

2023 MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAM LIST

THEORY AND CRITICISM

1. W.E.B. Du Bois, from *The Souls of Black Folk*. 1903.
 - “Of Our Spiritual Strivings.”
 - “Of the Dawn of Freedom.”
2. Gloria Anzaldúa, from *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. 1987.
 - “Crossing Borders (La conciencia de la mestiza)”
3. Toni Morrison, “Unspeakable Things Unspoken: The Afro-American Presence in American Literature.” 1988.
4. Judith Butler
 - “Preface.” “Introduction” from *Gender Trouble*. 1990.
5. N Katherine Hayles. “What does it mean to be posthuman?” *How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics*. University of Chicago Press, 1999.
6. Robert Eaglestone. “One and the Same? Ethics, Aesthetics, and Truth.” *Poetics Today* vol. 25, no. 4, 2004, pp. 595-608.
7. C. Namwali Serpell. “Mutual Exclusion, Oscillation, and Ethical Projection in “The Crying of Lot 49” and “The Turn of the Screw.”” *Narrative* Vol. 16, no. 3, 2008, pp. 223-255
8. Rivkin, Julie, and Michael Ryan. *Literary Theory: An Anthology*. Third ed., John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. 2017.
9. Caroline Levine, *Forms: Whole, Rhythm, Hierarchy, Network*. 2017.
 - “Preface.”
 - “Introduction.”

U.S. LITERATURE

1. Anne Bradstreet.
 - “The Author to her Book.” 1650.
 - “A Letter to Her Husband, absent upon Publick Employment.” 1650.
 - “To My Dear and Loving Husband.” 1678.
2. Mary Rowlandson.
 - *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*. 1682.
3. Ralph Waldo Emerson.
 - “The Over-Soul.” 1841.
 - “The Poet.” 1841-1843.
4. Frederick Douglass.

- “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July.” 1852.
- 5. Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The House of the Seven Gables*. 1851.
- 6. Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. 1861.
- 7. Walt Whitman. From *Leaves of Grass*. 1855.
 - “Crossing the Brooklyn Ferry”
- 8. Emily Dickinson.
 - “Some keep the Sabbath going to/Church—.” c. 1860.
 - “I heard a Fly buzz—when I died—.” c. 1862.
 - “I felt a Funeral in my Brain.” c. 1862.
 - “Because I could not stop for Death--.” c. 1863.
 - “*She* rose to His Requirement—dropt.” c. 1863.
- 9. Henry James, *Daisy Miller*. 1878.
- 10. Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. 1884.
- 11. Willa Cather, *My Antonia*. 1918.
- 12. TS Eliot, *The Waste Land, Four Quartets* and his essay "Tradition and the Individual Talent." 1922.
- 13. Claude McKay. From *Harlem Shadows*. 1922.
 - “The Harlem Dancer.”
 - “Harlem Shadows.”
 - “The Lynching.”
 - “America.”
- 14. William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*. 1930.
- 15. Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. 1937.
- 16. Langston Hughes.
 - “The Negro Speaks of Rivers”
 - “Jazzonia”
 - “The Weary Blues”
 - “Scottsboro”
- 17. Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. 1947.
- 18. James Baldwin, *Giovanni’s Room*. 1956 .
- 19. Sonia Sanchez. “homecoming” “blk rhetoric” “a/coltrane/poem”. 1969
- 20. Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, *Dictee*. 1982.
- 21. Toni Morrison, *Beloved*. 1987.
- 22. Jhumpa Lahiri. From *The Interpreter of Maladies*. 1999.
 - “A Temporary Matter.”
 - “Interpreter of Maladies.”
 - “Sexy.”
 - “Mrs. Sen’s.”
- 23. Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad*. 2016.
- 24. Natalie Diaz, *Postcolonial Love Poem*. 2020.
 - “Abecedarian Requiring Further Examination of Anglikan Seraphym Subjugation of Wild Indian Rezervation” [sic]
 - "The Facts of Art." from *When My Brother Was an Aztec* (2012); can be found on the Poetry Website)

BRITISH LITERATURE

1. *Beowulf* (Seamus Heaney, translation). 975-1025.
2. Geoffrey Chaucer, from *The Canterbury Tales*. 1387-1400.

- “The General Prologue.”
 - “The Miller’s Prologue.”
 - “The Miller’s Tale.”
 - “The Pardoner’s Prologue.”
 - “The Pardoner’s Tale.”
 - “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue.”
 - “The Wife of Bath’s Tale.”
3. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. C. 1390.
 4. William Shakespeare.
 - *Hamlet*. 1603.
 - *Sonnets*. (18, 20, 75, 94, 130, 144). 1609.
 5. John Donne.
 - “The Canonization.” 1633.
 - “A Valediction Forbidding Mourning.” 1633.
 - “The Flea.” 1633.
 6. Andrew Marvell, “To My Coy Mistress.” (1649-60)
 7. John Milton.
 - “When I Consider How My Light is Spent.” 1673.
 - *Paradise Lost*: Book I, II, and IX. 1667.
 8. John Dryden.
 - *Absalom and Achitophel*. 1681.
 9. Frances Burney.
 - *Evelina*. 1778.
 10. Jane Austen.
 - *Persuasion*. 1817.
 11. PB Shelley, *Prometheus Unbound*. 1820.
 12. Emily Bronte.
 - *Wuthering Heights*. 1847.
 13. Charles Dickens.
 - *Great Expectations*. 1861.
 14. Christina Rossetti.
 - *Goblin Market*. 1862.
 15. Oscar Wilde, *Lady Windermere’s Fan*. 1892.
 16. James Joyce. *The Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. 1916.
 17. William Butler Yeats.
 - “The Second Coming.” 1920.
 - “Leda and the Swan.” 1924.
 - “Sailing to Byzantium.” 1928.
 18. Virginia Woolf.
 - *Mrs. Dalloway*. 1925.
 19. E. M. Forster.
 - *A Passage to India*. 1924.
 20. Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. 1966.
 21. Caryl Churchill, *Top Girls*. 1982.
 22. Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go*. 2015.
 23. Zadie Smith, *Swing Time*. 2016.
 24. Kamila Shamsie, *Home Fire*. 2017.