

Ph.D. Field Exam
Reading Lists: Medieval

In November of their third year, students taking the major field examination in medieval literature will sit two three-hour exams, one in Old English and one in Middle English. Those exams are based on the following lists, which consist of primary works in Old and Middle English and additional works of contextual literary background. These lists should be considered the minimal reading necessary for a broad professional foundation in the discipline. Students are encouraged to go beyond them, particularly in secondary criticism.

Old English Reading List

The Nowell Codex: *Beowulf*; and **at least one** of the following: *Judith*, *Marvels of the East*, *The Letter of Alexander to Aristotle*

The Battle of Maldon

The Exeter Book: *The Wanderer*; *The Seafarer*; *Deor*; *Wulf and Eadwacer*; *The Wife's Lament*; and **at least two** of the following: *The Riddles*; *The Advent Lyrics*; *Guthlac* (A & B)

The Junius Manuscript: *Exodus*; and **at least one** other poem

The Vercelli Book: *The Dream of the Rood*; plus **at least one** other poem; and **at least two** homilies

Cynewulf: *Juliana*; and **at least one** other poem

Alfredian Prose: *Soliloquies* (**at least one** book); *Boethius* (**at least ten** chapters); *Pastoral Rule* (**at least ten** chapters); *OE Orosius* (**at least one** book)

Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: select **the entire text** as preserved in **at least one** manuscript

Ælfric: *Catholic Homilies I and II* (select **at least four** homilies); *Lives of Saints* (select **at least four** saints' Lives)

Archbishop Wulfstan: *Homilies* (the **Sermo Lupi* and **at least three** other homilies)

Middle English Reading List

The Owl and the Nightingale

Ancrene Wisse (selections)

Lazamon: Brut (selections)

Ormulum (selections)

Middle English lyrics (selections)

Middle English romances (**at least** *Sir Orfeo*, *King Horn*, and *Havelock the Dane*)

Julian of Norwich, *The Showings* (long version)

Cloud of Unknowing

Mandeville, John, *Travels*

Chaucer, Geoffrey: *Canterbury Tales* **and** *Troilus and Criseyde* **and at least one** dream vision

Gower, John, *Confessio Amantis* (Prologue, Books 1 and 8)

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

Langland, William *Piers Plowman*, B-Text

Lydgate, John, *Siege of Thebes* (selection)

Hoccleve, Thomas, *Regement of Princes* (selections)

Kempe, Margery, *The Book of Margery Kempe*

Malory, Sir Thomas, *Works* (selections)

Henryson, Robert, *The Moral Fables* **or** *The Testament of Cresseid*

Mystery plays (selections)

Supplemental List

St Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine*
Bede, *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*
Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*
Chrétien de Troyes, *Lancelot*
Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*
Dante, *The Divine Comedy*
Geoffrey of Vinsauf, *Poetria Nova*
Life of Christina of Markyate
The Mabinogion
Marie de France, *Lais* (selections)
Nibelungenlied
Njal's Saga
One Thousand and One Nights (selections)
Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (selections)
The Poetic Edda
The Romance of the Rose (selections)
The Song of Roland
The Táin
Sturluson, Snorri, *Gylfaginning*
Vergil, *Aeneid*, Books IV and VI
Wolfram von Eschenback, *Parzival*