1979.

The Phoenix, rev. ed. N.F. Blake. Exeter: U of Exeter P, 1990.

Five homilies or saints' lives by Ælfric, from the Early English Text Society editions by Godden, Clemoes, Skeat, and Pope.

Three homilies from the Vercelli Book, from D.G. Scragg, ed. *The Vercelli Homilies and Related Texts*. EETS OS 300. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1992.

Texts not already listed from Richard Marsden, *The Cambridge Old English Reader*. Cambridge: CUP, 2004.

Middle English

- Ancrene Wisse: A Corrected Edition*. Ed. Bella Millett. EETS OS 325-6. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2005-6.
- The Awntyrs off Arthure*. Ed. Ralph Hanna. Manchester: Manchester UP, 1974. [It is helpful to look at this and other editions.]
- The Chester Mystery Cycle*, ed. R.M. Lumiansky and D. Mills. EETS SS 3, 9. London: Oxford UP, 1974, 1986.
- The Cloud of Unknowing*. Ed. Patrick J. Gallacher. Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 1997.
- Dunbar, William. *Lament for the Makaris*. In *The Poems of William Dunbar*. Ed. Priscilla Bawcutt. Glasgow: Association for Scottish Literary Studies, 1998.
- Gower, John. *Confessio Amantis*. In *The Complete Works of John Gower*. Ed. G.C. Macaulay. 3 vols. Oxford: Clarendon, 1899-1902. [Selections, including at least Book VII]
- Hoccleve, Thomas. *Selections from Hoccleve*. Ed. M.C. Seymour. Oxford: Clarendon, 1981. [Particularly the *Male Regle* and *Dialogus*]
- Julian of Norwich. *The Writings of Julian of Norwich*. Ed. Nicholas Watson and Jacqueline Jenkins. University Park: Pennsylvania State UP, 2006.
- Lazamon, *Brut*. Ed. G. L. Brooke and R. F. Leslie. EETS OS 250, 277. London: Oxford UP, 1963, 1978.
- Lancelot of the Laik and Sir Tristrem*. Ed. Alan Lupack. Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 1994.
- Late Medieval Religious Plays of Bodleian MSS Digby 133 and e Museo 160*. Ed. D.C Baker, J.L. Murphy, and L.B. Hall. EETS OS 283. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1982. [*The Play of the Sacrament, Mary Magdalene* and/or *The Castle of Perseverance*.]
- Love, Nicholas. *The Mirror of the Blessed Life of Jesus Christ: A Full Critical Text*. Ed. Michael G. Sargent. Exeter, Devon: U of Exeter P, 2005. [Selections including: Proem, Die Lune, Die Martis, Die Dominica, De Sacramento.]
- Lydgate, John. *Troy Book*. Ed. Henry Bergen. EETS ES 97, 103, 106, 126. Millwood: Kraus Reprint, 1973. [Selections]
- Mannyng, Robert. *Handlyng Synne*. Ed. Idelle Sullens. Binghamton: Medieval & Renaissance Texts & Studies, 1983.
- The Middle English Breton Lays*. Ed. Anne Laskaya and Eve Salisbury. Kalamazoo: Medieval Insitute Publications, 1995. [Any of *Emaré, The Erle of Tolous, or Sir Gowther*]
- Middle English Marian Lyrics*. Ed. Karen Saupe. Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 1998.
- Le morte Arthur: A Romance in Stanzas of Eight Lines*. Ed. J. Douglas Bruce. EETS e.s. 88. London: Oxford, 1903.
- Morte Arthure: a critical edition*. Ed. Mary Hamel. New York: Garland, 1984.
- The N-Town Play: Cotton MS Vespasian D.8*, ed. S. Spector. EETS SS 11, 12. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1991.

- The Poems of Robert Henryson*. Ed. Denton Fox. Oxford: Clarendon, 1981.
- The Romance of Beues of Hamtoun*. Ed. Eugen Kölbing. EETS ES 46, 48, 65. London: K. Paul, Trench, Trübner, 1885-94.
- Selections from English Wycliffite writings*. Ed. Anne Hudson. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1997.
- The Tale of Beryn*. In *The Canterbury Tales: Fifteenth-Century Continuations and Additions*. Ed J.M. Bowers. Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 1992.
- The Towneley Plays*. Ed. A.C. Cawley and Martin Stevens. EETS SS 13. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1994.
- The York Plays*. Ed. Richard Beadle. EETS SS 23. London: Oxford UP, 2009.

Recommended Secondary Sources

Students are invited to pursue relevant secondary reading in preparation for the exam. The secondary texts listed here are highly recommended but are not required reading. Your answers should, however, demonstrate an awareness of the historical and cultural moment in which the material was written or produced, but you are not required to quote or refer directly to secondary readings.

- Aers, David, and Lynn Staley. *The Powers of the Holy: Religion, Politics, and Gender in Late Medieval English Culture*. University Park: Pennsylvania State UP, 1996.
- Amtower, Laurel. *Engaging Words: The Culture of Reading in the Later Middle Ages*. New York: Palgrave, 2000.
- Beowulf and Its Analogues*. Ed. & tr. George Norman Garmonsway, *et al.* Rev. ed. London: Dent, 1980.
- Bjork, Robert E., and John D. Niles, ed. *A Beowulf Handbook*. Lincoln: U of Nebraska P, 1997.
- Burrow, J.A. *Ricardian Poetry: Chaucer, Gower, Langland and the "Gawain" poet*. London: Routledge, 1971.
- Bynum, Caroline Walker. *Holy Feast and Holy Fast: The Religious Significance of Food to Medieval Women*. Berkeley: U of California P, 1988.
- Cooper, Helen. *The English Romance in Time: Transforming Motifs from Geoffrey of Monmouth to the Death of Shakespeare*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2004.
- Copeland, Rita. *Rhetoric, Hermeneutics, and Translation in the Middle Ages*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1991.
- Crane, Susan. *Insular Romance: Politics, Faith and Culture in Anglo-Norman and Middle English Literature*. Berkeley: U of California P, 1986.
- Dinshaw, Carolyn. *Getting Medieval: Sexualities and Communities, Pre- and Postmodern*. Durham: Duke UP, 1999.
- Edwards, A.S.G. *A companion to Middle English prose*. Cambridge: Brewer, 2004.
- Fulk, R.D., and Christopher M. Cain. *A History of Old English Literature*. [With a chapter on

- saints' legends by Rachel S. Anderson.] Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2003.
- Fyler, John. *Language and the Declining World in Chaucer, Dante, and Jean de Meun*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007.
- Godden, Malcolm, and Michael Lapidge, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Old English Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1991.
- Green, Richard Firth. *A Crisis of Truth. Literature and Law in Ricardian England*. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania P, 1999.
- Gurevich, Aron. *Medieval Popular Culture. Problems of belief and perception*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1988.
- Hudson, Anne. *The Premature Reformation: Wycliffite Texts and Lollard History*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1988.
- Kolve, V.A. *The Play Called Corpus Christi*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 1966.
- Kosowska, Anna. *Queer Love in the Middle Ages*. New York: Palgrave, 2005.
- Leclercq, Jean. *The Love of Learning and the Desire for God. A Study of Monastic Culture*. New York: Fordham UP, 1982.
- Lewis, C.S. *The Allegory of Love: a Study in Medieval Tradition*. London: Oxford UP, 1938.
- McNamer, Sarah. *Affective Meditation and the Invention of Medieval Compassion*. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania P, 2010.
- Minnis, A.J. *Medieval Theory of Authorship. Scholastic Literary Attitudes in the Later Middle Ages*. New York: Scholar Press, 1988.
- Mitchell, J. Allan. *Ethics and Eventfulness in Middle English Literature*. New York: Palgrave, 2009.
- O'Keeffe, Katherine O'Brien, ed. *Reading Old English Texts*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge UP, 1997.
- Orchard, Andy. *A Critical Companion to Beowulf*. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Brewer, 2003.
- Patterson, Lee. *Negotiating the Past: The Historical Understanding of Medieval Literature*. Madison: U of Wisconsin P, 1987.
- Pearsall, Derek. *The Life of Geoffrey Chaucer. A Critical Biography*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1992.
- Robertson, D.W. *A Preface to Chaucer: Studies in Medieval Perspectives*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1962.
- Saunders, Corinne. *Rape and Ravishment in the Literature of Medieval England*. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Brewer, 2001.
- Sources and Analogues of the Canterbury Tales*. Ed. Robert M. Correale & Mary Hamel. 2 vols. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell & Brewer, 2003, 2009.
- Strohm, Paul. *Hochon's Arrow: The social Imagination of Fourteenth-Century Texts*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1992.
- Trigg, Stephanie. *Congenial souls: Reading Chaucer from Medieval to Postmodern*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2002.
- Williams, David. *Deformed Discourse. The Function of the Monster in Mediaeval Thought and literature*. Montréal: McGill-Queen's UP, 1996.

Woolf, Rosemary. *The English Mystery Plays*. Berkeley: U of California P, 1972.

Departmental regulations regarding PhD comprehensive exams can be found @ the following site: <http://www.uwo.ca/english/graduate/phd.html>.