

GRADUATE EXAM READING LIST
2009

BRITISH LITERATURE

1. GEOFFREY CHAUCER, *Selections from Canterbury Tales*
 - "General Prologue"
 - "The Wife of Bath's Prologue"
 - "Wife of Bath's Tale"
2. JOHN DONNE
 - "A Valediction Forbidding Mourning"
 - "The Flea"
 - "The Bait"
 - "The Canonization"
3. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
 - *Othello*
 - Sonnet 18 "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?"
 - Sonnet 130 "My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun"
4. WILLIAM CONGREVE, *The Way of the World*
5. JOHN KEATS
 - "Ode to a Nightingale"
 - "Ode on a Grecian Urn"
6. JOHN MILTON, *Paradise Lost*, Selected books
 - Books 1, 2, 9
7. JANE AUSTEN, *Pride and Prejudice*
8. CHARLOTTE BRONTË, *Jane Eyre*
9. CHARLES DICKENS, *Great Expectations*
10. CHRISTINA ROSSETTI, "Goblin Market"
11. OSCAR WILDE, *The Importance of Being Earnest*
12. JAMES JOYCE, *Dubliners*
13. W.B. YEATS
 - "Leda and the Swan"
 - "The Second Coming"
 - "Sailing to Byzantium"
 - "Among School Children"
 - "Easter 1916"
14. E. M. FORSTER, *Passage to India*
15. JEAN RHYS, *Wide Sargasso*
16. PHILLIP LARKIN
 - "Church Going"
 - "Lines on a Young Lady's Photograph Album"
 - "MCMXIV"
17. PATRICIA POWELL, *The Pagoda*

U.S. LITERATURE

1. HENRY DAVID THOREAU
 - *Walden*

- “Civil Disobedience”
- 2. HERMAN MELVILLE, *“Benito Cereno”*
- 3. WALT WHITMAN, *Song of Myself*
- 4. HARRIET JACOBS, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
- 5. MARIA AMPARO RUIZ DE BURTON, *The Squatter and the Don*
- 6. CHARLES CHESNUTT
 - “The Goophered Grapevine”
 - “A Metropolitan Experience”
 - “The Wife of His Youth”
- 7. EDITH WHARTON, *The House of Mirth*
- 8. HENRY JAMES, *The Portrait of a Lady*
- 9. T.S. ELIOT
 - “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”
 - “The Waste Land”
- 10. F. SCOTT FITZGERALD, *The Great Gatsby*
- 11. EMILY DICKINSON
 - “I taste a liquor never brewed”
 - “Some keep the Sabbath going to/Church”
 - “I heard a Fly buzz – when I died –”
 - “I cannot live with You”
 - “I dwell in Possibility”
 - “Because I could not stop for Death –”
 - *She* rose to His Requirement – dropt
- 12. WILLIAM FAULKNER, *The Sound and the Fury*
- 13. ERNEST HEMINGWAY
 - “Soldier’s Home”
 - “Hills Like White Elephants”
 - “The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber”
- 14. RICHARD WRIGHT, *Native Son*
- 15. LORRAINE HANSBERRY, *A Raisin in the Sun*
- 16. CATHY SONG
 - “The Youngest Daughter”
 - “Beauty and Sadness”
 - “Lost Sister”
 - “Girl Powdering Her Neck”
 - “The White Porch”
- 17. FAE MYENNE NG, *Bone*

THEORY AND CRITICISM

1. WILLIAM WORDSWORTH, “Preface to Lyrical Ballads”
2. VIRGINIA WOOLF, *A Room of One’s Own*
3. RAYMOND WILLIAMS, *Marxism and Literature*. Part 1.
4. TERRY EAGLETON, *Literary Theory: An Introduction*
5. BENEDICT ANDERSON, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Selected chapters:
 - “Introduction”

- “Cultural Roots”
- “Origins of National Consciousness”

TONI MORRISON, *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*