

2025 Reading List
Literature Comprehensive Exam (Engl 500)
MA in English

British Literature

1. Anonymous
 - *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (c. 1375)
2. Sir Thomas Malory, from *Le Morte Darthur* (1485)
 - “From the Marriage of King Uther unto King Arthur”
 - “A Noble Tale of Sir Lancelot Du Lake”
 - “The Noble Tale of the Sangrail”; “The Tale of Sir Lancelot and Queen Guenivere”
 - “The Death of Arthur”
3. Edmund Spenser
 - *The Faerie Queene*, Book Three (1590)
4. William Shakespeare
 - *Hamlet* (1603)
 - *Sonnets* 18, 20, 75, 94, 130, 144 (1609)
5. John Milton
 - *Comus* (comp. 1637)
 - *Paradise Lost*, Books I, II, IV and IX (1676)
6. John Dryden
 - *Absalom and Achitophel* (1681)
7. Aphra Behn
 - *Oroonoko* (1689)
8. Alexander Pope
 - *The Rape of the Lock* (1717)
9. Samuel Richardson
 - *Pamela* (1740)
10. Frances Burney
 - *Evelina* (1778)
11. Jane Austen
 - *Persuasion* (1817)
12. Emily Brontë
 - *Wuthering Heights* (1847)
13. William Morris
 - “The Defence of Guenevere” (1858)
14. Charles Dickens
 - *Great Expectations* (1861)
15. Alfred, Lord Tennyson, from *Idylls of the King* (1885)
 - “The Holy Grail”
 - “Guinevere”
 - “The Passing of Arthur”
16. James Joyce
 - *The Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916)
17. E. M. Forster
 - *A Passage to India* (1924)
18. Virginia Woolf
 - *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925)
19. Zadie Smith
 - *Swing Time* (2016)

American Literature

1. John Winthrop
 - “A Model of Christian Charity” (comp. 1630)
2. Anne Bradstreet
 - “A Letter to her Husband, Absent upon Publick Employment” (1678)
 - “The Author to her Book” (1678)
 - “To My Dear and Loving Husband” (1678)
3. Hannah Webster Foster
 - *The Coquette; or, The History of Eliza Wharton* (1797)
4. Charles Brockden Brown
 - *Wieland: or, The Transformation: An American Tale* (1798)
5. William Cullen Bryant
 - “Thanatopsis” (1821);
 - “To a Waterfowl” (1821)
6. Catharine Maria Sedgwick
 - *Hope Leslie, or, Early Times in Massachusetts* (1827)
7. William Apess
 - from *A Son of the Forest*, Chapters 1-3 (1829);
 - “An Indian’s Looking Glass for the White Man, 1833” (1833)
8. Lydia Howard Huntley Sigourney
 - “The Suttee” (1827);
 - “To the First Slave Ship” (1827);
 - “Columbus before the University of Salamanca” (1834);
 - “Indian Names” (1834)
9. Edgar Allan Poe
 - “The Fall of the House of Usher” (1839)
 - “The Tell-Tale Heart” (1843)
10. Margaret Fuller
 - “The Great Lawsuit: Man *versus* Men. Woman *versus* Women” (1843)
11. Nathaniel Hawthorne
 - *The Scarlet Letter: A Romance* (1850)
12. Henry James
 - *The Portrait of a Lady* (1881)
13. Sarah Orne Jewett
 - “A White Heron” (1886)
14. Charles Chesnutt
 - *The Marrow of Tradition* (1901)
15. Edith Wharton
 - *The House of Mirth* (1905)
16. Willa Cather
 - *My Ántonia* (1918)
17. F. Scott Fitzgerald
 - *The Great Gatsby* (1925)
18. Nella Larsen
 - *Quicksand* (1928)
19. Zora Neal Hurston
 - *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)

20. Elizabeth Bishop
 - “One Art” (1976)
21. Leslie Marmon Silko
 - *Ceremony* (1977)
22. Toni Morrison
 - *Beloved* (1987)

Theory

1. Jacques Derrida
 - “Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences” (1966)
2. Jacques Lacan
 - “The Mirror Stage as Formative of the I Function as Revealed in Psychoanalytic Experience” (1966)
3. Roland Barthes
 - “An Introduction to the Structural Analysis of Narrative” (1975)
4. Michel Foucault, from *Discipline and Punish* (1975)
 - “Docile Bodies”
 - “The Means of Correct Training”
5. Hélène Cixous
 - “The Laugh of the Medusa” (1976)
6. Stanley Fish
 - from *Is There a Text in this Class*, “What Makes an Interpretation Acceptable?” (1982)
7. Judith Butler
 - “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory” (1988)
8. Homi Bhabha
 - from *The Location of Culture*, “Introduction: Locations of Culture” (1994)