

**Annotated Bibliography Project**  
**ENGL 2323: British Literature I**  
**Dr. Brian McFadden**  
**Due: Wednesday, December 6, 10:00 PM**

**Assignment:** Choose a topic of interest to you and then read and annotate five or six sources FROM 2013-2023 that pertain in some way to your topic. A source is a scholarly book, an article in a scholarly journal (print or online), or a chapter in an edited collection; give the complete bibliographic citation and a brief summary of its argument and conclusions. Use proper MLA or Chicago style for the bibliographic entry and a brief paragraph as noted below for the annotation. You may not use the example below in your bibliography, although you are more than welcome to read it. When you submit an annotation, I assume you have read all of the work.

**STRONG HINT:** the essay on the final exam will require you to use this bibliography, so pick a focused topic. Note that the last lines of the annotation are supposed to express a reader's reasons for interest in that article, and the exam question will probably ask what you find important about the works on your topic, so start thinking about that answer as you annotate...

Some suggestions for topics (but these are by no means the only ones possible):

- Women's social roles in any of the periods we are covering (Early Medieval English; Middle English; Renaissance/Early Modern literature; the long 18<sup>th</sup> century) and how the authors we are examining uphold or subvert them in their work
- Male and/or female attitudes toward love, marriage, and sexuality as reflected in the periods we are covering
- How women's social status defines the power they can/cannot wield in any text from the periods we are covering
- An in-depth study of a single author or work from any period covered in this course, either on or off of our syllabus (check with me if the latter)
- The role of religion in defining male or female roles in any period covered in this course
- How issues such as race or class intersect with gender issues in texts from the periods covered in this course
- A topic of your own choosing (consult with me first!)

**Rules for picking sources:**

- 1) No more than one web source – I want to make sure you all get into the library and/or its online resources. Choose online sources carefully– I prefer discussion sites or scholarly sites to fan sites, movie sites, or simple descriptive sites. If you use an online version of a print journal, that counts as a print document, but it must be specially cited – check the most recent edition of the *MLA Handbook* or the *Chicago Manual of Style* for online citation format.
- 2) No more than two sources from any one collection of essays – I want to make sure you read a range of sources.
- 3) No dissertations, theses, or research papers: published academic works only.
- 4) No reviews or short notes: full-length articles, essays, or books only.

- 5) Primary texts do not count as sources – i.e., I want eight books, articles, websites, etc. about medieval/early modern/18c topics beyond any literary works.
- 6) Format: The annotations in the annotated bibliography should be single-spaced and should have a space between the publication information and the annotation. They should be between 100 and 200 words in length. The bibliographic information should appear in either MLA or Chicago style format (Works Cited page format), and with a hanging indent.

**Verification:** To prevent falsification of annotations (which several students have tried in the past), for every source you must do one of the following: a) email me a copy of the electronic database link by which you found the article, or an attachment of the PDF from the database; b) hand in or email me a copy of the first three pages of the article or a PDF scan of it if you use a print source; c) submit or email a photocopy or PDF scan of the title page of any book you consult. Failure to do this for any individual source will result in me not counting it; failure to do this for all of them will result in my failing the project.

*Example:*

McFadden, Brian. "Sleeping after the Feast: Deathbeds, Marriage Beds, and the Power Structure of Heorot." *Neophilologus* 84 (2000): 629-646. Print.

Notes that previous examinations of the power structure of Heorot focus on reversal, loss of strength, and avoidance of pride, but fail to examine specific events of the narrative, its context, and the powerful role of Wealhtheow. Examines the changes of power in the poem from both a military and sexual viewpoint and argues that the poet signals significant changes in the power structure of Heorot through the use of the words *bed*, *ræst/reste*, or a compound including one of these elements. I am interested in the difference between the expected roles of women in the Germanic society depicted in *Beowulf* and the actual power they have; this work shows that Wealhtheow is concerned for the survival of her sons and is able to influence the actions of both king and thegns in order to protect them.

Note that the annotation not only summarizes the article (I use one of my own because I don't need any permission to do so) but also states why it is important to the topic you have chosen (the underlined sentence at the end of the annotation - you need not do this in your essay, it's just an illustration for this example). Annotation length = 137 words.