



Department of English – Graduate Division

Literary Studies

Basic Reading List for the M.A. Comprehensive Exam

Revised August 2003

The student must take a six-hour examination, in two parts, based on the following reading list.

OLD ENGLISH

1. Beowulf (use translation of Howell Chickering or R. M. Liuzza)
2. Short poems: Wanderer, Seafarer, Wife's Lament, Battle of Maldon, Dream of the Rood, Genesis B. (Unless you read them in Old English, use Richard Hamer's translation of the first five and Charles Kennedy's of sixth)

MIDDLE ENGLISH

(Strongly recommended eds. in parentheses)

3. GEOFFREY CHAUCER: Canterbury Tales (must be read in Middle English): General Prologue, Knight's Tale, Miller's Tale, Reeve's Tale, Man of Law's Tale, Wife of Bath's Tale, Clerk's Tale, Merchant's Tale, Franklin's Tale, Physician's Tale, Pardoner's Tale, Second Nun's Tale, Nun's Priest's Tale, Parson's Tale, Retraction (ed. Larry D. Benson)
4. GEOFFREY CHAUCER: Troilus and Criseyde (ed. Benson)
5. WILLIAM LANGLAND: Piers Plowman, B-text (trans. E. T. Donaldson)
6. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (ed. J. R. R. Tolkien and E. V. Gordon, rev. N. Davis)
7. Dream Visions: Pearl (ed. E. V. Gordon); CHAUCER, Parliament of Fowls (ed. Benson)
8. SIR THOMAS MALORY: "The Tale of the Sankgreal," "The Book of Sir Launcelot," "The Morte Arthur Saunz Guerdon" (ed. Eugene Vinaver)
9. Book of Margery Kempe (trans. Barry Windeatt)
10. Drama: York Mystery Plays (read AA Selection in Modern Spelling" (ed. Richard

Beadle and Pamela King); Morality plays: Everyman; Mankind (both ed. D. Bevington)

MODERN ENGLISH

11. Two non-Shakespearean comedies (MARLOWE, *The Jew of Malta*, JONSON, *The Alchemist*)
12. Two non-Shakespearean tragedies (MIDDLETON, *Changeling*, MARLOWE, *Edward II*)
13. Two secular lyric poets - WYATT poems: *They flee from me, It may be good, There was never nothing more me pained, In eternum, Like as the bird in the cage enclosed, Whoso list to hunt, Me list no more to sing, Farewell, Love, and all thy laws forever, Mine old dear en'my, Tagus farewell, The pillar perished is whereto I leant, Who list his wealth, Stand whose list upon the slipper top, Paraphrase of the Penitential Psalms, Epistolary Satire I, and Epistolary Satire II* (All poems in Sir Thomas Wyatt, *The Complete Poems*, ed. R. A. Rebholz (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1978 and New York: Penguin Books pb), DONNE, *Songs and Sonnets*)
14. Two religious poets - (CRASHAW, *To the Infant Martyrs, On the Wounds of our Crucified Lord, To the Noblest and Best of Ladies, The countess of Denbigh, The Flaming Heart*; HERBERT, *Collar, Easter Wings, Holdfast, Jordan (II), Love (III), Pearl, Pulley*)
15. JOHN MILTON - *Nativity Hymn, Lycidas, Paradise Lost, Areopagitica*
16. MORE, *Utopia*
17. SHAKESPEARE - four plays (*As You Like It, Richard II, Othello, Winter's Tale*)
18. SIDNEY, *Defence of Poesy, Astrophil and Stella*
19. A Renaissance lyric sequence (*Donne's Holy Sonnets*)
20. EDMUND SPENSER, *Faerie Queene: Books I, III, IV, VI*
21. JOHN DRYDEN, *Absalom and Achitophel, Mac Flecknoe, Ode To ... Anne Killigrew, On Saint Cecilia's Day*
22. GEORGE FARQUHAR, *The Beaux' Stratagem*; WILLIAM WYCHERLEY, *The Country Wife*; RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN, *The School for Scandal*
23. HENRY FIELDING, *Tom Jones*

24. OLIVER GOLDSMITH, *The Traveller*; WILLIAM COLLINS, *Odes: To Evening, On the Poetical Character*; THOMAS GRAY, *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*, *Progress of Poesy*, *The Bard*; JAMES THOMSON, *Winter* (final, 1746 version)
25. SAMUEL JOHNSON, *The Lives of Cowley, Gray, Milton, Pope, Savage, Swift; Rasselas; The Vanity of Human Wishes*
26. ALEXANDER POPE, *The Dunciad* (Book IV), *The Rape of the Lock*, *An Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot*
27. SAMUEL RICHARDSON, *Clarissa* (abridged, George Sherburn)
28. LAURENCE STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*
29. JONATHAN SWIFT, *Gulliver's Travels*
30. _____, *Tale of a Tub*
31. JANE AUSTEN, *Emma*
32. CHARLES DICKENS, *Our Mutual Friend*
33. MATTHEW ARNOLD, *Culture and Anarchy* (first four essays), *The Scholar Gypsy*, *Dover Beach*, *Thyrsis*, *Empedocles on Etna*
34. ROBERT BROWNING, dramatic monologues *My Last Duchess*, *Andrea del Sarto*, *Fra Lippo Lippi*, *The Bishop Orders his Tomb*, *Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came*, *The Ring & The Book* (Monologues number 1, 5, 6, 10, 12)
35. GEORGE ELIOT, *Middlemarch*
36. JOHN KEATS, *La Belle Dame sans Merci*, *The Eve of St. Agnes*, *Hyperion*, sonnets including *On First Looking into Chapman's Homer*, *Lamia*, *Fall of Hyperion*, *To Autumn*, *Odes: To Psyche*, *On Melancholy*, *To a Nightingale*, *On a Grecian Urn*; selected letters including to B. Bailey 22 Nov. 1817, to J. H. Reynolds 3 May 1818
37. G. B. SHAW, *Pygmalion*; O. WILDE, *The Importance of Being Earnest*
38. P. B. SHELLEY, *Prometheus Unbound*, *Adonais*, *Mont Blanc*, *Ode to the West Wind*, *A Defence of Poetry*
39. ALFRED TENNYSON, *Mariana*, *The Lady of Shalott*, *Ulysses*, *Tithonus*, *In Memoriam*, *Idylls of the King*

40. WILLIAM WORDSWORTH, Intimations Ode, Tintern Abbey, Solitary Reaper, the Lucy poems, The Prelude (1850 version)
41. EMILY DICKINSON: the Johnson_numbered poems 49, 76, 130, 214, 241, 258, 280, 290, 303, 341, 401, 435, 448, 449, 465, 508, 564, 569, 585, 640, 650, 675, 712, 754, 985, 986, 1052, 1129, 1207, 1333, 1463, 1624, 1732
42. R. W. EMERSON, The American Scholar, The Poet, Experience
43. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, The Autobiography
44. NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE, The Scarlet Letter
45. HENRY JAMES, Portrait of a Lady
46. HERMAN MELVILLE, Moby_Dick
47. EDGAR A. POE, Ligeia, The Fall of the House of Usher, William Wilson, The Purloined Letter, A Dream within a Dream, Sonnet__to Science, Romance, To Helen, Israfel, The City in the Sea, The Sleeper, The Valley of Unrest, Sonnet__Silence, The Raven, Ulalume, Eldorado, Annabel Lee
48. HENRY THOREAU, Walden or Life in the Woods
49. MARK TWAIN, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
50. WALT WHITMAN, Song of Myself, Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking, Crossing Brooklyn Ferry, When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd
51. T. S. ELIOT, The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock, The Waste Land, Four Quartets
52. H.D., Trilogy
53. GERTRUDE STEIN, Tender Buttons, Portraits: Picasso, Matisse
54. WILLIAM FAULKNER, The Sound and the Fury
55. EUGENE O'NEILL, A Long Day's Journey into Night; DAVID HENRY HWANG, M. Butterfly
56. RALPH ELLISON, Invisible Man
57. JOHN ASHBERY, Self Portrait in a Convex Mirror (the book)
58. MAXINE HONG KINGSTON, Woman Warrior

59. N. SCOTT MOMADAY, *House Made of Dawn*
60. TONI MORRISON, *Beloved*
61. JAMES JOYCE, *Ulysses*
62. VIRGINIA WOOLF, *Mrs. Dalloway*
63. W. B. YEATS, *To the Rose Upon the Rood of Time, The Lake Isle of Innisfree, to Ireland in the Coming Times, Adam's Curse, No Second Troy, September 1913, A Coat, The Fisherman Easter 1916, In Memory of Major Robert Gregory, The Wild Swans of Coole, An Irish Airman Foresees His Death, The Second Coming, A Prayer For My Daughter, Sailing to Byzantium, The Tower, Leda and the Swan, Among School Children, Byzantium, Ego Dominus Tuus, Crazy Jane Talks with the Bishop, Lapis Lazuli, The Circus Animals' Desertion, Under Ben Bulbin*
64. D. H. LAWRENCE, *Women in Love*
65. SAMUEL BECKETT, *Waiting for Godot, Molloy*
66. W. H. AUDEN, from *Collected Poems* (ed. Mendelson; 1976, 1991), Part I, *Paid on Both Sides* (1928); Part II (1927-32), *The Letter* - 29, *Taller To-day* - 30, *The Secret Agent* - 32, *The Watershed* - 32, *No Change of Place* - 33, *Easy Knowledge* - 37, *This Lunar Beauty* - 55, *The Question* - 56, *Have a Good Time* - 68; Part IV (1933-1938), *Through the Looking Glass* - 122, *On This Island* - 130, *As I Walked Out One Evening* - 133, *Lullaby* - 157, *Miss Gee* - 158, *Victor* - 167, *Musee des Beaux Arts* - 179; Part VI (1939-1947), *In Memory of W.B. Yeats* - 247, *The Unknown Citizen* - 252, *Law Like Love* - 262, *In Memory of Sigmund Freud* - 273, *The Quest* [20 sonnet sequence] - 285-96, *If I Could Tell You* - 314, *Many Happy Returns* - 320, *The Lesson* - 326; Part VIII (1942-1944), *The Sea and the Mirror* - 401-445; Part X (1948-1957), *In Praise of Limestone* - 540, *The Shield of Achilles* - 596, *Homage to Clio* - 610, *The Truest Poetry is the Most Feigning* - 619, *Words* - 624, *Horae Canonicae* [a seven poem sequence] - 627-42
67. SALMAN RUSHDIE, *Midnight's Children*
68. TOM STOPPARD, *Travesties, Arcadia*
69. DORIS LESSING, *The Golden Notebook*
70. DEREK WALCOTT, *Omeros*