Reading Lists for M.A. Students
Department of English
Marquette University

The M.A. exam evaluates students' knowledge of the major figures, works, ideas, and traditions that shape literature and literary studies in two of three historical areas. To facilitate their study of these topics, students can use a number of resources, including course work, secondary criticism, and individual inclination. These reading lists constitute another such resource. Specifically, they outline the works and authors with which informed literary study must begin. They are therefore not by themselves the subject matter of the exam, nor is the exam limited to them. For adequate exam preparation, students should expect to read beyond these lists and to draw on all the resources mentioned above.

BRITISH LITERATURE, BEGINNINGS TO 1660

**Medieval**
- Battle of Maldon (in translation)
- Beowulf (in translation)
- CHAUCER, Geoffrey: Canterbury Tales (selections), Troilus and Criseyde, Parliament of Fowls
- Corpus Christi Cycle Plays (selections)
- The Debate of the Body and Soul
- Dream of the Rood (in translation)
- GOWER, John. Confessio Amantis (selections)
- Everyman
- Havelok the Dane
- King Horn
- KEMPE, Margery: The Book
- LANGLAND, William: Piers Plowman (B version)
- LYDGATE, John: Siege of Thebes
- MALORY, Thomas: Works (books 6-8)
- Middle English Lyrics (selections from an anthology like Davies’s, Duncan’s, or Luria’s)
- The Owl and the Nightingale
- Pearl
- Seafarer (in translation)
- Sir Bevis of Hamptoun
- Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
- Sir Orfeo
- Wanderer (in translation)
Renaissance
BACON, Francis: Essays
CAREY, Elizabeth: Miriam, Fair Maid of Jewry
Cavalier poets: selected lyrics from one of the following—Thomas Carew, Richard Lovelace, Sir John Suckling, Edmund Waller
CAVENDISH, Margaret OR LANIER, Amelia: selected writings
DONNE, John: selected poems
FORD, John: 'Tis Pity She's a Whore
HERBERT, George: The Temple
JONSON, Ben: Volpone; selected poems
KYD, Thomas: The Revenger's Tragedy
MARLOWE, Christopher: one play
MARVELL, Andrew: selected lyrics
MIDDLETON, Thomas: Women Beware Women
MILTON, John: Areopagitica; Paradise Lost; selected short poems
MORE, Sir Thomas: Utopia
SHAKESPEARE, William: sonnets; one comedy; one history; one tragedy
SPENSER, Edmund: The Faerie Queene
SYDNEY, Sir Philip: The Apology for Poetry, Astrophil and Stella
WEBSTER, John: The Duchess of Malfi
WROTH, Lady Mary: Pamphilia to Amphilanthus
WYATT, Sir Thomas: selected lyrics

BRITISH LITERATURE, 1660 TO THE PRESENT

Eighteenth Century
BEHN, Aphra: Oroonoko
BOSWELL, James: Life of Johnson
BUNYAN, John: Pilgrim's Progress
BURKE, Edmund: Reflections on the Revolution in France
BURNEY, Frances: Evelina
CONGREVE, William: The Way of the World
DEFOE, Daniel: Robinson Crusoe
DRYDEN, John: selected poems, including "To the Memory of Mrs. Anne Killegrew," "MacFlecknoe," "Song for St. Cecilia's Day," "Absalom and Achitophel"
FIELDING, Henry: Tom Jones
GAY, John: Beggar's Opera
GRAY, Thomas: selected poems, including "Elegy in a Country Churchyard," "Odes"
HAYWOOD, Eliza: Love in Excess
JOHNSON, Samuel: Rasselas, "Vanity of Human Wishes," "Preface to Shakespeare"
LENNOX, Margaret: *The Female Quixote*
POPE, Alexander: selected poems, including "Rape of Lock," "Essay on Criticism," "Moral Essays," "Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot"
RADCLIFFE, Ann: *Mysteries of Udolpho*
RICHARDSON, Samuel: *Pamela*
STERNE, Laurence: *Tristram Shandy*
SWIFT, Jonathan: *Gulliver's Travels*
WOLLSTONECRAFT, Mary: *Vindication of the Rights of Women*

*Nineteenth Century*

ARNOLD, Matthew: the selections in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*
AUSTEN, Jane: either *Emma* or *Pride and Prejudice*
BLAKE, William: the selections in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*
BRONTE, Charlotte: either *Jane Eyre* or *Villette*
BROWNING, Elizabeth Barrett: the selections in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*
BROWNING, Robert: the selections in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*
BYRON, George Gordon, Lord: the selections in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*
CARLYLE, Thomas: selections in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*
COLENGIDE, Samuel Taylor: the selections, verse and prose, in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*
DICKENS, Charles: either *Bleak House* or *Our Mutual Friend* or *Great Expectations*
ELIOT, George: *Middlemarch*
HARDY, Thomas: the poems in *Norton Anthology of English Literature* plus either *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, *Jude the Obscure*, or *The Mayor of Casterbridge*
HOPKINS, Gerard Manley: the selections in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*
KEATS, John: the selections, verse and prose, in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*
MILL, John Stuart: Essays on Bentham and Coleridge, *On Liberty*, *Subjection*
NEWMAN, John Henry, Cardinal: *Apologia pro Vita Sua*
PATER, Walter: *The Renaissance*
ROSETTI, Christina: selections in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*
SHELLEY, Mary: *Frankenstein*
SHELLEY, Percy Bysshe: "Prometheus Unbound" plus the selections, verse and prose, in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*
TENNYSON, Alfred. Lord: the selections in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*
WILDE, Oscar: *The Importance of Being Earnest*
WORDSWORTH, William: *Prelude* (1805/1850) plus the selections, verse and prose in *Norton Anthology of English Literature*
**Twentieth Century**

Amis, Kingsley: *Lucky Jim*


Beckett, Samuel: *Murphy*

Compton-Burnett, Ivy: *Two Worlds and Their Ways*

Conrad, Joseph: *The Heart of Darkness*

Ford, Ford Maddox: *The Good Soldier*

Forster, E. M.: *A Passage to India*

Fowles, John: *The French Lieutenant's Woman*

Gordimer, Nadine: *A Guest of Honour*

Greene, Graham: *The Power and the Glory*

Heaney, Seamus: *Selected Poems: 1966-1987*

Joyce, James: *Ulysses*

Larkin, Philip: selected poems, including “Church Going,” “Myxomatosis,” “Toads,”

“Faith Healing,” “The Whitsun Weddings,” “Sunny Prestatyn,”

“Dockery and Son,” “[Waiting for Breakfast, While She Brushed Her Hair]”

Lawrence, D.H.: *Women in Love*

Lessing, Doris: *The Grass Is Singing*

Mansfield, Katherine: *The Garden Party & Other Stories*

Maugham, William Somerset: *Of Human Bondage*

Osborne, John: *Look Back in Anger*

Owen, Wilfred: selected poems, including “Strange Meeting,” “Greater Love,”

“Anthem for Doomed Youth,” “Exposure,” “The Show,” “Dulce et Decorum Est,”

“Futility,” “Disabled,” “Mental Cases”

Pinter, Harold: *The Caretaker*

Shaw, George Bernard: *Heartbreak House*

Stoppard, Tom: *Arcadia*

Synge, John Millington: *The Playboy of the Western World*

Woolf, Virginia: *To the Lighthouse*

Yeats, W.B.: *Selected Poems* (ed. M.L. Rosenthal)

**AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**Pre-1900**

BROWN, Charles Brockdon: *Wieland*

BRADSTREET, Anne: selected poems

CHESNUTT, Charles W.: selected stories from *The Conjure Woman*

CHOPIN, Kate: *The Awakening*

COOPER, James Fenimore: one of the Leatherstocking Tales (*The Prairie, The Deerslayer, The Pioneers, The Pathfinder, or The Last of the Mohicans*)
CRANE, Stephen: The Red Badge of Courage or Maggie, a Girl of the Streets
DICKINSON, Emily: selected poems
DOUGLASS, Frederick: 1845 version of Narrative, and “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”
EDWARDS, Jonathon: “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” and selections from “Images or Shadows of Divine Things”
FRANKLIN, Benjamin: Autobiography
HAWTHORNE, Nathaniel: The Scarlet Letter and selected tales
IRVING, Washington: “Rip Van Winkle” and “Legend of Sleepy Hollow”
JACOBS, Harriet: Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
JAMES, Henry: Portrait of a Lady and selected stories
MELVILLE, Herman: Moby-Dick and “Benito Cereno”
POE, Edgar Allen: selected poems, selected tales, “Philosophy of Composition” and “The Poetic Principle”
ROWLANDSON, Mary: Narrative
STOWE, Harriet Beecher: Uncle Tom’s Cabin
THOREAU, Henry David: Walden
TWAIN, Mark: Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
WEBSTER FOSTER, Hannah: The Coquette, OR, Rowson, Susanna, Charlotte Temple
WHEATLEY, Phillis: selected poems
WHITMAN, Walt: “Song of Myself” and 1855 preface to Leaves of Grass
WINTHROP, John: “A Modell of Christian Charity”

Post-1900
ANDERSON, Sherwood: Winesburg, Ohio
CATHER, Willa: My Antonia
DREISER, Theodore: Sister Carrie
DUBOIS, W. E. B.: The Souls of Black Folk
ELLISON, Ralph: Invisible Man
FAULKNER, William: The Sound and the Fury, and one of the following: As I Lay Dying, Light in August, or Absalom, Absalom!
FITZGERALD, F. Scott: The Great Gatsby

HEMINGWAY, Ernest: In Our Times, The Sun Also Rises, or For Whom The Bell Tolls


HURSTON, Zora Neale: Their Eyes Were Watching God

LOWELL, Robert: selected poems, including "The Quaker Graveyard in Nantucket," "Mr. Edward and the Spider," "Skunk Hour," "Waking Early Sunday Morning," "For the Union Dead"

MORRISON, Toni: Song of Solomon or Beloved

NABAKOV, Vladimir: Lolita

O'NEILL, Eugene: Long Day's Journey Into Night


STEIN, Gertrude: Three Lives


WHARTON, Edith: The Age of Innocence


WRIGHT, Richard: Native Son