

BA Oral Exam Reading List

English Literature

NN (Early Modern English Literature) & Prof. Julia Straub

Choose any 3 periods. Substitutions within the same period are possible. Students must define their final exam reading list in consultation with their supervisor. Poems should be taken from the Norton Anthology selection.

The Sixteenth Century and the Early Seventeenth Century

- One play by William Shakespeare
- One play by either Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, Thomas Middleton, or John Webster
- 3 poems by either Sir Philip Sidney, Edmund Spenser, William Shakespeare, Aemilia Lanyer, John Donne, George Herbert, or Andrew Marvell (not more than two poems by the same poet)
- John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1 or 9, or Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, book 1, canto 1 and 2.

The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century

- One play by either Aphra Behn, William Wycherley, William Congreve, John Gay, Oliver Goldsmith, or Richard Sheridan
- John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, "A Satire against Reason and Mankind," or Jonathan Swift, "The Lady's Dressing Room" + Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, "The Reasons That Induced Dr. Swift to Write a Poem Called the Lady's Dressing Room," or Thomas Grey, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"
- Either Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko: or, the Royal Slave*, or Margaret Cavendish, *The Description of a New World, Called the Blazing World*, or Eliza Haywood, *Fantomina: or, Love in a Haze*
- One novel by either Daniel Defoe, Jonathan Swift, Samuel Richardson, Henry Fielding, or Laurence Sterne

The Romantic Period

- William Blake, Selected Poems

- William Wordsworth, Selected Poems
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Selected Poems
- Lord Byron, Selected Poems
- Percy Bysshe Shelley, Selected Poems
- John Keats, Selected Poems

The Victorian Age:

- Selected poems by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, Christina Rossetti or Gerard Manley Hopkins
- One novel by either Charlotte Bronte, Emily Bronte, Charles Dickens, William Makepeace Thackeray, or George Eliot

Late Victorian and Edwardian Literature

- One novel by Thomas Hardy or Robert Louis Stevenson
- One play by Oscar Wilde or George Bernard Shaw
- One novel by Joseph Conrad or E. M. Forster
- Selected poems by Thomas Hardy, Wilfred Owen, or A. E. Housman

Modernism

- One novel by either James Joyce, D. H. Lawrence, or Virginia Woolf
- Short stories by Katherine Mansfield
- Selected poems by T. S. Eliot or William Butler Yeats

The Twentieth Century and After

- Selected poems by W. H. Auden, Philip Larkin, or Seamus Heaney
- One play by Samuel Beckett, Harold Pinter, or Tom Stoppard
- One novel by George Orwell or Salman Rushdie
- One novel by Angela Carter or Iris Murdoch
- One novel by Zadie Smith, Ali Smith or A. L. Kennedy
- One novel by Ian McEwan, Julian Barnes or J. M. Coetzee
- One novel and/or short stories by Margaret Atwood, Michael Ondaatje or Alice Munro