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)

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
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”), 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


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”


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