

## **Study Guide for Final Exam GER160 by Austin Grimm and Mara Serber, March 2015**

**Produced and written independently by students Austin Grimm and Mara Serber for the intended purpose of creating a general review and summary of GER160. Please note that this is not a replacement for actually doing the course work and readings, it is a general summary to help remind students of what they need to know in preparation for the final exam. The information in this document is accurate to the best of our knowledge, however, neither Austin Grimm nor Mara Serber assume any liability for inaccurate information. Good Luck on your Final Exam.**

### **Emily Amt-**

**Middle Ages:500-1500ad:** Germanic Tribe “Invasions” killed off the Roman Empire then settled parts of Europe: The Franks in modern day France, The Visigoths in Spain, The Ostrogoths in Italy, The Burgundians in Switzerland, and Anglo-Saxons in England.

### **Three Time periods:**

**Early Middle Ages(5th to 11th Century):** Political face dominated by Charlemagne, Feudal system still in place, Canon Law in place, the west was invaded by Vikings, Muslims, Magyars, and Huns.

**High Middle Ages(11th to 13th Century):** Economic Revival, Militant Church launched the first Crusade in 1095 AD against the muslims in order to take Jerusalem, church reform, three estates, those who prayed, those who worked, and those who fought.

**Late Middle Ages(13th to 15th Century):** Black Death, Hundred Years war, The invention of the printing press by Johann Gutenberg in ca. 1450; the 'discovery' of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492; the conquest of Cordoba by the Spanish crown in 1492, along with the expulsion of the Jewish population from the Iberian Peninsula in the same year; the fall of Constantinople to the Ottomans in 1453, signaling the end of the Eastern Roman empire, and the Protestant Reformation in 1517 by Martin Luther.

### **Apollonius king of tyre :**

- 5th century AD , very popular through the middle ages and the renaissance
- was printed as late as the 17th century
- riddles solving to bring him out of depression
- must experience loss to understand and appreciate love

- rape and incest between the king and his daughter
- lady fortune with the shipwreck

### **The love songs of Carmina Burana :**

- is sung today at every opera house in the world
- collection of songs 1230 AD
- novice monks wrote them
- 250 + songs written in medieval latin
- but many contained middle high german
- themes are : love, drinking, wooing, gambling, and dancing
- became fully known in the 19th century
- Carl Orff in 1937 composed his own music to the Carmina

### **Troubadours and Trobaritz :**

- troubadours were the courtly singers in southern france 11th century
- troubadours derives from old occitan meaning “the finder” or “composer of song”
- medieval women poets named **trobaritz**
- 1100 courtly love poems from female poets
- these poets came from southern france
- these women raised their voices and expressed love and eroticism through their eyes
- these women owned their own land

### **The unfortunate Lord Henry :**

- we have little to no knowledge on the author of this story, Hartmann von Aue. What we do know is that he lived in Southwest Germany, Swabia
- Aue means pasture/ meadow so its impossible to know exactly where he came from
- rank of a knight but the training of a cleric
- one of the most significant poets of the middle high german period
- a man who was plagued with leprosy
- the only way to cure himself of this deadly disease was to find a virgin girl who would be willing to give her life for him out of love and he would then devour her blood from her heart and that would cure him
- the girl puts the needs of her family and her master before her own life
- lord henry sees his soul when he witnesses her full vulnerability and purity of love which cures him and they live happily ever after.

### **Walter von der Vogelweide: Pg.204**

- Most celebrated middle high german poet, Walther of the Bird Pasture, associated with Bishop Wolfger von Erla, stayed in Vienna for a time, probably born in Bozen, probably died in Wurzburg, also associated with Passua, wrote during the renaissance of the

12th century, minne singer, Grace divine, chattel, and honor, only if peace and justice are brought together can all three of these exist in harmony.

### **Under the linden pg.212:**

-Two lovers, under a linden tree, set away from society but it is important to note that this is not a pastorella, this is not rape but love.

### **The Lais Marie de France pg.239:**

-she lived in the second half of the 12th century but we are uncertain of who she was, she could have possibly been in the english court or maybe in france, she wrote 12 poems called lais, her lais are focused on love but from many different angles, she is retelling tales of adventures which have happened in the past and were captured by Breton writers, she then told these lais to the king as lessons of love, virtue and honor

**-Guigemar** : A perfect knight except when it comes to love, he goes hunting and kills a pure white hind but gets injured as well, the hind curses him to always have the wound unless he can find love, he finds a ship that takes him to a noblewoman, the woman takes care of him and they fall in love, they are discovered and have to separate, the lady ties his shirt in a knot only she can undo, he ties her belt(not a chastity belt) in a similar manner, after some time they are finally reunited and they untie the knots. (Lady Fortune is present in this story).

**-Equitan**: This story has three main characters a king his senechal and the senechal's wife, the king falls madly in love with his right hand mans wife and tries to woo her, at first his efforts are to no avail but eventually he gets the girl, they are lovers in secret, but since the king does not have a queen he needs to find a woman to rule by his side, the wife of the senchal doesn't like this and doesn't want to lose him so she plots with the king to kill her husband so that they can be together, their plan is to go on a hunting trip with her husband and put scolding hot water in his bath so when he sits in their he will die. the king goes into the wrong bath and dies and once the senechal sees that he realizes their plan to kill him so he pushes his wifes head into the boiling water killing her too.

**-Le Fresne**: A wife had twins and a jealous wife slandered her for it, that same wife then got pregnant with twins herself and so got rid of one of them so that she would not be slandered for it, so she left the baby at an abbey, where the girl (Le Fresne) was raised, a lord Gurun fell in love with her and eventually got her pregnant, she went to live with him at his place and was very well cared for, however, his vassals reproached him for keeping a mistress and urged him to marry a noblewoman, he married the sister of Le

Fresne and the night of the marriage Le Fresne was discovered as the daughter of the family, the marriage was annulled and Le Fresne got to marry Lord Gurun.

**-Bisclavret:** Bisclavret is a story about a man who has the ability to turn into a werewolf, sadly for him once he confides in his wife about this she takes advantage of his weakness which is to take his clothes so that he can't return to human form. He is stuck as a werewolf until his clothes are returned to him, luckily he meets the king in the forest and befriends him, one night his wife shows up to the king's palace and when he sees his wife he rips her nose off. The king knows he wouldn't commit such a horrible action without reason so he questions the wife until she reveals what she had done and then returns his clothes so that he can return to human form.

**-Eliduc:** There was a knight named Eliduc and he was married to a wonderful woman, he went to another land in search of military service, there he met a princess who he then fell in love with, he also happened to be very successful in this land, keep in mind this maiden had no knowledge that he had a wife back home, but he was then called back to his homeland to service his king, he then goes back for the maiden but on the journey back to his homeland on the ship one of the men lets it slip that he is married and she faints and appears to die out of shock. He mourns and becomes so sad. He puts her on an altar in an old church. The wife follows him one day and sees a maiden asleep on the altar. She realizes he is in love with her and figures out that if she puts a special flower on her mouth she can revive her. So the wife saves the maiden and lets them get married and she becomes a nun.

**French Fabliaux:** Could be viewed as pornographic in modern times but they should not be considered this way because the authors intended them to provoke laughter and to teach a lesson about human behavior, they are rhymed verses consisting of between 200 to 500 verses, in total around 150 of them were written in Northern France and Belgium and partly in England, the earliest was written around 1170 AD, they enjoyed popularity from the urban and courtly societies. These praised woman's cunning and insulted men's intelligence as well as the corruption of the clergy. Similar to the German Maeren.

**Mauritius von Craun:** Written either in the late 12th century or the early 13th this text was housed in Ambraser Heldenbuch and currently housed in Vienna, the author is virtually unknown although it is believed the author came from somewhere around Strassburg, the story itself is about a knight named Mauritius who is a noble knight who is love struck over the count's wife, in order for him to receive her love in return though he must hold a tournament for her, he builds a fake gilded ship and then hosts this great tournament for her, the count is a horrible horseman and kills another knight, he then goes to bed, Mauritius goes to his lady and asks her to keep her bargain, she is upset

when she finds him sleeping and changes her mind, Mauritius doesn't like this and rapes her. The important points of this story are that whether or not his feelings for the lady were real at first, they turned to lust at the end, these false feelings are symbolized by the fake ship, also the lady was most likely simply using Mauritius to get some entertainment for herself.

**Aucassin et Nicolette pg. 447:** This text was either written in the early or late 13th century not much else is known, the story itself is a humorous way of making fun of the church's teachings as well as political issues, in the story there are two lovers Aucassin and Nicolette, Nicolette who is of royal birth gets kidnapped and sold as a slave. The lovers still manage to meet, and they sail away to this odd country Torelore where everything is opposite from what is normal, the King is in childbed and the woman wages war but with rotten apples, eggs, and fresh cheese, Aucassin gets involved and starts killing people which makes the King tell him they don't kill people. They get taken captive on different pirate ships and eventually Nicolette returns to Aucassin to confirm his love for her, the story criticized the military, gender roles, and arranged marriage.

**Aristotle and Phyllis:** The author could have been from around Strasbourg, and the story was written around 1280-1300 AD, The story tells us of a boy who was the son of a king, this son was very smart and was taught by Aristotle (possible a reference to Aristotle the philosopher), the boy however got distracted by one of the queen's maids who was very beautiful, they fell in love with each other and the boy refused to learn, Aristotle punished both of them and kept them separate from each other, Phyllis got her revenge on him by dressing up and going to him, she tricked him into letting her ride him like a horse and while they were doing this the Queen saw and therefore Aristotle's reputation was ruined and he left.

#### **The Belt:**

Author was Dietrich and was written between 1270 and 1290

magical belt

gender roles

wife only wants honor for her husband

ends justify the means

#### **The Little Bunny Rabbit:**

knight tricks a young innocent girl to trade her virginity for a little bunny rabbit

minne

happy ending

**The Monk and The Goose:** The author is unknown however could have originated from southwestern Germany, the story may have been written in the second half of the

13th century however the earliest copies are from 1320-1330 AD, the story is about a young boy who was raised in a monastery where he was kept ignorant of the world, including woman. When the young man goes with the head monk to take care of some business they stay at a farmers house who has a daughter, the young man asks the monk what the woman are and he responses with they are geese, the daughter and young man sleep with each other and the head monk and man return to the monastery, during Christmas the young man tells everyone they should have a little goose, the head monk then learns of what happened with the daughter. This story blames the head monk for keeping the young man ignorant of the world, worse than that because the monk gave information to the man that was incorrect.

**Two Merchants and the Loyal Wife:** The author Ruprecht von Wurzburg composed this text sometime in the first half of the 14th century but other than that not much is known, the story itself is about two merchants, one noble the other serving under him, both were very good friends with each other and so the noble one wanted to do something for the other as well as secure their control over the city, so they married their children, the wife is a perfect wife, she has no flaws and is perfect, the husband goes off on a business trip and while staying at an inn he is sitting around with other men who are all bashing their respective wives, he praises his wife however and when the innkeeper doesn't believe him they stake their entire fortunes on whether the innkeeper can sleep with the husbands wife, the innkeeper attempts to sleep with her through all manner of bribery but when it doesn't work he offers her 1000 marks to sleep with him, the lady goes to her family and they tell her to do it, she goes back to the house and has her maid secretly sleep with him, when he claims to have slept with her she reveals that he slept with the maid instead. The story is a lesson to be faithful and you will be rewarded.

**The Warm Donation:** The author is unknown however this story was written in the 15th century and survives in two manuscripts, Heidelberg and Geneva-Cologne, the story is about a very miserly husband who keeps everything for himself and his wife who barely gets enough to eat, which is why when a beggar comes by asking for alms while the husband is away the wife has nothing to give him but her body so she has sex with him, the husband finds out about this and becomes very sad so he gives everything to his wife which basically makes her the master of the house. This story warns against being miserly.

**Woman's Constancy:**

A woman who stays true to her husband and her virtue and honor

**The Search for the Happily Married Couple:** The author Heinrich Kaufringer could have originated from Landsberg however there are two men under that name, a father

and his son, the father was a rector in the parish since 1369 and died in 1404, the son was not mentioned after 1404 so perhaps the son did not obtain a significant position. the story is about a man who had a perfect wife in every way except in his eyes, her miserliness, he enjoyed throwing parties and being charitable with his great wealth, she did not like spending money, and this irritated him a good deal, so he set out to find the perfect couple, he found two couples in his 6 years of travel who appeared to be perfect, however in the first the wife had slept with a priest and she had to drink out of his skull every night, the latter couples wife was a very loose woman who would sleep with anyone, so the husband had a huge peasant locked in his basement who had sex with the wife whenever she wanted. Returning how defeated he realized that there is much worse than being miserly.

**The Innocent Murderess:** This story was also written by Heinrich Kaufringer, the story is about a bride of a king, an evil seneschal tells a knight that this woman will sleep with any man and so the knight sneaks in to the castle the wife is staying in and sleeps with her, she believes that he is the king and so is willing to sleep with him, due to some words he says she realizes what happened and kills him with a knife, in order to get rid of the body she gets the help of the gatekeeper who will only help her if she sleeps with him, while the gatekeeper is helping her she pushes him in as well. The next night since the wife is no longer a virgin she has her maid sleep with the king but after the maid does she will not get out of bed, so the wife sets a fire and kills the maid. Years later she tells the king what happened and he is forgiving of it surprisingly.