

Old & Middle English Literature Ph.D. Exam

To begin with, students are encouraged to read the Old and Middle English material in the *Broadview Anthology of British Literature* volume 1 and the *Norton Anthology of English Literature* volume 1. One way to begin preparing for these examinations is to read the most current editions of the major anthologies of Old and Middle English Literature (listed below).

Burrow and Turville-Petre, *A Book of Middle English*
Dunn and Byrnes, *Middle English Literature*
Garbaty, *Middle English Literature*
Gray, *Oxford Book of Late Medieval Verse and Prose*
Haskell, *Middle English Anthology*
Marsden, *The Cambridge Old English Reader*
Mitchell and Robinson, *A Guide to Old English*
Norton Anthology of *Middle English Lyrics*
Trapp, *Medieval English Literature*.

OLD ENGLISH

Primary Texts: All of these are to be read in Old English, except for Latin works, which may be read in a modern translation.

Aelfric, *The Colloquy, Life of St. Edmund, Preface to Genesis*
Alfred, *Preface to The Pastoral Care*
Anglo-Saxon Chronicle(s): *The Battle of Brunanburh, The Battle of Maldon, "Cynewulf and Cyneheard"*
Asser, *Life of Alfred* (in translation)
Bede, *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (read all in translation)
---, *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (read in Old English: Book 1, ch. 15-16 ; Bk 2, ch. 12-14; Bk 4, ch. 23-24)
Beowulf Manuscript: *Beowulf, Judith*
Exeter Manuscript: "Deor," "The Husband's Message," *Riddles* (selections), "The Seafarer," "The Wanderer," "Widsith," "The Wife's Lament," "Wulf and Eadwacer"
Junius Manuscript: *Genesis A & B, Life of St. Mary of Egypt*
Vercelli Manuscript: "The Dream of the Rood," "Elene"
Wulfstan, *Sermo Lupi ad Anglos*

Continental Works: To be read in translation.

The Nibelungenlied
Njal's Saga
The Poetic Edda (aka *The Eldar Edda*)

Secondary Texts: items preceded by * are required reading; read as many of the others as possible

Alexander, *A History of Old English Literature*

*Baker, *The Beowulf Reader* (read everything)

*Baugh and Cable, *A History of the English Language* (sections on Old and Middle English)

Bessinger and Kahrl, *Essential Articles for the Study of Old English Poetry*

*Bjork and Niles, *A Beowulf Handbook*

*Chase, et al., *The Dating of Beowulf*

Damico, *Beowulf and the Grendel-kin: Politics & Poetry in Eleventh-Century England*

Davidson, *The Gods and Myths of Northern Europe*

*Fulk, *Interpretations of Beowulf* (read everything)

--- and Cain, *A History of Old English Literature*

*Godden and Lapidge, *The Cambridge Companion to Old English Literature*

Greenfield and Calder, *A New Critical History of Old English Literature*

*Kaske, "Sapientiae et Fortitudo as the Controlling Theme of *Beowulf*" (*Studies in Philology* 1958)

*Kiernan, *Beowulf and the Beowulf Manuscript*

Lee, *Gold-Hall and Earth-Dragon: Beowulf as Metaphor*

Liuzza, *Old English Literature: Critical Essays*

Mitchell, *An Introduction to Old English & Anglo-Saxon England*

*Neidorf, *The Dating of Beowulf: A Reassessment*

Newton, *The Origins of Beowulf and the Pre-Viking Kingdom of East Anglia*

Nicholson, *Anthology of Beowulf Criticism*

Niles, *Old English Literature: A Guide to Criticism with Selected Readings*

North, *The Origins of Beowulf: From Vergil to Wiglaf*

*Orchard, *A Critical Companion to Beowulf*

---, *Pride and Prodigies: Studies in the Monsters of the Beowulf Manuscript*

Pyles and Algeo, *The Origins and Development of the English Language* (sections on Old and Middle English)

*Robinson, *Beowulf and the Appositive Style*

*Whitelock, *The Audience of Beowulf*

---, *Beginnings of English Society*

*Wrenn, *A Study of Old English Literature*

MIDDLE ENGLISH

Primary Texts: To be read in Middle English, except for Latin or Anglo-Latin works, which may be read in a modern translation.

The Alliterative Morte Arthure

The Ancrene Riwe

Chaucer, *Parliament of Fowls*, *Legend of Good Women*, *Troilus and Criseyde*, and *The Canterbury Tales*

Chestre/Chester, *Sir Launfal*

Dame Sirith
Everyman
Geoffrey of Monmouth, *The History of the Kings of Britain* (selections)
Gower, *Confessio Amantis* (selections)
Henryson, *Testament of Cresseid*
Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love* (selections)
Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe* (selections)
Langland, *Piers Plowman* (selections)
Layamon, *Brut* (selections)
The Mabinogion
Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*
Mandeville, *Travels* (selections)
Pearl Poet, *The Pearl, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
The Owl and the Nightingale
The Second Shepherd's Play
Sir Orfeo
The Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnell

Continental Works: To be read in translation.

Boccaccio, *The Decameron* (selections)
Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*
Dante, *The Divine Comedy*
Marie de France, *Lais* (selections)
Lorris and de Meun, *The Romance of the Rose*
Virgil, *The Aeneid*

Secondary Texts: Although students are encouraged to read as many of the following works as possible.

Archibald, *The Cambridge Companion to Arthurian Legend*
Boitani and Mann, eds., *The Cambridge Chaucer Companion*
Brewer, *A Companion to the Gawain-Poet*
Cawsey, *Twentieth-Century Chaucer Criticism*
Chambers, *The Mediaeval Stage*
Cohen (ed.), *The Postcolonial Middle Ages*
Cooper, *The Oxford Guide to the Canterbury Tales*
Corrie, *A Concise Companion to Middle English Literature*
Dalrymple, *Middle English Literature, A Guide to Criticism*
Dinshaw, *Chaucer's Sexual Poetics*
Elbow, *Oppositions in Chaucer*
Evans and Johnson, *Feminist Readings in Medieval Literature: The Wife of Bath and All Her Sect*

Fenster (ed.), *Arthurian Women: A Casebook*
Field, *The Life and Times of Sir Thomas Malory*
Ingham, *Sovereign Fantasies: Arthurian Romance and the Making of Britain*
Lewis, *The Allegory of Love* and *The Discarded Image*
Mann, *Chaucer and Medieval Estates Satire*
Oxford History of English Literature, Volumes 1-3 (*Middle English Literature, 1100-1400; Chaucer and Fifteenth-Century Verse and Prose; and Malory and Fifteenth-Century Drama, Lyrics, and Ballads*)
Stephens, *Medieval Romance: Themes and Approaches*
Vasta, *Middle English Survey*
Windeatt, *The Oxford Guide to Troilus and Criseyde*