Graduate Exam Reading List
2008

Primary British

1. Beowulf
2. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
5. William Shakespeare, Othello
6. Aemilia Lanyer, “Eve’s Apology and Defense of Women,” “The Description of Cooke-ham”
8. John Milton, Paradise Lost, Books 1 and 9
9. Aphra Behn, Oroonoko
11. John Gay, The Beggar’s Opera
12. Fanny Burney, Evelina
14. Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice
15. Elizabeth Gaskell, North and South
16. Charles Dickens, Great Expectations
18. Oscar Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest
20. James Joyce, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
21. Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway
22. Tom Stoppard, Travesties
23. Caryl Churchill, Top Girls

Primary American

1. Mary Rowlandson, A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson
2. Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter
3. Walt Whitman, Song of Myself
4. Herman Melville, “Benito Cereno”
5. Emily Dickinson, “What Soft--Cherubic Creatures--,” “She rose to His Requirement--dropt,” “The Bible is an antique volume--,” “Some keep the Sabbath going to church--,” “I started Early--Took my Dog--,” “I taste a liquor never brewed--,” “The last Night that She lived,” “I heard a Fly buzz--when I died”
6. Mark Twain, The Mysterious Stranger
7. Henry James, The Portrait of a Lady
8. Kate Chopin, The Awakening
9. Theodore Dreiser, Sister Carrie
10. T. S. Eliot, The Wasteland
11. William Faulkner, Light in August
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12. Elizabeth Bishop, “The Fish,” “Filling Station,” “Squatter’s Children”
13. Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man
14. Edward Albee, Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
15. Marilynne Robinson, Housekeeping
16. August Wilson, The Piano Lesson
17. Chang-Rae Lee, Native Speaker

Theoretical Works

1. Terry Eagleton, Literary Theory, Chapter 1 “The Rise of English”
2. Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish, Chapters “The body of the condemned” and “Panopticism”
4. Laura Mulvey, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema”
5. Edward W. Said, Introduction to Orientalism
6. Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman