

500 Comprehensive Exam Reading List

Spring & Fall 2015

British

1. Marie de France: from the Lais: "Guigemar," "Equitan," "Bisclavret," "Lanval," "Chevrefoil"
2. Geoffrey Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales*
 - "The General Prologue"
 - "The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale"
 - "The Clerk's Prologue and Tale"
 - "The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale"
3. Christopher Marlowe: *Doctor Faustus* (A-Text)
4. William Shakespeare: *Othello* and *Much Ado About Nothing*
5. John Ford: *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*
6. John Milton: *Paradise Lost*, Books 1, 2, 9, and 10
7. Aphra Behn: *Oroonoko* and *The Rover*
8. Alexander Pope: *The Rape of the Lock*
9. Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*
10. John Keats: "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer," "The Eve of St. Agnes," "Bright Star," "La Belle Dame sans Merci: A Ballad," "Ode on a Grecian Urn," "Lamia"
11. Robert Browning: "Porphyria's Lover," "Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister," "My Last Duchess," "The Bishop Orders His Tomb at Saint Praxed's Church," "A Toccata of Galuppi's," "Andrea del Sarto"
12. Charlotte Brontë: *Jane Eyre*
13. Christina Rossetti: "Goblin Market," "After Death," "In an Artist's Studio," "Promises Like Pie-Crust"
14. Oscar Wilde: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*
15. E. M. Forster: *Howards End*
16. William Butler Yeats: "No Second Troy," "Easter, 1916," "The Second Coming," "Sailing to Byzantium," "Lapis Lazuli," "The Circus Animals' Desertion"
17. Jean Rhys: *Wide Sargasso Sea*
18. Tom Stoppard: *The Real Thing*
19. Caryl Churchill: *Top Girls*
20. Carol Ann Duffy: "Stealing," "Warming Her Pearls," "Nostalgia," "Medusa," "Mrs. Lazarus," "Mrs. Faust"
21. A.S. Byatt: *Possession*
22. Zadie Smith: *On Beauty*

American

1. Christopher Columbus: *Letter to Luis de Santangel Regarding the First Voyage* (February 15, 1493)
2. John Winthrop: "A Model of Christian Charity"
3. J. Hector St. John De Crèvecoeur: *Letters from an American Farmer*
 - Letter III: "What is an American?"
 - Letter IX: "Description of Charles-Town"
4. Catharine Maria Sedgwick: *Hope Leslie; Or, Early Times in the Massachusetts*
5. Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Divinity School Address" and "The Poet"
6. Frederick Douglass: *Narrative of the Life of a Slave*
7. Herman Melville: "Benito Cereno"
8. Emily Dickinson: (Poem numbers refer to the R.W. Franklin edition)
 - "Water, is taught by thirst" #93
 - "These are the days when Birds come back—" #122
 - "I'm 'wife'—I've finished that—" #225
 - "Some keep the Sabbath going to Church—" #236
 - "One need not be a Chamber—to be Haunted—" #407
 - "I had been hungry, all the Years—" #439
 - "This was a Poet—It is That" #446
 - "I dwell in Possibility" #466
 - "He fumbles at your Soul" #477
 - "Because I could not stop for Death—" #479
 - "A still—Volcano—Life—" #517
 - "Undue Significance a starving man attaches" #626
 - "I started Early—took my Dog" #656
 - "'Nature' is what we see—" #721
 - "Ah, Teneriffe!" #752
 - "My Life had stood—a Loaded Gun—" #764
 - "She rose to His Requirement—dropt" 857
 - "Tell all the Truth but tell it slant—" #1263
9. Walt Whitman: "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" and "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking"
10. Henry James: *The American* and "The Real Thing"
11. Zitkala Sa: *American Indian Stories*
12. Willa Cather: *A Lost Lady*
13. F. Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*
14. T. S. Eliot: "The Hollow Men" and "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
15. Wallace Stevens: "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird," "Sunday Morning," "The Emperor of Ice Cream," "Disillusionment of Ten O'Clock"
16. Zora Neale Hurston: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
17. John Steinbeck: *The Grapes of Wrath*
18. Arthur Miller: *Death of a Salesman*
19. Alice Walker: *The Color Purple*
20. Adrienne Rich: "Diving into the Wreck," "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers," "Grandmothers," "Living in Sin"
21. August Wilson: *Fences*
22. Jhumpa Lahiri: *Unaccustomed Earth*

Theory

1. Sigmund Freud: *Civilization and Its Discontents*
2. Edward Said: *Orientalism* (Introduction)
3. Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar: *The Madwoman in the Attic* (Part I: Toward a Feminist Poetics)
4. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.: *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of African-American Literary Criticism* (Part I: A Theory of the Tradition)
5. Judith Butler: "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory"
6. Lois Tyson: *Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide*