
Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams in Literary and Cultural Studies
Exam #1 Reading List: British Literature to 1750

Poetry

“Cædmon’s Hymn”

The Dream of the Rood

Riddles from the Exeter Book (selections in *Norton Anthology*)

The Wanderer

Judith

Beowulf (trans. Chickering)

de France, *Lais*: “Lanval,” “Bisclavret”

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*: The General Prologue, The Knight’s Tale, The Miller’s Prologue and Tale, The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale, The Franklin’s Prologue and Tale, The Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale, The Nun’s Priest’s Tale, The Parson’s Prologue, Retraction

Langland, *Piers Plowman*: Prologue, Passus 1-8, 18 (ed. Schmidt)

Wyatt, “Whoso list to hunt,” “I find no peace,” “They flee from me,” “The long love,” “Mine owne John Poyntz”

Surrey, “The soote season,” “Love that doth reign”

Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella*: 1 (“Loving in truth, and fain in verse my love to show”), 7 (“When Nature made her chief work, Stella’s eyes”), 9 (“Queen Virtue’s court, which some call Stella’s face”), 15 (“You that do search for every purling stream”), 39 (“Come sleep! O sleep the certain knot of peace”), 41 (“Having this day my horse, my hand, my lance”), 45 (“Stella oft sees the very face of woe”), 71 (“Who will in fairest book of Nature know”), Fourth Song (“Only joy, now here you are”), Eighth Song (“In a grove most rich of shade”), 106 (“O absent presence, Stella is not here”), 108 (“When Sorrow [using mine own fire’s might]”)

Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, “A Letter of the Authors” and Books 1 and 3

Marlowe, “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”

Raleigh, “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd”

Shakespeare, *The Sonnets*: 1 (“From fairest creatures we desire increase”), 12 (“When I do count the clock that tells the time”), 15 (“When I consider everything that grows”), 18 (“Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”), 20 (“A woman’s face, with Nature’s own hand painted”), 23 (“As an unperfect actor on the stage”), 29 (“When in disgrace with Fortune and men’s eyes”), 30 (“When to the sessions of sweet silent thought”), 55 (“Not marble, nor the gilded monuments”), 60 (“Like as the waves make toward the pebbled shore”), 71 (“No longer mourn for me when I am dead”), 73 (“That time of year thou may’st in me behold”), 87 (“Farewell, thou art too dear for my possessing”), 106 (“When in the chronicle of wasted time”), 116 (“Let me not to the marriage of true minds”), 126 (“O thou, my lovely boy, who in thy power”), 127 (In the old age black was not counted fair”), 129 (“Th’expense of spirit

in a waste of shame”), 130 (“My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun”), 135 (“Whoever hath her wish, thou hast thy Will”), 138 (“When my love swears that she is made of truth”), 144 (“Two loves I have, of comfort and despair”)

Donne, *Songs and Sonnets*: “The Flea,” “The Good Morrow,” “Song” (Go and catch a falling star), “The Sun Rising,” “The Indifferent,” “The Canonization,” “A Nocturnal upon Saint Lucy’s Day, Being the Shortest Day,” “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”; *Holy Sonnets* 1 (“Thou hast made me, and shall thy work decay?”), 5 (“I am a little world made cunningly”), 10 (“Death, be not proud, though some have called thee”), 14 (“Batter my heart, three-personed God; for you”), “Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward,” “Hymn to God My God, in My Sickness”; from *Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions*, Meditation 17

Herbert, *The Temple*: “The Altar,” “Redemption,” “Easter Wings,” “Affliction (1),” “Prayer (1),” “Jordan (1),” “Church Monuments,” “The Windows,” “Virtue,” “Man,” “Jordan (2),” “The Collar,” “The Pulley,” “The Flower,” “Death,” “Love (3)”

Jonson, *Epigrams*: “To the Reader,” “To My Book,” “On My First Daughter,” “To John Donne,” “On My First Son,” “Inviting a Friend to Supper,” “Epitaph on S.P., a Child of Q[ueen] El[izabeth’s] Chapel,” “To William Roe [Roe (and my joy to name) . . .]”; *The Forest*: “To Penshurst,” “Song. To Celia”; “My Picture Left in Scotland”; “An Ode to Himself” (“Where dost thou careless lie”); “To the Memory of My Beloved, the Author Mr. William Shakespeare”; “Ode to Himself” (“Come leave the loathed stage”)

Wroth, *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*: 1 (“When night’s black mantle could most darkness prove”), 16 (“Am I thus conquered? Have I lost the powers”), 25 (“Like to the Indians scorched with the sun”), 28 (“Sweetest love, return again”), 39 (“Take heed mine eyes, how your looks do cast”), 40 (“False hope which feeds but to destroy, and spill”), 64 (“Love like a juggler comes to play his prize”), 68 (“My pain, still smothered in my grievèd breast”), 74 (“Love a child is ever crying”), 77 (“In this strange labyrinth how shall I turn”), 103 (“My muse now happy, lay thyself to rest”)

Lanyer, “The Description of Cookham”

Herrick, “Delight in Disorder”; “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time”

Philips, “A Married State”; “Friendship’s Mystery”

Marvell, “To His Coy Mistress,” “The Picture of Little T.C. in a Prospect of Flowers,” “The Nymph Complaining for the Death of Her Fawn,” “Upon Appleton House,” “The Garden,” “The Mower against Gardens,” “The Mower’s Song,” “Bermudas,” “On Mr. Milton’s *Paradise Lost*”

Milton, *Paradise Lost*: Books 1-4, 9, 10; *Lycidas*

Dryden, *MacFlecknoe*; “Epigram on Milton”; “A Song for St. Cecilia’s Day”; “To the Memory of Mr. Oldham”

Rochester, “The Imperfect Enjoyment”

Behn, “The Disappointment”

Swift, “A Description of a City Shower”

Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*

Johnson, *The Vanity of Human Wishes*

Gray, *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*

Drama

Townley *Second Shepherd's Play*
York *Crucifixion*
Everyman

Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*
Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*
Shakespeare, *Othello* and *King Lear* or *Hamlet*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or *As You Like It*
or *Twelfth Night*; *Richard II*; *The Tempest*
Jonson, *Volpone* or *Epicoene*
Beaumont, *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* or Chapman, Marston, and Jonson, *Eastward Ho!*

Behn, *The Rover*
Congreve, *The Way of the World*
Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*

Prose

Julian of Norwich, *A Revelation of Love* (ed. Watson and Jenkins)
Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe*
Malory, *Morte D'Arthur*: Books 2, 3, 4, 6

More, *Utopia*
Sidney, *The Defense of Poesy* (selections in *Norton Anthology*)
Bacon, *Essays* (selections in *Norton Anthology*)
Bacon, *The New Atlantis*
Cavendish, *The Blazing World*
Hobbes, *Leviathan*: Book 1

Dryden, *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy* and *Preface to the Fables* (selections in *Norton Anthology*)
Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress*: Part 1
Behn, *Oroonoko: or, The Royal Slave*
Addison and Steele, *The Spectator* Nos. 1, 2, 11, 62, 267, 411
Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* or *Moll Flanders*
Haywood, *Fantomina*
Swift, *Gulliver's Travels* and "A Modest Proposal"
Richardson, *Pamela: or, Virtue Rewarded*
Fielding, *Shamela* and *Joseph Andrews*