The current contact person for this paper in 2017-18 is Prof. Nicolette Zeeman, King’s College, nz202@cam.ac.uk. Please read this carefully and don’t hesitate to ask if anything is unclear.

The paper explores the varied and multilingual literature written between 1066-1350 in the British Isles or those parts of Europe controlled at one time or another within this period by the English monarch (what might be called ‘The Angevin Empire’: Henry II was from Anjou). The paper includes epic and romance, historical chronicles and satire, saints’ lives and devotional writing, lyric poetry, comic fabliaux and beast fables. This is a period of exciting political history and rich in philosophical, artistic and literary innovation. The texts studied in the paper were originally written in either Early Middle English (the language derived from that spoken in England before the Norman Conquest), Anglo-Norman (the dialect of French spoken in Britain after the Norman Conquest), or Medieval Latin (the language of law, learning and the educated, clerical classes). It is fascinating to see how genres and modes of writing echo and interact with each other across these three languages.

Texts are read either in the original language or in a modern English translation. You will need to show that you have studied texts in at least one of the original languages. There are language classes for the individual languages and supervisions in which you and your supervisor devise a course of study according to your interests. The reading list for the paper can be accessed in the English Faculty website (via Moodle).

The paper is in two sections. Section A involves translating texts from your chosen language (or languages) and Section B comprises essays ranging across many more texts that you have studied, in a variety of thematic and comparative ways. In the examination, candidates answer one question comprising 3 parts) in section A, and two questions in section B (section A commands 33% of the marks and Section B 67%).
Section A

This section tests translation skill and understanding of the language. **There are no unseens!** You must translate three passages from prescribed texts you have previously studied, though in each language there are about 5 or 6 set texts from which these passages will be drawn. It is essential that you prepare **all** of the set sets in **one** language (even if you intend to mix and match among languages) as you have no way of knowing which three will be on the paper.

**Teaching for Section A**

Language Classes (details of times and venues will be on the faculty website and in Notes on Courses for Michaelmas 2017/Lent 2018). Normally students will attend **one** set of classes: either Anglo-Norman, Middle English or Medieval Latin. You will need to decide which you would prefer by the beginning of October 2017 so you don’t miss the first class. You may, if you wish, attend classes in two or even three languages, but most students attend one.

Some supervisors will offer help with the translations if you have particular difficulty, and will be pleased if you approach them with specific questions after you have attended the classes. Some supervisors may go through the prescribed texts more formally, whether during the main supervision programme or as revision. Whatever the precise arrangements, the cover offered in supervisions for Section A needs to be supported by attendance at the classes.

Last year we also ran some revision sessions on language work in the Easter term.

Section B

This section allows you to explore the literary texts in the period more widely and variously, as well as the philosophical, cultural, artistic and historical backgrounds to these texts. Questions are set on a range of texts, genres, literary styles and cultural issues; there is plenty of choice, but it is essential to prepare in depth as well as across a range of topics. The paper encourages comparative thinking across and between texts originally written in the three languages, Anglo-Norman, Early Middle English and Medieval Latin, and, although not an actual requirement of the paper, you are strongly urged to think comparatively. There will be plenty of opportunity for you to follow up your interests and enthusiasms. You are not necessarily expected to write on the texts from which the set passages
for translation are chosen, but you may wish to do so. But you will no doubt want to go beyond these texts and read more widely.

Teaching for Section B

Faculty-based Teaching:

In the **Michaelmas Term**, there are English Faculty lectures which will be of general interest to people taking this paper, many advertised under Part 1, Paper 3 (Literature 1300-1550). In the **Lent Term**, there are lectures planned precisely for this paper. These take the form of a ‘circus’ with a different specialist each week. But in both terms, there will be **other lectures** which will be useful to students taking this paper (there are lectures on medieval French literature, for example, in the Department of French, MML; and lecture on medieval art in the Faculty of History or Art). Some information about these will be circulated before the start of the year.

Supervisions

In addition to the language classes mentioned above, you can expect to have at least six hours of supervision for this paper, either individually or in a small group. The norm for this paper is to have supervision in Lent, unless students, in consultation with their DoS, have preference for a different pattern. Some revision supervisions will also occur in the Easter term, in the run-up to exams.

**All** students should go to all literary supervisions arranged for them, regardless of the language they have chosen to study in the original: some of the supervisions will deal with single texts; others may take a comparative approach dealing with a range of texts originally written in two or three of the medieval languages and linked by, for example, genre, theme or readership. Texts will be studied in translation, with individual students encouraged to look at texts within their competency in the original where they can.

Quotation in section B essays should normally be in the original in the case of texts in the language which the student has chosen as his or her ‘original’ language, but may be in modern English for other texts. Thus, for example, if you choose Early Medieval English for your language preparation, texts studied which were written originally in Latin or Anglo-Norman may be quoted in modern English. However, if you have any language skills in these other language (such as GCSE acquaintanceship with modern French, for example) you might wish to look at short passages of texts in the original even where you are not required to do so.

Students will be asked to write several essays in the course of their year’s or term’s supervision. These should be a minimum of 1500 words and, although supervisors do not usually set a maximum, 2000-2500 words are probably enough!
The images on this paper are all illustrations of the romances of Tristan and Iseult: a French ivory of the lovers under a tree by a pool with King Mark spying on them above in the tree; a slip tile of Mark embracing Tristan from Chertsey, Surry; and a (German) wall hanging of the lovers under the tree again!