Major Field Exam in Medieval

(UPDATED MARCH 2025)
YORK UNIVERSITY

Student: _____

Supervisor: _____

Anticipated Exam Date: _____

No later than two months before sitting the exam, the student should submit his or her individualized list for approval by the Graduate Study Committee. The list should include 48 texts drawn from the list below.

Old English

OLD ENGLISH:
King Alfred, Preface to *Pastoral Care*
The Battle of Maldon
Beowulf
Caedmon's Hymn
The Dream of the Rood
The Exeter Book
Wulfstan, *Sermo Lupi ad Anglos*
The Seafarer
The Wanderer
The Wife's Lament

Early Middle English

EARLY MIDDLE ENGLISH:
Havelok

EARLY MIDDLE ENGLISH:
Sir Orfeo
Ormulum
The Owl and the Nightingale
The Peterborough Chronicle
Sawles Warde

Late Middle English

LATER MIDDLE ENGLISH:
A. Middle English Poetry
Middle English Lyrics
Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*
The Legend of Good Women
The Book of the Duchess
The House of Fame
The Parliament of Fowls
Troilus and Criseyde
John Gower, Confessio Amantis
William Langland, Piers Plowman B-Text
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
B. The Chaucer Tradition
John Lydgate, *Temple of Glass*
Stephen Hawes, *Conforte of Lovers*
John Skelton, *Phyllyp Sparowe*
James I, *Kingis Quair*

LATER MIDDLE ENGLISH:
William Dunbar, *Lament for the Makaris*
C. Middle English Drama
The Second Shepherd's Play
Everyman
Mankind
The Croxton Play of the Sacrament
The Digby Play of Mary Magdalen
The Towneley Cycle
York Mystery Cycle
D. Middle English Prose
Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe*
Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love*
Sir Thomas Malory, *Morte d'Arthur*
Sir Thomas Mandeville, *Travels*
The Paston Letters