**English 50**

**Middle English Word Study**

**1000 words**

Your Middle English word study can be structured in a similar fashion to your Old English word study. Choose a word or group of words that occur in our texts and write a history of how these words have changed in meaning and usage from their origin to the present day. In addition, do a careful reading of how they appear in our texts and analyze how they contribute to the larger theme(s) of the text.

Words you might want to consider are:

Aventour

Auctor/auctoritee

Brighte

Curtesye/courtesye

dame

Daunger/daungerous

Dreme/sween

Game/jape

Good/God

Gentil/gentilesse

Harp/harper

Hert/herte

Hevene/hell/paradis

Joy/wele/lust/lustyhede

King/queen

Lawe

Love/lovere

Mercy/pity

Nature/kind

Privee/privetee

Sorwe/tragedy

Soverentee

Synne

Tale/matere

Wife/wyves

If you are interested in other words, please see me.

In addition to the Oxford English Dictionary, you may find the following useful:

*The Middle English Dictionary,* University of Michigan

*A Chaucer Glossary*, ed. Norman Davis, et al.