

# Humanities University Study Guide

## LIT 512 Medieval Literature

*Bedford Anthology of World Literature, Books 1-6. Boston: Bedford-St. Martins, 2004.*

| UNIT      | WEEKS        | TOPICS  | READINGS   |
|-----------|--------------|---|--|
| <b>I</b>  |              | <b>Overview</b>   |  |
|           | 1            | The Middle Period<br>The Near East<br>India<br>China<br>Arabia and Persia<br>Europe<br>Japan  | Book 2, 2-14<br>Book 2, 15-22<br>Book 2, 207-211<br>Book 2, 295-301<br>Book 2, 355-362<br>Book 2, 469-481<br>Book 2, 1011-1017 |
| <b>II</b> |              | <b>Medieval Literature</b>  |  |
|           | 2            | Religious Writings<br>New Testament<br>Qur'an   | Book 2, 23-27<br>Book 2, 97-105  |
|           | Essay Topics | E1: Please explain the concept of evangelism in Christianity.<br>E2: Please provide an overview of the Gospels.<br>E3: Please provide an overview of the life, works, and letters of Paul.<br>E4: Please describe the concept of a apocalypse.<br>E5: Please review the similarities between Jesus and Socrates.<br>Qur'an<br>E6: Please describe the Prophet Muhammed's life.<br>E7: Please describe the text of the Qur'an.<br>E8: Please describe the role of women in Islam and in the Qur'an.<br>E9: Please discuss the text of the Qur'an and its influence on moral conduct. |  |
|           | 3            | Life Writing: Religious Leaders<br>St. Augustine<br>The Confessions<br><br>Muhammad Ibn Ishaq<br>Life of Muhammad   | Book 2, 64-69<br>Book 2, 70-96<br><br>Book 2, 130-133<br>Book 2, 134-157   |
|           | Essay Topics | E1: Please describe the life of St. Augustine and his works.<br>E2: Please describe the perceptions, feelings, and ideas. Describe St. Augustine's experience of regret and shame.<br>E3: Describe St. Augustine's ideas about sin and vice. Please provide examples from the text.<br>E4: Describe how St. Augustine struggles with indecision and self-doubt.<br>E5: Please detail how St. Augustine feels after his conversion experience.<br>E6: Describe Muhammad's visionary experience.<br>E7: Describe the public reaction to the new religion.                             |  |
|           | 4            | Medieval Leaders<br>Medieval Heroes<br>Einhard (770-840)<br>A Life of Charlemagne<br>Anna Comnena (1083-1153)<br>The Alexiad  | Book 2, 158-67<br>Book 2, 168-69<br>Book 2, 169-173<br>Book 2, 173-174<br>Book 2, 174-178                                      |

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|                      | Baha Ad-Din (1145-1234)   | Book 2, 179-180  |
|                      | A Life of Saladin   | Book 2, 180-185  |
|                      | Anonymous – Life of Chingis Khan  | Book 2, 186-187  |
|                      | Origin of Chingis Khan  | Book 2, 187-196  |
|                      | Joan of Arc and Witnesses (1429-1456)   | Book 2, 197-198  |
|                      | Joan of Arc by Herself and Her Witnesses  | Book 2, 198-205  |
| Essay<br>Topic       | Medieval Heroes<br>E1: Please briefly review and provide examples of medieval heroes.<br><br>E2: Please describe the life of Einhard and his work.<br>E3: Please describe Charlemagne's attitude toward education, religion, and the law.<br>E4: Please describe the life of Anna Comnena and her work.<br>E5: What kinds of historical events does The Alexiad describe? How might the account be somewhat biased?<br>E6: Please describe the life of Baha ad-Din and his works.<br>E7: Please provide an overview Saladin's character as described in Life of Saladin.<br>E8: Describe the life of Chingis Khan.<br>E9: Describe the life and times of Joan of Arc.<br>E10: Describe the visionary experience of Joan of Arc. What was her relationship to her sword and her standard (the field of fleurs-de-lys with two angels). |  |
| 5                    | Beowulf   | Book 2, 482-539  |
| Author               | Please write a brief author biography.  |  |
| Literary<br>Analysis | Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Beowulf, critical scenes.  |  |
| Literary<br>Terms    | Please briefly define the following literary terms: epic poem, kenning  |  |
| Essay<br>Topics      | E1: What takes place in the great hall at Heorot? How does the revelry provoke Grendel?<br>E2: When Grendel attacks Hrothgar, what happens? How much damage does he do?<br>E3: How does Beowulf intend to protect the people living at Heorot?<br>E4: When Grendel attacks, how does Beowulf win the fight? Later, how does Beowulf win an attack by Grendel's mother?  |  |
| 6                    | Song of Roland (late 11 <sup>th</sup> century)  | Book 2, 540-577  |
| Literary<br>Analysis | Please provide a brief description of themes, main characters, key scenes.  |  |
| Literary<br>Terms    | Please briefly define the following literary terms: romance   |  |
| Essay<br>Topics      | E1: Please discuss the elements of romance in Song of Roland. Where and how are love expressed?<br>E2: In Song of Roland, what are the relations between men and women? Between knights and their queens?<br>E3: Discuss the notion of chivalry and codes of honor expressed in Song of Roland.<br>E4: What kind of warrior is Roland? Where is he fighting? Who is he fighting?  |  |
| 7                    | Medieval War Chronicles<br>Muslim and Christian at War<br>Robert the Monk, fl 1095<br>Pope Urban II's Call to the First Crusade<br>History of the First Crusade (early 12 <sup>th</sup> century)<br>History of the First Crusade  | Book 2, 578-586<br>Book 2, 586-590<br>Book 2, 588-90<br>Book 2, 591<br>Book 2, 592-595 |

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|                   | Ibn Al-Athir (1160-1233)<br>The Collection of Histories  | Book 2, 595<br>Book 2, 596-601     |
|                   | Usamah Ibn Munquidh (1095-1190)<br>The Book of Reflections   | Book 2, 601-602<br>Book 2, 602-608 |
|                   | Canon de Bethune<br>"Alas, Love, what hard leave"  | Book 2, 609<br>Book 2, 609-610     |
| Essay Topics      | E1: Please provide a brief overview of Muslim expansion and Christian Crusades.<br>E2: Please describe Robert the Monk's work and his depiction of Pope Urban's speech, including reasons and results.<br>E3: What are some of the reasons Urban presents to people as reasons starting a Crusade.<br>E4: How did the winners of the wars deal with the loser?<br>E5: Describe Ibn Al-Athir and his work.<br>E6: How did the first Crusaders behave when they conquered Jerusalem.<br>E7: Describe Usamah Ibn Munquidh and his work.<br>E8: Describe how people write about other cultures through their own cultural perspectives, and thus find the other culture weird or strange. What is the Muslim's view of the Franks' view of medical practice and norms of behavior related to jealousy?<br>E9: Who is Canon de Bethune and how does he explain the theme of the Crusades and position of Crusaders in his poem, "Ala, Love, what hard leave." |                                    |
| 8                 | Andreas Capellanus (fl 1170-1186)<br>The Art of Courtly Love   | Book 2, 611-617<br>Book 2, 617-627 |
|                   | Ibn Hazm (994-1064)<br>The Dove's Necklace   | Book 2, 637-639<br>Book 2, 639-645 |
| Literary Analysis | Please provide a brief description of Capellanus' definition of courtly love, main ideas, and themes.  |                                    |
| Literary Terms    | Please briefly define the following literary terms: courtly love   |                                    |
| Essay Topics      | E1: Please provide an overview of the life of Capellanus and his work.<br>E2: For what purpose would Capellanus attempt to codify love?<br>E3: What are the ways in which love is decreased?<br>E4: What does Capellanus have to say about faithfulness?<br>E5: What does courtly love compel a knight to do, both with tests of courage and adherence to a refined code of behavior?<br>E6: Please provide an overview of the life of Ibn Hazm and his work.<br>E7: Please provide an overview of "The Dove's Necklace."<br>E8: In "The Dove's Necklace" how is love depicted?<br>E9: What problems can lovers encounter?   |                                    |
| 9                 | Courtly Love Lyrics of Spain and France  | Book 2, 628-636,<br>655-669        |
| Literary Terms    | Please briefly define the following literary terms: courtly love, troubadour love poetry, muwashshah, raqib, zajal, 'Udhrite poetry, simile, kharja, cansos  |                                    |
| Essay Topics      | E1: What are the factors that contributed to the creation of a tolerant society? What is the uniqueness of Andalusian society?<br>E2: What were the factors that triggered development of courtly love lyrics in Spain and then in the south of France?<br>E3: Please provide an overview of the life and works of Ibn Faraj.<br>E5: What is the experience of the man in "Chastity"? How does the poem express the conflict between desire and religious convictions? How does the struggle with temptation?  |                                    |

E6: Please provide an overview of the life and works of Ibn Zaydun.  
 E7: In the poem, "Al-Zahra," what does the lover feel after being abandoned by his beloved? Describe how the poet's memories create a sense of sadness and melancholy.  
 E8: Please provide an overview of the life and works of Wallada.  
 E9: In the poem, "To Ibn Zaidun" how does the lover feel when she is away from her beloved? How does the poem express intense longing, blended with loss and nostalgia?  
 E10: Please provide an overview of the life and works of Judah Ha-Levi.  
 E11: In "The Apple" how do the similes make a connection between the attributes of the apple and his memories of his beloved?  
 E12: Please provide an overview of the life and works of Ibn Al-Labbana.  
 E13: How does the poet describe his suffering from unrequited love in "He who has charged the eyes"?  
 E14: Please provide an overview of the life and works of Ibn Quzman.  
 E15: In "I am madly in love" how does the author justify his unethical method of incapacitating and seducing his beloved? What do you think about the poet's method?  
 E16: Please provide an overview of the life and works of Guillaume IX, Duke of Aquitaine.  
 E17: In "My companions, I am going to make a vers that is refined," what is the poet's view of love? What is the effect on the reader when he compares his lovers to horses, and then writes a poem about his dilemma about which one to keep? What kind of attitude toward love does this exemplify?  
 E18: Please provide an overview of the life and works of Marcabru.  
 E19: In "By the fountain in the orchard" how does the poem express admiration for loyalty to an absent lover, and how does it portray the emotional response to a rebuff?  
 E20: Please provide an overview of the life and works of Bernart de Ventadorn.  
 E21: In "My heart is so full of joy" how does the poem address the way that love and lovers are idealized, especially when they are distant?  
 E22: Please provide an overview of the life and works of Raimbaut, Count D'Orange.  
 E23: In "Listen, Lords... but I don't know what" what is the impact of the poet's dilemma? What is he expressing when he discusses the need to convey his love in verse and song, but is frustrated because he does not want to be constricted by the rigid formal requirements of the courtly love poem forms.  
 E24: Please provide an overview of the life and works of Countess of Dia.  
 E25: In the poem, "I've lately been in great distress," how does the poet express regret over what she now views as a mistake, and a missed opportunity?  
 E26: Please provide an overview of the life and works of Castelloza.  
 E27: In the poem, "My friend, if I found you welcoming" how does the poem illustrate the feelings of the rejected lover who believes she was wronged?

10 Marie de France (1170-1180 ft)  
 Lay of Chevrefoil

Book 2, 670-673  
 Book 2, 674-677

Author Please write a brief author biography.

Literary Analysis Please provide a brief description of themes, main characters, key scenes.

Literary Terms Please briefly define the following literary terms: romance

|                   |   |                                    |
|-------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Essay Topics      | E1: Discuss the theme of unrequited love in the Lay of Chevrefoil.<br>E2: What is a lay? Please describe the form and the primary characteristics.<br>E3: Please define courtly love and describe its primary characteristics.<br>E4: How does the Lay of Chevrefoil relate to the story of Tristan and Iseult?                       |                                    |
| 11                | Dante Alighieri (1265-1321)<br>Inferno  | Book 2, 678-688<br>Book 2, 689-848 |
| Author            | Please write a brief author biography.  |                                    |
| Literary Analysis | Please provide a brief description of themes, main characters, key scenes.  |                                    |
| Literary Terms    | Please briefly define the following literary terms: terza rima, Great Chain of Being, scholasticism   |                                    |
| Essay Topics      | E1: Discuss the role of Virgil in the Inferno.<br>E2: Describe some of the sinners and their sins.<br>E3: Describe the structure of the Inferno.<br>E4: What does the Inferno suggest about human nature, and the relationship between crime and punishment?  |                                    |
| 12                | Boccaccio (1313-1375)<br>Decameron  | Book 2, 849-853<br>Book 2, 853-877 |
| Author            | Please write a brief author biography.  |                                    |
| Literary Analysis | Please provide a brief description of key stories and include any ideas and themes.   |                                    |
| Literary Terms    | Please briefly define the following literary terms: fabliau, realism, story   |                                    |
| Essay Topics      | E1: In Book I, what were some of the different ways that people responded to the plague?<br>E2: What kinds of tales do the travelers tell each other? What do they have in common?<br>E3: Discuss the impression left by the earthiness of the tales.<br>E4: What is the significance of the story of Rustico, Alibech, and Neerbale? |                                    |
| 13                | Chaucer (c 1340 – 1400)<br>Canterbury Tales   | Book 2, 878-884<br>Book 2, 885-932 |
| Author            | Please write a brief author biography.  |                                    |
| Literary Analysis | Please provide a brief description of the story in the book and include any ideas and themes.   |                                    |
| Literary Terms    | Please briefly define the following literary terms: tale, morality tale   |                                    |
| Essay Topics      | E1: Who are the people who are on the pilgrimage to Canterbury?<br>E2: How many times was the wife of Bath married? What kind of relationship did she have with her husbands?<br>E3: What are the various views of love in Canterbury Tales?<br>E4: What does the Wife of Bath consider to be the perfect husband?                    |                                    |
| 14                | Medieval Travel Writing   | Book 2, 933-986                    |

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|-------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Literary Terms    | Please briefly define the following terms: travel narrative, pilgrimage, hajj, bodhisattva  |                                     |
| Essay Topics      | <p>E1: Please describe the main types of travel done during Medieval Times.</p> <p>E2: Describe the significance of pilgrimages in Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam during Medieval times.</p> <p>E3. Please provide an overview of the life and travel writings of Egeria (fourth century)</p> <p>E4. Please provide an overview of the life and travel writings of Ibn Jubayr (1145-1217).</p> <p>E5. Please provide an overview of the life and works of Xuanzang (596-664).</p> <p>E6. Please discuss the story of the Asoka-rajā's conversion in "Records of Western Countries."</p> <p>E7. Please provide an overview of the life and works of Giovanni da Pian di Carpine (c. 1185-1252).</p> <p>E8. Describe the tone and the content in the Guyak Khan's Letter to Pope Innocent IV in From "History of the Mongols." What sort of approach to international relations does it illustrate?</p> <p>E9. Please provide an overview of the life and works of Marco Polo (1254-1324).</p> <p>E10. Why does Marco Polo think that the great Khan is generous? Please find your answers in from "The Travels of Marco Polo"</p> <p>E11. Please provide an overview of the life and works of Ibn Battuta (1304-1377).</p> <p>E12. How does Ibn Battuta describe the Aya Sufiya, in From "The Travels of Ibn Battuta in Bengal and China"</p> <p>E13. Please provide an overview of the life and works of John Mandeville (fourteenth century).</p> <p>E14. What kinds of people and creatures does Mandeville encounter. What are the evil customs he talks about? Are they credible? How do his descriptions of India and Java provoke a sense of the exotic in his "The Travels of Sir John Mandeville?"</p> |                                     |
| 15                | Margery Kempe (1373-1438)<br>The Book of Margery Kempe  | Book 2, 989-992<br>Book 2, 993-1009 |
| Author            | Please write a brief author biography.  |                                     |
| Literary Analysis | Please provide a brief overview of themes and main ideas in this work.  |                                     |
| Literary Terms    | Please briefly define the following literary terms: vision, confession  |                                     |
| Essay Topics      | <p>E1: How does Margery Kempe's work reflect the role of women in medieval times?</p> <p>E2: What are some of the mystical elements in the Book of Margery Kempe?</p> <p>E3: What is the relationship between sickness, the body, and vision?</p> <p>E4: How do the revelations in Margery Kempe shed light on the values and beliefs about the nature of human beings to nature and to God?</p>  |                                     |

### III

#### Finals

16 Review, Essay, Exam