M.A. CANDIDACY EXAM READING LIST
(effective for students entering fall 2013)

I. MEDIEVAL - RENAISSANCE (to c. 1660)

3. Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*: General Prologue; prologues and tales of the Knight, the Pardoner, the Miller, the Wife of Bath, and the Franklin (Late 1380s).
11. Christopher Marlowe, *Dr Faustus* (1594).
15. John Webster, *The White Devil* (c.1612.)

Critical Readings:

**Recommended as contextual reading (but not mandatory):**
2. Hattaway, *Companion to English Renaissance Literature and Culture*, chapters 2 (‘Early Tudor Humanism’); 29 (‘Romance’); 11, 40, 42, 45 (‘Drama’); and 50 (‘Essays’).

**II. TRANSATLANTIC BRITISH & AMERICAN (c. 1660- c. 1800)**

Readings in Colonial, Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature:

6. Lady Wortley Montagu (1689-1762), “Saturday. The Small Pox,” “The Reasons that Induced Dr. S. to write a Poem called The Lady’s Dressing Room.”
17. Phillis Wheatley (c. 1753-1784), “On being brought from Africa to America,” “A Farewell to America.”

Critical Readings

III. NINETEENTH CENTURY (ROMANTIC, VICTORIAN & AMERICAN)

7. Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845).
8. Edgar Allan Poe, “Philosophy of Composition” (1846).
11. Herman Melville, “Benito Cereno” (1855).
   “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d.”
24. Emily Dickinson (1830–1886), “Some keep the Sabbath going to Church” (P324), “I felt a Funeral, in my Brain” (P280); “After great pain, a formal feeling comes--” (P341); “I heard a Fly buzz--when I died--” (P465); “Because I could not stop For Death--” (P712); “My Life had stood--a Loaded Gun--” (P754); “Tell all the Truth but tell it slant--” (P1129).

**Critical Works:**

**IV. TWENTIETH CENTURY—PRESENT (MODERNIST & POST-COLONIAL)**

Note: PDF files of selected titles may be found under Resources on the MA Program sakai site. Please check these files for hard-to-find titles and recommended translations or editions.
Link: [https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/site/6ff268a6-3c91-4667-84dc-c60aa508cf87](https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/site/6ff268a6-3c91-4667-84dc-c60aa508cf87)


**Critical Readings:**

3. Virginia Woolf, "Modern Fiction" (1919) and *A Room of One's Own* (1929), chapters 3 and 6.