Reading List and Instructions for Middle English PhD Exam in Literature

Students should choose thirty primary sources and fifteen secondary sources from the following lists. The purpose of these lists is to encourage wide reading throughout the entire medieval period, and to suggest works with which every educated medievalist should be familiar.

Students may then add five further works, either primary or secondary sources, specific to their own interests (which may include works on this list or from the students’ personal list) for a total of fifty items. All primary sources must be read in the original language, unless otherwise specified.

This list is intended as a guide. Students who feel that their interests are not adequately represented may petition their committee for adjustments.

Primary Sources in Middle English

(Many of these texts can be found on TEAMS Texts online http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/tmsmenu.htm)

Athelstan
Alliterative Morte Arthure
Amis and Amiloun
Ancrene Wisse
The Avowyng of Arthur
The Antwyr of Arthur
Bevis of Hampton
Bokenham, Osbern, Legendys of Hooly Wummen
The Book of Margery Kempe, ed. Lynn Staley
Capgrave, John, The Life of Saint Katherine
The Carle of Carlisle
Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales
Chaucer, The Legend of Good Women
Chaucer, The Parlement of Fowles
Chaucer, The Book of the Duchess
Chaucer, Troilus and Criseyde
Clanvowe, John, The Booke of Cupide, God of Love
Cleanness
The Cloud of Unknowing
Dame Sirith
Dunbar, William The Tretis of the Twa Mariit Wemen and the Wedo and Selections
Emaré
The English Writings of Richard Rolle
English Wycliffite Writings, ed. Anne Hudson (selections)
Everyman
Floris and Blancheflour
The Fox and the Wolf
“A Gest of Robyn Hode”
Gower, Confessio Amantis (selections)
Havelok the Dane
Henryson, Testament of Cresseid
Hilton, Walter, The Ladder of Perfection
Hoccleve, Regiment of Princes
Julian of Norwich, Book of Showings (long version)
Katherine Group, Seinte Katerine, ed. D’Ardenne and Dobson; Seinte Margaret and Hali Meithhad, ed. Millett & Wogan-Browne
King Horn
Laʒaman, Brut (selections)
Langland, Piers Plowman B Text
“The Letter of John Ball”
The Life of Christina of Markyate, A Twelfth Century Recluse (trans.)
Lydgate, Fall of Princes
Lydgate, The Troy Book
Maidstone, Richard, Concordia (The Reconciliation of Richard II with London)
Malory, Works. Vinaver or Shepherd edition
Mandeville, Travels
Mankind
Marie de France, Lais (trans.)
Middle English Lyrics (Norton, Luria, or TEAMS Texts online)
The N-Town Plays
Owl and the Nightingale
The Parlement of the Thre Ages
Patience
Pearl
“Piers the Plowman’s Crede”
Prose Merlin
Richard the Redeless
The Second Shepherds' Play from the Wakefield aka Towneley Cycle (available in the Norton Anthology of English Literature and the Longman Anthology of British Literature)
Siege of Jerusalem
St. Erkenwald
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Sir Launfal
Sir Orfeo
South English Legendary (selections)
Stanzaic Morte Arthur
“The Statute of Labourers, 1349”
The Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnell
Wynner and Wastoure
York Mystery Plays: A Selection in Modern Spelling, eds. Richard Beadle and Pamela King
Ywain and Gawain

Other Important Medieval Primary Sources

Andreas Capellanus, The Art of Courly Love
Boccaccio, Giovanno, The Decameron
Boethius, The Consolation of Philosophy (trans.)
Chrétien de Troyes, Arthurian Romances (selections in trans.)
Christine de Pisan, Book of the City of Ladies (trans.)
Dante, Divine Comedy
Froissart, *Chronicles* (trans.)
Gottfried von Strassburg, *Tristan and Isolt*
Guillaume de Lorris & Jean de Meun, *Romance of the Rose* (trans.)
*Mabinogion* (trans.)
The Vulgate Cycle
Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Parzifal*

**Secondary Sources**


Loomis, R. S., ed. *Arthurian Literature in the Middle Ages*. 1959.


Middle English Dictionary (available online through the Middle English Compendium in Libros)


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