Major Subject Areas

- Medieval & Renaissance
- 17th & 18th Century British Literature
- Romantic and Victorian Literature
- American Literature (Colonial to 1900)
- 20th Century Literature
- Literary Criticism

Supplemental List of Historical and Critical Reading

- Bibliographies
- Literary Histories
- Literary Theory and Criticism

Major Subject Areas

I. Medieval and Renaissance (to 1640)

1. Beowulf
2. Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales: General Prologue; Prologues and Tales of the Knight; Miller; Wife of Bath; Merchant; Franklin
3. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
4. The Second Shepherds’ Play
5. More, Utopia
6. Sidney, Apologie for Poesie
7. Marlowe, Dr. Faustus
8. Jonson, Volpone
10. Shakespeare, Hamlet; King Lear; The Tempest; Henry V; Twelfth Night; Measure for Measure
11. Webster, The Duchess of Malfi
13. Marvell, “To His Coy Mistress”

II. 17th and 18th Centuries

1. Milton, Paradise Lost
2. Wycherley, The Country Wife
3. Dryden, All for Love
III. Romantic and Victorian

1. Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell; Songs of Innocence and of Experience.*
4. Byron, *Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage,* Canto 3; *Don Juan,* Canto 1
5. P. Shelley, “Mont Blanc”; “Hymn to Intellectual Beauty”; “Ode to the West Wind”; “Adonais”; “To a Skylark”; “Ozymandias”
7. M. Shelley, *Frankenstein*
8. Tennyson, “Ulysses”; *In Memoriam,* A.H.H.
10. Dickens, *Hard Times*
11. E. Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*
13. Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

IV. American Literature, Colonial – 1900

2. Rowlandson, *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson.*
5. Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass.*
8. Thoreau, *Walden,* Chapters 1,2,7,11,16-18.
9. Fuller, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*
11. Dickinson, “I felt a funeral, in my Brain” (P280); “Some keep the Sabbath going to Church.” (P324); “After great pain, a formal feeling comes” (P341); “This was a Poet-It is That” (448); “I heard a Fly buzz-when I died-” (P465); “Because I could not stop For Death-” (P712); “She rose to His Requirement-dropt” (732); “My Life had stood-a Loaded Gun-” (P754); “Title divine-is Mine!” (P1072); “Tell all the Truth but tell it slant-” (P1129).
12. Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
14. Chopin, *The Awakening*

V. 20th Century Literature

1. Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
3. Joyce, *Portrait of the Artist As a Young Man*.
4. Woolf, *To the Lighthouse; A Room of One’s Own*.

VI. Literary Criticism

1. Plato, *Republic*, Book X.
2. Aristotle, “Poetics.”
3. Horace, “Ars Poetica.”
6. Wordsworth, Preface (1802) to *Lyrical Ballads*.
10. Freud, “Creative Writers and Daydreaming.”
12. Ransom, “Criticism, Inc.”
15. Eagleton, “Marxism and Literary Criticism.”

**Supplemental List of Historical and Critical Reading**

The following list of standard works is offered to graduate students for reference in preparing for the Master’s Comprehensive Examination; these works will not themselves be the subject of the exam. The list is by no means exhaustive – students should ask course instructors for titles of critical and historical works in specialized areas.

**I. Bibliographies**


**II. Literary Histories**

III. Criticism and Theory