

MASTER'S READING LIST

March 2002

The minimum requirements listed below are intended to provide a core of knowledge necessary to perform well on the M.A. written examinations. In preparing for the examination, students should also consult standard literary histories like Baugh's *A Literary History of England* and Elliott's *Columbia Literary History of the United States*. These histories, of course, supplement but do not replace more specialized critical studies.

A description of the examinations can be found on the informational sheet entitled Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree, available in KH 331. The written M.A. examinations will pertain to the list given below. In both cases, all students will be examined on seven of the nine groups of texts listed below, distributed as follows:

All students will be examined on the texts in at least two of Groups I, II, and III.

All students will be examined on the texts in at least three of Groups IV–VIII, with the stipulation that at least one of these groups must be in British literature and at least one in American literature.

GROUP I (Medieval)

Old English (to be read in translation)

1. *Beowulf* (any complete translation)
2. At least one of the following texts:

Elene; Juliana; Genesis B; Christ and Satan

3. The following texts:

“The Wanderer,” “The Seafarer,” “The Dream of the Rood,” “The Battle of Maldon,” “The Battle of Brunanburgh,” “The Phoenix,” “The Wife's Lament”

Middle English (to be read in translation except as indicated)

1. At least one of the following items:

King Horn, Havelok the Dane, selections from Thomas of Erceldoune, *The Owl and the Nightingale, Sir Orfeo, Dame Sirith*

2. Chaucer: Selections from *The Canterbury Tales* (to be read in the original Middle English), including at least “The General Prologue,” “Knight's Tale,” “Miller's Tale,” “Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale,” “Franklin's Tale,” “Pardoner's Tale,” “Nun's Priest's Tale,” “Merchant's Tale,” “Manciple's Tale,” “Clerk's Tale”
3. Langland, *Piers Plowman* (B-text)
4. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

5. At least one of the following groups of texts:
 - a. One complete Corpus Christi cycle and one morality play (suggestions: *Everyman*; *Castle of Perseverance*; *Mankind*)
 - b. All of the selections included in the Cawley anthology of medieval drama
6. Anonymous lyrics: “Erthe,” “When the Turf Is My Tower,” “Alison,” “I Sing of a Maiden,” “Lenten Is Come,” “Western Wind,” “Sumer Is Ycumen In,” “Corpus Christi Carol”
7. Ballads: “Barbara Allen,” “Sir Patrick Spens,” “Three Ravens,” “Twa Corbies,” “Lord Randall,” “The Birth of Robin Hood”

GROUP II (Renaissance/Early Modern)

Early Renaissance Poetry:

1. Lyric poems
 - a. Jonson, “To My Book,” “On Something, That Walks Somewhere,” “To William Camden,” “On My First Daughter,” “To John Donne,” “To the Memory of My Beloved, The Author, Mr. William Shakespeare”
 - b. Marlowe, “Hero and Leander,” “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”
 - c. Raleigh, “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd,” “The Lie,” “Farewell, False Love,” “Methought I saw the grave where Laura lay,” “The History of the World”
 - d. Surrey, “The soote season,” “Love, that doth reign and live within my thought,” “So cruel prison how could betide,” “Wyatt resteth here, that quick could never rest,” “The Fourth Book of Virgil”
 - e. Wyatt, “Whoso list to hunt,” “Farewell, Love,” “My lute, awake!,” “And wilt thou leave me thus?,” “Blame not my lute,” “Mine own John Pains”
2. Sidney: *Defence of Poesy*
3. Spenser: *Faerie Queene* Books I and III
4. Spenser: *Epithalamion*
5. Elizabethan Sonnets
 - a. Shakespeare: sonnets 1, 3, 12, 15, 18, 29, 60, 73, 87, 116, 129, 130, 144
 - b. Sidney: *Astrophel and Stella*, sonnets 1, 2, 6, 7, 31, 39, 56, 69, 74, 91, 108
 - c. Daniel: *Delia*, sonnets 33, 45, 46, plus “Imperial Eloquence” (from “Musophilus”)
 - d. Drayton: *Idea*, sonnets 6 and 61, plus “Ode: To the Virginian Voyage”
 - e. Spenser, *Amoretti*, sonnets 1, 34, 37, 54, 64, 65, 67, 74, 75, 79, plus “Epithalamion”

Late-Renaissance Poetry:

1. Donne, “The Flea,” “The Good-Morrow,” “The Undertaking,” “The Indifferent,” “The Canonization,” “Air and Angels,” “The Bait,” “The Apparition,” “The Ecstasy,” “The Relic”
2. Milton: *Paradise Lost* and *Lycidas*
3. Carew, “An Elegy upon the Death of the Dean of St. Paul’s,” “To Ben Jonson,” “A Song,” “A Rapture”
4. Herbert, “Redemption,” “Easter,” “Virtue,” “The Flower,” “Death”
5. Herrick, “The Argument of His Book,” “The Vine,” “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time,” “Upon His Verses,” “His Return to London”
6. Marvell, “A Dialogue between the Soul and Body,” “To His Coy Mistress,” “The Definition of Love,” “The Mower Against Gardens,” “Upon Appleton House”

Drama:

1. Shakespeare plays
 - a. *Hamlet*
 - b. *King Lear*
 - c. *The Tempest*
 - d. *Twelfth Night*
 - e. *Henry IV* Parts I&II
 - f. *Othello*
 - g. *Macbeth*
 - h. *Julius Caesar*
 - i. *Midsummer Night's Dream*
 - j. *As You Like It*
 - k. *Measure for Measure*
2. Other Elizabethan plays
 - a. Greene, *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay*
 - b. Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*
 - c. Marlowe, *Dr. Faustus*
3. Jacobean plays
 - a. Dekker and Middleton, *The Honest Whore* or *The Roaring Girl*
 - b. Ford, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*
 - c. Jonson, *Volpone*
 - d. Jonson, *The Alchemist*
 - e. Tourneur, *The Revenger's Tragedy*
 - f. Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi* or *The White Devil*

GROUP III (British Literature, Restoration and Eighteenth Century)

Fiction Before 1800

1. Fielding, *Tom Jones*
2. Defoe, *Moll Flanders*
3. Sterne, *Tristram Shandy*
4. Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*
5. At least three of the following texts:

Behn, *Oroonoko*; Burney, *Evelina*; Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*; Fielding, *Joseph Andrews*; Johnson, *Rasselas*; Lennox, *The Female Quixote*; Richardson, *Pamela*; Richardson, *Clarissa*; S. Scott, *Millennium Hall*; Smollett, *Humphrey Clinker*

Nonfiction Prose

- 1 . Addison and Steele, selections from *Spectator* (suggestions: 2, 10, 62, 112, 122, 267, 519)
- 2 . Boswell, Excerpts from *Life of Samuel Johnson*
- 3 . Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*
- 4 . Johnson, "Preface" to Shakespeare
- 5 . Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, "Turkish Letters"
- 6 . Swift, "A Modest Proposal"
- 7 . Young, "Conjectures on Original Composition"

Drama

- 1 . Congreve, *The Way of the World*
- 2 . Etherege, *The Man of Mode*
- 3 . Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*
- 4 . At least two of the following texts distributed among at least three different authors:

Behn, *The Rover*; Dryden, *All For Love*; Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer*; Lillo, *The London Merchant*; Otway, *Venice Preserv'd*; Sheridan, *The School for Scandal*; Wycherley, *The Country Wife*

Poetry before 1798

- 1 . Dryden, *Absalom and Achitophel*
- 2 . Goldsmith, "The Deserted Village"
- 3 . Gray, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"
- 4 . Johnson, *The Vanity of Human Wishes*
- 5 . Pope, "The Rape of the Lock"; "Eloisa to Abelard"
- 6 . At least four of the following texts:

Cowper, *The Task*, Book I; Dryden, *MacFlecknoe*; Dryden, "An Essay of Dramatic Poesy"; Duck, *The Thresher's Labour*; Finch, *The Spleen*; Ingram, "An Epistle to Mr. Pope"; Montagu, "The Lover: A Ballad"; Pope, "Essay on Man, Epistle 1"; Pope, "Essay on Criticism"; Swift, "Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift"; Thomson, any book from *The Seasons*

GROUP IV (Nineteenth-century British Literature)

Fiction

- 1 . Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
- 2 . Dickens, *Great Expectations*
- 3 . George Eliot, *Middlemarch*
- 4 . Hardy, *Jude the Obscure*
- 5 . Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
- 6 . At least two of the following texts distributed among at least two different authors:

Austen, *Emma*; C. Bronte, *Jane Eyre*; E. Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*; Dickens, *Bleak House*; Gissing, *New Grub Street*; Scott, *Waverley*; Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*

Nonfiction Prose

- 1 . Shelley, "A Defence of Poetry"
- 2 . Carlyle, selections from *Sartor Resartus* (suggestions "The Everlasting No," "Centre of

- Indifference,” “The Everlasting Yea,” “Natural Supernaturalism”
3. Newman, selections from “The Idea of a University”
 4. Arnold, “Sweetness and Light,” “Doing As One Likes” (from *Culture and Anarchy*)
 5. Pater, selections from *The Renaissance*
 6. Ruskin, selections from *Unto This Last*

Poetry:

Longer Works:

1. Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria* (at least half, as represented in a major anthology of Romantic Literature)
2. Wordsworth, *The Prelude*
3. At least two of the following long texts:

Blake: *Book of Urizen*; Byron, *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*; Byron, *Don Juan* (Cantos I–VIII); Percy Shelley, *Prometheus Unbound*; Tennyson, *In Memoriam* (complete);

Shorter Poems:

1. Blake, “The Lamb,” “The Tyger,” “Visions of the Daughters of Albion,” “The Book of Thel”
2. Byron, “She Walks in Beauty,” “When We Two Parted,” “Darkness”
3. Coleridge, “The Ancient Mariner,” “Kubla Khan,” “Christabel,” “Frost at Midnight”
4. Keats, “Endymion,” “The Eve of St. Agnes,” “Ode to a Nightingale,” “Ode on a Grecian Urn,” “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer,” “La Belle Dame Sans Merci,” “Ode on Melancholy,” “To Autumn”
5. Percy Shelley, “Mutability,” “Ozymandias,” “Adonais,” “Ode to the West Wind,” “Mont Blanc,” “Hymn to Intellectual Beauty”
6. Wordsworth, “The Solitary Reaper,” “Tintern Abbey,” “Intimations of Immortality,” “The Ruined Cottage,” “The World Is Too Much with Us,” “Composed upon Westminster Bridge,” “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”
7. Arnold: “Stanzas from the Grand Chartreuse,” “Dover Beach,” “The Scholar-Gipsy”
8. Browning, “Fra Lippo Lippi,” “Andrea del Sarto,” “My Last Duchess,” “Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came”
9. Tennyson, “The Lady of Shalott,” “Tithonus” “Ulysses,” “The Charge of the Light Brigade”
10. C. Rossetti, “Goblin Market”

GROUP V (American Literature to 1900)

Colonial American literature—at least two of the following writers:

1. Bradstreet: at least three poems
2. Edwards: “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” “A Divine and Supernatural Light”
3. Franklin: excerpts from *The Autobiography*
4. Taylor: at least three poems
5. Wheatley: at least three poems

Fiction

1. Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*
2. Melville, *Moby-Dick*
3. Mark Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*
4. Howells, *The Rise of Silas Lapham*
5. Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage*

At least two of the following:

Bellamy, *Looking Backward*; Chopin, *The Awakening*; Cooper, *The Last of the Mohicans*; Hawthorne, *The House of the Seven Gables*; James, *Portrait of a Lady*; Jewett, *A Country Doctor*; Melville, *The Confidence Man*; Norris, *McTeague*; Poe, selected short stories; Sims, *Woodcraft*; Stoddard, *The Morgesons*

Nonfiction Prose

- 1 . Thoreau, *Walden* and "Civil Disobedience"
- 2 . Emerson: "Nature," "The American Scholar," "Self-Reliance," "Experience"
- 3 . Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
- 4 . Whitman, "Democratic Vistas" and "Preface" to 1855 Edition of *Leaves of Grass*

Nineteenth-century poetry

1. Dickinson, poems 49, 67, 130, 214, 258, 303, 465, 712, 986, 1100, 1263, 1624, 1732
- 2 . Whitman, "Song of Myself," "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry," "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking," "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd," "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer," "Vigil Strange I kept on the Field One Night," "Reconciliation"
3. Poe, "To Helen," "The Sleeper," "The Raven," "Annabel Lee"
4. At least six poems distributed among at least two of the following authors: Bryant, Crane, Emerson, Longfellow, Whittier

GROUP VI (Twentieth-century American)

Fiction

- 1 . Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom!*
- 2 . Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
- 3 . Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*
- 4 . Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*
- 5 . Wright, *Native Son*
- 6 . Morrison, *Beloved*
- 7 . Nabokov, *Lolita*
- 8 . Pynchon, *Gravity's Rainbow*

9. At least three of the following texts:

Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio*; Cather, *My Antonia*; Dreiser, Dos Passos, the *U.S.A. Trilogy* (counts as two); Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*; Dreiser, *An American Tragedy*; Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*; Fitzgerald, *Tender Is the Night*; Hemingway, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*; Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*; Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; James, *The Ambassadors*; Lewis, *Main Street*; Sinclair, *The Jungle*; Wharton, *The House of Mirth*

10. At least two of the following texts:

Baldwin, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*; Bellow, *Henderson the Rain King*; DeLillo, *White Noise*; Doctorow, *Ragtime*; Ellison, *Invisible Man*; Heller, *Catch-22*; Kerouac, *On the Road*; Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*; Mailer, *The Naked and the Dead*; O'Connor, *Wise Blood*; Reed, *Mumbo Jumbo*.

Drama

- 1 . O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*
- 2 . T. Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- 3 . Miller, *Death of a Salesman*
- 4 . Albee, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*
- 5 . Baraka, *Dutchman*
- 6 . A. Wilson, *The Piano Lesson*

Modern Poetry

1. Pound, "A Virginal," "Portrait d'une Femme," Canto LXXXIII," "Hugh Selwyn Mauberley"
2. Stevens, "Sunday Morning," "The Idea of Order at Key West," "Sea Surface Full of Clouds," "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird," "The Snow Man," "The Poems of Our Climate," "The House Was Quiet and the World Was Calm," "Of Mere Being"
3. W. C. Williams, "Danse Russe," "The Yachts," "The Red Wheelbarrow," "This is Just to Say," "The Young Housewife"
7. Robert Frost, "Birches," "Directive," "The Silken Tent," "Design," "An Old Man's Winter Night," "After Apple-Picking," "Mending Wall," "The Death of the Hired Man," "The Oven Bird," "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," "Aquainted with the Night," "Never Again Would Birds' Song Be the Same"
8. Levertov, "The Jacob's Ladder" and "September 1961"
9. Plath, "Morning Song" and "Daddy"
10. Ginsberg, "Howl"
11. Bishop, "The Fish," "Estina," "In the Waiting Room," "One Art"
12. Roethke, "My Papa's Waltz"
13. At least ten poems distributed among at least three of the following authors: Crane, Cummings, H. D., L. Hughes, Jeffers, Millay, Moore, Ransom, Robinson
14. At least ten poems distributed among at least five of the following authors: Ashbery, Baraka, Berryman, G. Brooks, Dickey, Hecht, Jarrell, R. Lowell, J. Merrill, Olson, R. Pinsky, Rich, Roethke, M. Van Duyn, Sexton, M. Walker, Warren, Wilbur

GROUP VII (Twentieth-century British literature)

Fiction

- 1 . Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
 - 2 . Forster, *A Passage to India*
 - 3 . Joyce, *Ulysses*
 - 4 . Lawrence, *Women in Love*
 - 5 . Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*
6. At least five of the following texts distributed among at least four authors:

K. Amis, *Lucky Jim*; Bennett, *Anna of the Five Towns*; A. Carter, *Nights at the Circus*; Conrad, *Lord Jim*; Ford, *The Good Soldier*; Forster, *Howards End*; Joyce, *Dubliners*; Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*; Kipling, *Kim*; O'Brien, *At Swim-Two-Birds*; Richardson, *Pilgrimage*; Wells, *The Time Machine*; West, *The Return of the Soldier*; Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Drama

- 1 . O'Casey, *Juno and the Paycock*
- 2 . Shaw, *Man and Superman*
- 3 . Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World*
- 4 . Yeats, *The Countess Cathleen*
- 5 . Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- 6 . Pinter, *The Caretaker*
- 7 . Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*

8. At least four of the following plays:

Eliot, *Murder in the Cathedral*; O'Casey, *The Silver Tassie*; Shaw, *Saint Joan*; Synge, *Riders to the Sea*; Bolt, *A Man for All Seasons*; Bond, *Lear*; Churchill, *Cloud Nine*; Miller, *The Crucible*; Osborne, *Look Back in Anger*; Pinter, *The Dumb Waiter*; Shaffer, *Equus*;

Poetry

1. Auden, "Spain 1937," "Musee des Beaux Arts," "In Memory of William Butler Yeats," "The Wanderer"
2. Eliot, *The Waste Land*, "The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock," "The Hollow Men," "Little Gidding"
3. Yeats, "Leda and the Swan," "Sailing to Byzantium," "The Second Coming," "Nineteen Hundred and Nineteen," "Among School Children," "Lapis Lazuli," "The Second Coming," "The Lake Isle of Innisfree," "The Wild Swans at Coole," "Easter 1916," "A Prayer for My Daughter," "Under Ben Bulbin"
4. Heaney, "Digging" and "Punishment," "Station Island"
5. T. Hughes, "Wind" and "Relic"
6. Larkin, "Church Going" and "Ambulances," "Aubade," "High Windows"
7. D. Thomas, "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night," "A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a Child in London," "Fern Hill"
8. Kavanagh, "The Great Hunger"

9. At least ten poems distributed among at least three of the following authors: Hardy, Hopkins, Housman, Lawrence, McDiarmid, Owen, Spender
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GROUP VIII (World Literature in English)

Fiction

- 1 . Lamming, *In the Castle of My Skin*
- 2 . Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- 3 . Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*
- 4 . Naipaul, *A House for Mr. Biswas*
- 5 . Gordimer, *Burger's Daughter*
- 6 . Ngugi, *Devil on the Cross*
- 7 . Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*

- 8 . At least four of the following texts by at least three different authors: Achebe, *Anthills of the Savannah*; Aidoo, *Our Sister Killjoy*; Armah, *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born*; Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*; Emecheta, *The Joys of Motherhood*; Hodge, *Crick Crack, Monkey*; Kelman, *How Late It Was, How Late*; Lovelace, *Salt*; Roy, *The God of Small Things*; Soyinka, *The Interpreters*; Thelwell, *The Harder They Come*

Drama

- 1 . Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*
- 2 . Mtwa, et al., *Woza Albert*
- 3 . Ngugi, *The Black Hermit*
- 4 . Soyinka, *A Dance of the Forests*
- 5 . Soyinka, *Kongi's Harvest*
- 6 . Walcott, *Dream on Monkey Mountain*
- 7 . At least three of the following plays:

Aidoo, *The Dilemma of a Ghost*; Beckett, *Endgame*; Maponya, *Gangsters*; Ngugi, *I Will Marry When I Want*; Soyinka, *Opera Wonyosi*; Sutherland, *Edufa*; Walcott, *Ti-Jean and His Brothers*

Poetry

1. At least four poems by Derek Walcott
 2. At least eight poems by at least six of the following authors: Chinua Achebe, Ama Ata Aidoo, Kofi Awoonor, Edward Kamau Brathwaite, Dennis Brutus, John Pepper Clark, Lorna Goodison, Gabriel Okara, Christopher Okigbo, Wole Soyinka
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GROUP IX (Special Studies)

Each student who chooses this group must do either classwork or independent work toward examination in a specialty area, preparing his or her own reading list for oral examination in that area under the direction of a faculty member, who might also serve as the third member of that student's oral exam committee. This reading list should be of approximately the same scope as the reading lists for the other eight groups of texts, given above. Suggested specialty areas are listed below, but students should feel free to design their own projects in conjunction with their faculty director.

1. African American Studies
2. Film Studies
3. Genre Fiction (detective fiction, science fiction, etc.)
4. Literature and Gender
5. Literary Theory
6. Postcolonial Studies
7. Postmodernist Studies
8. Rhetoric and Composition