

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*
3. Shorter Anglo-Saxon poems: "Caedmon's Hymn," *Christ and Satan*, "Dream of the Rood," Exeter Book Riddles, *Judith*

KEY EUROPEAN WORKS

4. Alain de Lille. *Plaint of Nature*
5. Boccaccio. *Decameron* (excerpts including: Day 3 last story, Day 10 last two stories)
6. Christine de Pizan. *Book of the City of Ladies, Book of the Duke of True Lovers, L'Avision*
7. Dante. *Divine Comedy* (trans. Robert & Jean Hollander, focus on *Inferno* and *Purgatorio*)
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*
11. Chretien de Troyes. (*Yvain, Erec and Enide, le Chevalier de la Charrette*) (trans. Staines)
12. Alliterative *Morte Arthur*
13. Malory. *Le Morte D'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

- 15-16. Chaucer. *Canterbury Tales, Troilus and Criseyde, Book of the Duchess, House of Fame, Parliament of Fowles, "Adam Scriven," "Lack of Steadfastness," To Rosamunde," "Address to his Purse."*

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*
26. Julian of Norwich. *Revelations of Divine Love*
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: *Crucifixion, Harrowing*
32. *Digby Mary Magdalene*
Chester Antichrist
Woman Taken in Adultery (N-Town)
33. *Croxton Play of the Sacrament*
Mankind
Everyman

SECONDARY TEXTS

1. Beckwith, Sarah. *Signifying God: Social Relation and Symbolic Act in the York Corpus Christi Plays*
2. Cooper, Helen. *The English Romance in Time: Transforming Motifs from Geoffrey of Monmouth to the Death of Shakespeare*
3. Dinshaw, Caroline. *Chaucer's Sexual Poetics*.
4. Duffy, Eamon. *The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England, c. 1400-1580*
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*
9. Walker-Bynum, Caroline. *Holy Feast, Holy Fast: The Religious Significance of Food to Medieval Woman*
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*.
- Simpson, James. *The Oxford English Literary History: Volume 2: 1350-1547: Reform and Cultural Revolution* (excerpts)
- Wallace, David, ed. *Cambridge History of Medieval English Literature*.