Holly Moyer
Medieval Literature Reading List
Prof. Christine Chism, Advisor

Note on language: I will read Middle English texts in their original language. For Old English, Latin, French, and Italian texts, I will read modern English translations, but I'll look at some facing-page translations for Latin texts.

LATE CLASSICAL/EARLY CHRISTIAN

1. Augustine. Confessions, City of God (Books I-III)

ANGLO-SAXON

2. Beowulf

KEY EUROPEAN WORKS

4. Alain de Lille. Plaunt of Nature
5. Boccaccio. Decameron (excerpts including: Day 3 last story, Day 10 last two stories)
8. Guillaume de Lorris. Romance of the Rose (focus on Guillaume de Lorris section)
9. Song of Roland

ARTHURIAN TRADITION

10. Geoffrey of Monmouth. The History of the Kings of Britain
12. Alliterative Morte Arthur

CRUSADING ROMANCES

14. Guy of Warwick, King of Tars, King Alisaunder (excerpts including: Prophecies of Birth – Parentage, Neptanabus, Olypias; Candace; also the Encounter with Brahmins)

CHAUCER/CHAUCERIAN TRADITION

17. Sir Orfeo, The Flower and the Leaf
18. James I. The Kingis Quair

ALLITERATIVE TRADITION

19. Pearl Poet. Cleanness, Patience, Pearl, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
20. Saint Erkenwald
21. Langland. Piers Plowman (read the B text. From the C text, read only the autobiographical section in Passus V, 1-104.)
22. Piers Plowman tradition: Mum and the Soothsegger, Richard the Redeless

MEDIEVAL SPIRITUALITY

23. Ancrene Wisse
24. Book of Margery Kempe
25. Life of Christina of Markyate
27. Excerpts from: Pricke of Conscience (Purgatory section); South English Legendary (including "St. Katerine," "St. Lucie," "St. Thomas of Canterbury," "St. George," "St. Eadmund the Confessor"); Cursor Mundi ("Prologue")

OTHER KEY ENGLISH TEXTS

28. Gower. Confessio Amantis (excerpts including: the frame, "Wrath," "Pride")
29. Hoccleve. Regement of Princes (excerpts including prologue), Series
30. Marie de France. Lais

DRAMA (note: these are numbered using a rough rule of 3 dramas = 1 "text")

31. Wakefield Cycle: Second Shepherd's Play, Last Judgment
York Cycle: Crucifixon, Harrowing
32. Digby Mary Magdalene
Chester Antichrist
Woman Taken in Adultery (N-Town)
33. Croxton Play of the Sacrament
Mankind
Everyman

SECONDARY TEXTS

2. Cooper, Helen. The English Romance in Time: Transforming Motifs from Geoffrey of Monmouth to the Death of Shakespeare
5. Kolve, V. A. Chaucer and the Imagery of Narrative
6. Mann, Jill. *Chaucer and Medieval Estates Satire*
7. Patterson, Lee. *Chaucer and the Subject of History* (focus on Knight, Miller, Pardoner sections)
8. Strohm, Paul. *Social Chaucer*
10. Wallace, David. *Chaucerian Polity* (excerpts)

**BACKGROUND TEXTS (read excerpts as necessary)**

Pearsall, Derek. *Old and Middle English Poetry.*
Phillips, Helen. *An Introduction to the Canterbury Tales: Reading, Fiction, Context.*
Wallace, David, ed. *Cambridge History of Medieval English Literature.*