

Final exam guide
ENGL 365

The final exam (worth 15% of your grade for the course [the same as the midterm]) will be on Thursday, December 4, at noon. (I expect it to take at most two hours, probably less than 90 minutes.) You may work on your laptop and submit the document into the course Dropbox for the final exam, or you can write it by hand. If you do the latter, please use a pen (not a pencil) and bring your own paper.

As with the midterm, you will respond to 4 of 6 prompts on the exam. Each will require a response of 300-500 words, in the form of a 2-3 paragraph response, akin to your weekly blog posts but more formal and perhaps more carefully planned and proofread than blogposts sometimes are. They will, of course, also be more carefully directed (thanks to the prompts) than are your weekly blogposts. Each will be worth 25% of the exam grade.

Also as with the midterm, the purpose of the final exam is two-fold:

1. To give you the opportunity/incentive to review the readings and discussions of the first half of the semester and make connections among them before we move in a slightly different direction in the second half.
2. To allow you the chance to demonstrate, in a written setting rather than the usual oral setting of classroom discussion, your facility with the materials we have been engaging with. You will be doing this soon with your mid-term paper, but that will focus on a single extended argument. In the midterm, you'll be working not with one extended argument but instead will be calling on different elements of the critical and literary texts we've been discussing as you address a range of issues in the 4 prompts.

Following are the texts that will be covered in the exam:

Caroline Walker Bynum, *Christian Materiality*:

Introduction

Chapter 2 ("The Power of Objects")

Chapter 4 ("Matter and Miracles")

Conclusion

From Ashmole 61:

St. Eustace (item 1)

St. Margaret (item 37)

How the Good Wife Taught Her Daughter (item 4)

Dame Curtasy (item 8)

Stans Puer Ad Mensam (item 7)

The Dietary (item 31)

The Jealous Wife (item 22)

The Incestuous Daughter (item 23)

The Sinner's Lament and *The Adulterous Falmouth Squire* (items 35a+b)

The Knight Who Forgave His Father's Slayer (item 18)

The Wounds and the Sins (item 38)

The following texts from the first half of the semester may be used to assist you in your responses on the final exam:

Jane Bennett, *Vibrant Matter* Preface; Chapter 1 (The Force of Things); Chapter 2 (The Agency of Assemblages); Chapter 3 (Edible Matter)

Graham Harman, "We Have Never Been Modern" (in Harman's book *Prince of Networks: Bruno Latour and Metaphysics*, ch. 3, starting on p. 57; this is a chapter on Latour's book *We Have Never Been Modern*) (PDF)

"What is Actor-Network Theory" (collected by Martin Ryder, UC Denver) (PDF)

Jeffrey Cohen's introduction to ANT, vibrant materialism, and speculative realism

During the exam, you will be able to refer to notes and to books. Before the exam you should make sure you feel comfortable that you have a thorough knowledge of the materials from the second half of the term.

I would encourage returning to the key claims of Bynum's different chapters. It can be easy to lump them all together in an overly general statement of her concerns. It's good to have a sense of her approach and conclusions on the whole, but you also want to attend to the smaller observations and claims that help her to build those cases. Pay special attention to her statements of her methodology at various points and especially return to her final section of her Conclusion where she addresses "Theories, Medieval and Modern" and how they intersect with her own work.

The following concepts should be familiar to you:

bodily relics

contact relics

Dauerwunder

sacramentals

prodigies

ex votos

incarnation

miracle

marvel/magic

different views on the qualities of medieval matter