

English Literature
Medieval Period Reading List
 rev. 9/2011

Required authors and texts are in **bold**.

I. Classical, Late Classical, and Early Medieval Latin (1st-8th c.)

1. **Ovid, Metamorphoses**
2. Ovid, *Ars amatoria, Remedia amoris*
3. **Virgil, Æneid**
4. **Augustine, Confessiones**
5. **Augustine, De doctrina christiana**
6. Augustine, *De civitate dei* (selections)
7. Statius, *Thebaid*
8. Prudentius, hymns and writings (selections); *Psychomachia*
9. Venantius Fortunatus, poems and hymns
10. **Boethius, Consolatio Philosophiæ**
11. Macrobius, *Commentary on the Dream of Scipio*
12. Isidore, *Etymologia* (selections)
13. Gildas, *De excidio Britannia*
14. Nennius, *Historia Brittonum*
15. **Bede, Historia ecclesiastica gentis anglorum**

II. Old English (5th-11th c.)

1. Ælfric, *Homilies* (selections)
2. Ælfric, *Saints' Lives* (selections)
3. Ælfric, *Colloquy*
4. Ælfred, *Preface to Gregory's Pastoral Care*
5. Ælfred, translation of Boethius' *Consolation of Philosophy* (selections)
6. Ælfred, translation of Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English* (selections)
7. **Wulfstan, Sermo Lupi ad Anglos**
8. *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* (selections)
9. *Biblical translations* (selections): *Heptateuch*; *West Saxon Gospels*
10. *Biblical and devotional poems* (selections): *Andreas*; *Elene*; *Genesis (A & B)*; *Exodus*; *Daniel*; *metrical psalms*; *Paris Psalter*; *Judith*; *Juliana*; *Christ*; etc.
11. **Heroic and elegaic lyrics (selections)**: *Widsith*; *Deor*; *The Wanderer*; *The Seafarer*; *The Battle of Maldon*; *The Battle of Brunanburgh*; *The Wife's Lament*; *The Ruin*; *Husband's Message*; *Dream of the Rood*; etc.
12. *Riddles*, *gnomic verses*, *recipies*, *spells and charms*, *inscriptions* (selections)
13. **Beowulf (complete)**

III. Late Old English, Anglo-Norman, and Early Middle English (late 11th-early 14th c.)

1. Peterborough Chronicle
2. Wace, Roman de Brut
3. Wace, Roman de Rou
4. Benedeit, Voyage of St. Brendan
5. Thomas of Britain, Tristan
6. Gaimar, Estoire des Egleis
7. Life of St. Margaret
8. The Ormulum
9. Hali Meithhad
10. Ancrene Wisse
11. Layamon, Brut
12. Robert of Gloucester, Metrical Chronicle
13. **The Owl and the Nightingale**
14. The South English Legendary (selections)
15. Cursor Mundi (selections)
16. Proverbs of Alfred
17. Thomas Hales, Love-Ron
18. **Marie de France, Lais (complete)**
19. Marie de France, St. Patrick's Purgatory
20. Marie de France, Fables
21. **Anglo-Norman romances (selections):** Roman d'Eneas; Horn; Protheselaus; Ipomedon; Amadas; Lai d'Havelok; Waldef; Boeve de Haumtone; Gui de Warewic; Amis e Amilun; etc.
22. Anglo-Norman drama: Mystère d'Adam (Jeu d'Adam); Seinte Resureccion
23. **Sir Orfeo**
24. **The Land of Cockayne**
25. political poems and songs (selections)
26. **Robert Mannyng, Handlyng Synne** (selections)
27. Robert Mannyng, Chronicle

IV. Middle English and Late Middle English (14th-15th c.)

1. Dan Michel of Northgate, Ayenbite of Inwit (selections)
2. Richard Rolle, devotional verse and prose (selections)
3. Laurence Minot, patriotic verses
4. Mandeville's Travels
5. Speculum Vitæ (selections)
6. Castleford's Chronicle, The Book of the Brut (selections)
7. **Middle English lyrics: secular, political, and devotional (selections)**
8. **Middle English romances (selections):** Kyng Alisaunder; Athelston; Ywain and Gawain; Guy of Warwick; Beves of Hampton; Havelok; Sir Launfal; Awntyrs of Arthure; The Sege of Melayne; The Weddyng of Syr Gawen and Dame Ragnell; The Siege of Jerusalem; Gamelyn; Sir Isumbras; Sir Amadace; etc.
9. John Barbour, The Bruce

10. **Geoffrey Chaucer, early works:** The Book of the Duchess; The House of Fame; The Parliament of Fowls
11. **Geoffrey Chaucer, Troilus and Criseyde**
12. **Geoffrey Chaucer, The Legend of Good Women**
13. **Geoffrey Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales (complete)**
14. Geoffrey Chaucer, prose works: Boece; Treatise on the Astrolabe
15. Geoffrey Chaucer, other works: lyrics; Romaunt of the Rose
16. John Trevisa, works (selections)
17. Thomas Usk, Testament of Love
18. Henry Scogan, Moral Balade
19. John Clanvowe, Boke of Cupide
20. Richard Ros, La Belle Dame Sans Mercy
21. The Floure and the Leafe; The Assembly of Ladies; The Isle of Ladies
22. The Plowman's Tale
23. Jack Upland
24. **William Langland, Piers Plowman (A, B, C, Z)**
25. works of the Piers Plowman Tradition (selections): Richard the Redeless; The Crowned King; Mum and the Soothsegger; Pierce the Ploughman's Crede
26. The Digby Poems
27. John Gower, Miroir de l'Omme
28. John Gower, Vox clamantis and Cronica tripertita
29. **John Gower, Confessio Amantis**
30. John Gower, other works (French, Latin, and English lyrics)
31. **The Pearl-Poet, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight**
32. **The Pearl-Poet, Pearl**
33. The Pearl-Poet, Patience
34. The Pearl-Poet, Cleanness
35. Saint Erkenwald
36. **Julian of Norwich, Showings**
37. The Cloud of Unknowing
38. Wynnere and Wastoure
39. **Thomas Hoccleve, Series**
40. Thomas Hoccleve, Minor Verses
41. Thomas Hoccleve, Regement of Princes
42. **English Wycliffite writings, Lollard writings (selections):** William Thorpe's Testimony; sermon of William Taylor; Twelve Conclusions; Tretise of Miraclis Pleyinge; Lollard polemic and doctrine; Wycliffite Bible translations; etc.
43. **The Book of Margery Kempe**
44. **Cycle dramas, Mystery plays (selections of specific plays):** York Cycle; Towneley/Wakefield Cycle; N-Town Cycle; Chester Cycle; Coventry Plays
45. **Morality dramas:** Mankind; Castle of Perseverance; Wisdom; **Everyman**
46. Saint's plays/sacred dramas: Conversion of Paul; Mary Magdelene; Play of the Sacrament
47. John Capgrave, The Life of St. Katherine
48. George Ashby, Poems

49. **John Lydgate, Works (selections):** Temple of Glass; Complaint of the Black Knight; Floure of Curtesye; Fall of Princes; Life of St. Alban and St. Amphibal; Disguising at Hertford Castle; Serpent of Division; Troy Book; Siege of Thebes; Minor Poems; etc.
50. Peter Idley, Liber de consolationis et consilii (Parts I and II, selections)
51. Gilte Legende (selections)
52. Sidrak and Bokkus (selections)
53. **Sir Thomas Malory: Le Morte Darthur** (selections)
54. Robert Henryson, Morall Fablis
55. **Robert Henryson, Testament of Cresseid**
56. Robert Henryson, Orpheus and Eurydice; shorter poems
57. William Dunbar, Poems
58. Gavin Douglas, The Palis of Honoure
59. The Paston Letters (selections)
60. **John Skelton, poems (selections):** The Bowge of Courte; Ware the Hauke; Phyllyp Sparowe; Speke Parott; Collyn Clout; Why Come Ye Nat to Courte?; etc.

V. Medieval French, Italian, and Latin works:

A. French literature

1. **Chanson de Roland**
2. Chanson de Geste cycles (selections)
3. lyrics of the Troubadours and Trouvères (selections): Guillaume IX d'Aquitaine; Marcabru; Jaufré Rudel; Bernard de Ventadour; Bertand de Born; Thibaut de Champagne; Rutebeuf; etc.
4. Tristan narratives: Tristan de Béroul; Tristan de Thomas; Folies Tristan
5. **Chretien de Troyes, Arthurian Romances (complete):** Erec et Enide; le Chevalier au Lion (Yvain); le Chevalier de la Charrete; Le Roman de Perceval (Le Conte du Graal); Cliges
6. La Queste del Saint Graal/Grail Cycle (selections)
7. Le Mort le Roi Artu
8. Floire et Blancheflor
9. lais (selections)
10. Benoît de Sainte-Maure, Le Roman de Troie
11. Guillaume de Machaut: lyrics and dits amoureux (selections)
12. Eustache Deschamps: lyrics (selections)
13. **Jean Froissart: Chroniques** (selections); lyrics (selections)
14. Oton de Granson: lyrics (selections)
15. **Geoffroi de Charny, Livre de chevalerie**
16. **Christine de Pizan, works (selections):** Livre de la cité des dames; Épistre d'Othea; Épistre au Dieu d'Amour; Chemin de long estude; Livre du corps de policie; works in the querelle des femmes; etc.
17. **Guillaume de Lorris and Jeun de Meun, Le Roman de la Rose**
18. Guillaume de Digulleville, works (selections): Pèlerinage de vie humaine; Pèlerinage de l'âme; Pèlerinage Jhesuchrist
19. fabliaux (selections)
20. François Villon, Poésies (selections)
21. Charles d'Orléans, Poésies (selections)

B. Italian literature

1. Giacomo da Lentini, poems
2. Guido Cavalcanti, poems
3. **Dante Alighieri, Divine Comedy (complete):** Inferno; Purgatorio; Paradiso
4. Dante Alighieri, Vita Nuova
5. Dante Alighieri, De vulgari eloquentia; Convivio; De monarchia
6. **Giovanni Boccaccio, Decameron**
7. Giovanni Boccaccio, Filostrato
8. Giovanni Boccaccio, Teseida delle nozze di Emilia
9. Giovanni Boccaccio, Il Corbaccio
10. **Francesco Petrarca, Rime sparse**
11. Francesco Petrarca, Trionfi

C. Latin literature

1. Dares Phrygius, Dictys Cretensis: Historia de excidio Trojae
2. Peter Abelard, Historia calamitatum
3. Alain de Lille, De planctu naturae
4. Walter Map, De nugis curialium
5. Geoffrey of Vinsauf, Poetria Nova
6. **Geoffrey of Monmouth, Historia Regum Britanniae**
7. **Andreas Capellanus, De arte honeste amandi**
8. Guido delle Colonne, Historia destructionis Troiae
9. Jacobus de Voragine, Legenda aurea
10. Boccaccio, Genealogia deorum gentilium libri; De Casibus Virorum Illustrium; De mulieribus claris
11. Petrarch, Secretum; Epistolæ familiares, Seniles, Sine nomine; De Remediis Utriusque Fortunæ; etc.

VI. Criticism and scholarship:

A. History, culture, and literary background, with emphasis on late medieval England:

1. Political and institutional history:
 - i. Gerald Harriss, Shaping the Nation: England 1360-1461 (2005)
 - ii. Maurice Keen, England in the Later Middle Ages (2d ed. 2003)
 - iii. M.M. Postan, The Medieval Economy and Society (1972)
 - iv. R.B. Dobson, ed. The Peasants' Revolt of 1381 (2d ed. 1983)
 - v. Anthony Musson and W. M. Ormrod, The Evolution of English Justice: Law, Politics, and Society in the Fourteenth Century (1999)
 - vi. Nigel Saul, Richard II (1997)
 - vii. W.M. Ormrod, The Reign of Edward III (2d ed. 2000)
 - viii. P.J.P. Goldberg, Medieval England: A Social History 1250-1550 (2004)
 - ix. M.M. Postan, The Medieval Economy and Society (1972)
 - x. R.B. Dobson, ed. The Peasants' Revolt of 1381 (2d ed. 1983)
 - xi. Christopher Allmand, Henry V (1992)

- xii. Ralph A. Griffiths, *The Reign of Henry VI* (1981)
- xiii. Richard Kaeuper, *Chivalry and Violence in Medieval Europe* (1999)

2. Cultural and literary history:

- i. Ernst Robert Curtius, *European Literature and the Latin Middle Ages* (1953; 1990)
- ii. C.S. Lewis, *The Discarded Image: An Introduction to Medieval and Renaissance Literature* (1964)
- iii. C.S. Lewis, *The Allegory of Love: A Study in Medieval Tradition* (1936; 1990)
- iv. Johan Huizinga, *The Waning of the Middle Ages* (1919 -)
- v. R.F. Green, *Poets and Princepleasers: Literature and the English Court in the Late Middle Ages* (1980)
- vi. Joyce Coleman, *Public Reading and the Reading Public in Late Medieval England and France* (1996)
- vii. Anne Middleton, "Public Poetry in Reign of Richard II" and other essays
- viii. Rita Copeland, *Pedagogy, Intellectuals, and Dissent in the Later Middle Ages: Lollardy and Ideas of Learning* (2001)
- ix. Lynn Staley, *Languages of Power in the Age of Richard II* (2005)
- x. R.F. Green, *A Crisis of Truth: Literature and Law in Ricardian England* (1999)
- xi. James Simpson, *Reform and Cultural Revolution: The Oxford English Literary History Vol. 2, 1350-1547* (2002)
- xii. Janet Coleman, *English Literature in History, 1350-1400* (1981)
- xiii. D.W. Robertson, *A Preface to Chaucer: Studies in Medieval Perspectives* (1962)
- xiv. Beryl Smalley, *The Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages* (1964)
- xv. Mary Carruthers, *The Book of Memory: A Study of Memory in Medieval Culture* (1990)
- xvi. M.T. Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record: England 1066-1307* (2d ed. 1993)
- xvii. Thorlac Turville-Petre, *England the Nation: Language, Literature, and National Identity, 1290-1340* (1996)

B. Chaucer, Langland, Gower criticism:

- 1. J. A. Burrow, *Ricardian Poetry: Chaucer, Gower, Langland, and the Gawain Poet* (1971)
- 2. Barbara Hanawalt, ed., *Chaucer's England: Literature in Historical Context* (1992)
- 3. George Lyman Kittredge, *Chaucer and His Poetry* (1915)
- 4. Derek Pearsall, *The Canterbury Tales* (1985)
- 5. Derek Pearsall, *The Life of Geoffrey Chaucer* (1992)
- 6. Charles Muscatine, *Chaucer and the French Tradition* (1957)
- 7. Carolyn Dinshaw, *Chaucer's Sexual Poetics* (1989)
- 8. Jill Mann, *Chaucer and Medieval Estates Satire* (1973)
- 9. James I. Wimsatt, *Chaucer and His French Contemporaries: Natural Music in the Fourteenth Century* (1991)
- 10. Paul Strohm, *Social Chaucer* (1989)
- 11. Lee Patterson, *Chaucer and the Subject of History* (1991)
- 12. Lee Patterson, *Temporal Circumstances* (2006)

13. V.A. Kolve, *Chaucer and the Imagery of Narrative: The First Five Canterbury Tales* (1984)
14. John Bowers, *Chaucer and Langland: The Antagonistic Tradition* (2007)
15. James Simpson, *Piers Plowman: An Introduction* (2d ed. rev. 2007)
16. John H. Fisher, *John Gower: Moral Philosopher and Friend of Chaucer* (1965)
17. Nicolette Zeeman, *Piers Plowman and the Medieval Discourse of Desire* (2006)
18. David Aers, *Chaucer, Langland and the Creative Imagination* (1980)
19. Ralph Hanna, *Pursuing History* (1996)
20. George Kane, *The Autobiographical Fallacy in Chaucer and Langland Studies* (1965)
21. H. Marshall Leicester, *The Disenchanted Self* (1990)
22. Seth Lerer, *Chaucer and His Readers* (1993)
23. Helen Cooper, *Oxford Guides to Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales* (1989)
24. Barry Windeatt, *Oxford Guides to Chaucer: Troilus and Criseyde* (1992)
25. A. J. Minnis, *Oxford Guides to Chaucer: The Shorter Poems* (1995)
26. Larry Scanlon, *Narrative, Authority, and Power* (1994)
27. David Wallace, *Chaucerian Polity: Absolutist Lineages and Associational Forms in England and Italy* (1997)
28. Steven Justice and Kathryn Kerby-Fulton (eds.), *Written Work* (1997)
29. Anne Middleton, "William Langland's 'Kynde Name'" (1990) and other essays on Langland
30. Diane Watt, *Amoral Gower* (2003)

C. Medieval literary theory and rhetoric:

1. A.J. Minnis, *Medieval Theory of Authorship: Scholastic Literary Attitudes in the Later Middle Ages* (2d ed. 1988)
2. A.J. Minnis et al., *Medieval Literary Theory and Criticism c.1100-c.1375: The Commentary Tradition* (1992)
3. Rita Copeland, *Rhetoric, Hermeneutics, and Translation in the Middle Ages* (1991)
4. James J. Murphy, ed., *Medieval Eloquence: Studies in the Theory and Practice of Medieval Rhetoric* (1978)
5. Martin Camargo, ed., *Medieval Rhetorics of Prose Composition: Five English Artes Dictandi and Their Tradition* (1985)

VII. Candidate special choices (books and essays):