

Annotated Bibliography Assignment

DUE 10/20

An annotated bibliography is a crucial research tool when you're planning longer projects and may need to remind yourself, "where did I read that great thing I wanted to cite?"

Goals:

- To summarize and reflect upon sources you have read;
- To give you a sense of the discussions scholars are having about the texts we are reading;
- To build a bibliography that might support your proposal.

Requirements

- Research peer-reviewed books and/or articles (build strength in keyword searches).
- Choose **at least SIX sources** and provide the MLA bibliographical citation for each. Arrange the list in alphabetical order by author's surname.
 - *Note:* I'm providing a list of possible topics and starter articles, because I am more interested in your writing/thinking than database searching. You may use up to **FOUR**. (See Annotated Bibliography Options file, attached)
- Write a brief annotation that indicates the author's argument, methodology, main claims, and any other useful information about each piece.

Guidelines:

Sources

- I expect you to primarily cite books and essays published *recently* (i.e., since 1990). You may be able to make a case for citing an older work that is *foundational* (e.g., Jill Mann's *Medieval Estates Satire*), but you want to largely be developing your ideas to be in conversation with where the critical field is *now*.
- To locate your sources, you should use the MLA database (literature), International Medieval Bibliography (medieval subjects), and/or Bibliography of British and Irish History (historical sources). Craft your searches carefully, and be open to trying variant keywords to find the most relevant articles. You may also use scholar.google.com to get started.
- Part of what we're practicing is finding multiple resources, so if you choose a collection like *The Companion to Malory*, you may not cover more than two essays from it.
- Your sources *must be peer-reviewed* – that is reviewed and published by a professional journal. Unfortunately, "free" online stuff is usually questionable, so do not rely on Google. If you are unsure about a source, contact me. Presses to AVOID: Peter Lang, University Press of America, Edwin Mellen Press (these are tantamount to vanity academic presses: authors pay to publish and their manuscripts do not receive scholarly feedback to ensure that the ideas are legitimate). Also avoid dissertations or theses; these are also *not reviewed rigorously*.

Annotations

- Each annotation should summarize the content of the source in your own words, briefly evaluate the source, and comment on the relevance to your research interests (or, if you wish to be more specific, you can explain how you might use or engage the source).
- See *They Say/ I Say* on "Summarizing" and "Responding" for helpful tips. While you should include important terminology in the entries, avoid using quotations; your job, after all, is to paraphrase and summarize the author's point. Entries should be approximately 5 sentences or 100-150 words in length (longer is ok if it's a book or a collection of essays).

GRADING: An excellent (A) annotated bibliography will:

- Include at least 6 bibliographic entries in correct MLA citation style (See the Purdue OWL online if you need a refresher course) and alphabetical order;
 - Include annotations for each of the bibliographic entries – annotations that in 100-150 words clearly and accurately summarize the content of the source, evaluate its arguments, and comment on the relevance of the source to your research question.
 - Use literary terms correctly, exhibit an appropriate academic style, be virtually free of usage errors, and meet length and number requirements.
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Sample annotations for an electronically-retrieved article and a book:

Sobecki, Sebastian I. "Educating Richard: Incest, Marriage, and (Political) Consent in Gower's 'Tale of Apollonius.'" *Anglia* 125 (2007), pp. 205-16. *Reference Global*. Web. 19 Jan 2011.

Sobecki reads the *Tale of Apollonius* as using incest to point out the necessity of marriage for a functional relationship and as a cure for lechery. Additionally, Apollonius is not referred to as "king" until after his marriage; marriage becomes a metaphor for the king's relationship with his subjects, for a "harmonious polity" (215). Sobecki reads the work in a historical context and argues that the tale attempts to persuade Richard II that he should invest in his realm the same kind of love and affection that characterized his marriage to his wife, Anne of Bohemia. I plan to cite this article for evidence that Gower saw love and political ideals as interrelated, not separate concepts.

Robert F. Yeager. *John Gower's Poetics: The Search for a New Arion* (Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 1990), esp. 136-140.

Yeager offers thorough readings of Florent as an exemplar whose qualities of integrity and pragmatism both get him into trouble and out of it. Yeager argues that Florent has learned during the tale; while he complains internally and shows the human interior capacity for disobedience at other points in the narrative, he submits without complaint to his wife's request (138-40). For the most part his excellent readings consider only the narrative proper and sources, without thinking about historical context or the physical manuscript layout. I wish to reframe these ideas with attention to the moralizing framework Genius offers and the Latin glosses to highlight the ways that Gower calls attention not only to the male protagonists but also to the female protagonist and her essential role in the narrative.

Annotated Bibliography Options

I've found at least 5 articles or books related to our texts and/or class topics. Your annotated bibliography *can* include *up to FOUR* of those I've found, and you are responsible for finding other articles. If the articles I've selected are too broad or too narrow for your interests, you are welcome to find others on your own. You may also mine articles from other sections of this document, as long as you limit yourself to four of "my" sources (up from 3 on the original assignment).

For books, you need not read the entire book. You may provide up to two annotations for individual chapters (not counting the introduction).

When you are searching on your own: Keywords are crucial. Be flexible in your searches and terms.

- Just because an article treats one of our texts, that doesn't mean it is relevant to our topic.
- Articles on a topic of interest may not be on one of our texts – these can be *most* useful in terms of modeling methods you might use to unpack/interpret our texts.

Note: My selection of these articles should not be taken as an endorsement of any of their perspectives or arguments. In fact, I have included some that I disagree with or that bother me, because that is often something scholars encounter, and we have to find a way to talk about, challenge, or otherwise grapple with all kinds of scholarship.

Tips:

- Some journals still do special issues (e.g., in my list below, many articles from *postmedieval* and *JMEMS* are from special topics issues): if you find an article in one journal – see if it's online at KU (most of these are), and see if there are other articles in the journal. See if a chapter from a book or edited collection might lead to other articles in the same volume that could be of interest. Also, if you have found a promising book, edited collection, or special issue of a journal: skim the introduction; at some point, the author or editor will cover what each chapter/article contributes, so that may tell you what to read or prioritize.
- The references or notes of articles often point to other sources you might want to read.
- Most of these resources are available online through KU libraries, or otherwise free online.
- Keep in mind that you can search more broadly, e.g., in medieval history, environmental studies, animal studies, medieval religions, etc. Works need not have our literary texts in their titles.

Resources:

There is a partial bibliography on race and medieval studies here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18JClisma1BMKYCvxgeWqwPej3ZSCrQXIAIXbL0CdqWmE/>

Monica H. Green has a bibliography on medieval women, gender, and medicine, if you are interested in any of those intersections:

https://www.academia.edu/4558843/Monica_H_Green_Bibliography_on_Medieval_Women_Gender_and_Medicine_1980_2009_2010

Topic 1: Medicine

Billier, Peter. "Black women in medieval scientific thought," *La pelle umana. The Human Skin. Micrologus XIII*. (Firenze: SISMEI, 2005), 477-492.

Crowcroft, Kathryn. "Reconsidering sense: towards a theory of medieval preventative medicine" *postmedieval* 8.2 (2017): 162-69

Hartnell, Jack. "Scanning Saint Amandus: medical technologies and medieval anatomies." *postmedieval* 8.2 (2017): 218-33.

Langum, Virginia. "Discerning Skin: Complexion, Surgery, and Language in Medieval Confession," in *Reading Skin in Medieval Literature and Culture*, ed. Katie L. Walters (Palgrave, 2013), pp. 141-60.

Orlemanski, Julie. "Physiognomy and Otiose Practicality." *Exemplaria* 23.2 (2011): 194-218.

Topic 2: Race

Cohen, Jeffrey J. "On Saracen Enjoyment: Some Fantasies of Race in Late Medieval France and England." *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 31.1 (2001): 111-44. (from a special issue)

Friedman, Jamie. "Making Whiteness Matter: The King of Tars." *postmedieval* 6.1 (2015): 52-63. (from a special issue)

Heng, Geraldine. "The Invention of Race in the European Middle Ages I: Race Studies, Modernity, and the Middle Ages" *Literature Compass* 8.5 (2011): 315-31.

Jordan, William C. "Why 'Race'?" *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 31.1 (2001): 165-173. (from a special issue)

Sturtevant, Paul. "Is Race Real?" <https://www.publicmedievalist.com/is-race-real/> published 22 Feb 2017(accessed 11 Aug 2020)

Lomuto, Sierra. "The Mongol Princess of Tars: Global Relations and Racial Formation in *The King of Tars* (c.1330)" *Exemplaria* 31.3 (2019): 171-92.

Topic 3: Gender

Bennett, Judith. "Public Power and Authority in the Medieval English Countryside," in *Women and Power in the Middle Ages*, ed. Erler and Kowaleski (University of Georgia Press, 1988), pp. 18-36

Bychowski, M. W. "Trans textuality: Dysphoria in the depths of medieval skin," *postmedieval* 9 (2018): 318-333.

Bynum, Caroline Walker. "Fast, Feast, and Flesh: The Religious Significance of Food to Medieval Women," *Representations* 11 (1985): 1-25.

Henningsen, Kadin. "'Calling [herself] Eleanor': Gender Labor and Becoming a Woman in the Rykener Case" *Medieval Feminist Forum* 55.1 (2019): 249-66.

Kelleher, Marie A. "What Do We Mean by 'Women and Power'?" *Medieval Feminist Forum* 51.2 (2015): 104-115.

Scott, Joan W. "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *The American Historical Review* 91.5 (1986): 1053-75.

Topic 4: Religion

Cox, Catherine S. "Genesis and Gender in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*," *The Chaucer Review* 35.4 (2001): 378-90.

Field, R., P. Hardmann, and M. Sweeney. *Christianity and Romance in Medieval England* (D.S. Brewer, 2010): see Google Books for table of contents; contact me/ILL request chapters.

Grayson, Saisha. "Disruptive Disguises: The Problem of Transvestite Saints for Medieval Art, Identity, and Identification," *Medieval Feminist Forum* 45.2 (2009): 138-74.

Noble, TFX. "Why Pope Joan?" *Catholic Historical Review* 99.2 (2013): 219-38.

Tolan, John Victor. "Saracens as Pagans" in *Saracens: Islam in the Medieval European Imagination* (Columbia University Press, 2002), pp. 105-34.

Topic 5: Animals

Crane, Susan. *Animal Encounters: Contacts and Concepts in Medieval Britain* (University of Pennsylvania, 2013). Online at KU: <https://catalog.lib.ku.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?bbid=7951693> (includes chapters on wolf-men, bestiaries, huntings, knights and horses)

Kay, Sarah. "Legible skins: Animals and the ethics of medieval reading" *postmedieval* 2 (2011): 13-32.

Wolfe, Cary. "Moving forward, kicking back: The animal turn," *postmedieval* 2 (2011): 1-12. (this special issue also includes articles interested in theory, e.g., Agamben, manuscript skin, etc.)

Steel, Karl and Peggy McCracken. "The animal turn: Into the sea with the fish-knights of *Perceforest*" *postmedieval* 2 (2011): 88-100.

Wolfe, Cary. "Human, All Too Human: 'Animal Studies' and the Humanities," *PMLA* 124.2 (2009): 564-75.