

**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

**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**

## Old English

Battle of Brunanburh, Battle of Maldon, Caedmon's Hymn, Deor, The

1986. [Anthology includes: Horn, Havelok, Athelston, Gamelyn, Orfeo, Launfal, le  
Fresne Squire of Low Degree, Floris and Blancheflour]

### **Middle English**

Ancrene Wisse A Corrected Edition. Ed. Bella Millett. EETS OS 325-6. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2005-6.

The Awntyrs off Arthur 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



- 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*. 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 Play*. 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>