Victorian Literature
Suggested Reading List for Ph.D.’s

Please note that the following is a general list, designed so that students can refine and add to it in consultation with their major examiner.

Basic Background
Specialists: have a working general familiarity with most of the works on the following list.
Nonspecialists: Read at least five of the following.


Sara Suleri. *The Rhetoric of English India*, 1992,


---. *Culture and Society*


Fiction: read at least three (specialists)/two (non-specialists) works by each of the following:

- Jane Austen
- Charlotte Bronte
- Charles Dickens
- George Eliot
- Thomas Hardy
- William M. Thackeray

plus have a strong familiarity with at least five (specialists) three (non-specialists) of the following:

- Grace Aguilar
- William Beckford
- George Borrow
- Ann Bronte
- Charlotte Bronte
- Emily Bronte
- Samuel Butler
- Wilkie Collins
- Benjamin Disraeli
- Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll)
- Arthur Conan Doyle
- Maria Edgeworth
- Elizabeth Gaskell
- George Gissing
- William Godwin
- Charles Kingsley
- Matthew Lewis
- Charles Maturin
- George Meredith
- George Moore
- John Henry Newman
- Margaret Oliphant
Ann Radcliffe
Charles Reade
Walter Scott
Robert Louis Stevenson
Bram Stoker
Anthony Trollope
Frances Trollope
Oscar Wilde

Poetry: Have a strong familiarity with the important poems of the following:

Matthew Arnold
Robert Browning
E.B. Browning
Gerard Manley Hopkins
Christina Rossetti
Alfred Lord Tennyson

plus (specialists only) familiarity with at least five of the following:

Emily Bronte
Elizabeth Barrett Browning
Arthur Hugh Clough
Ernest Dowson
Edward Fitzgerald
Felicia Hemans
William Ernest Henley
A.E. Housman
Letitia Elizabeth Landon (L.E.L.)
Amy Levy
George Meredith
William Morris
Christina Rossetti
Dante Gabriel Rossetti
Charles Algernon Swinburne
James Thomson
Oscar Wilde

Prose: know the listed works below:

Matthew Arnold  *Culture and Anarchy*
Thomas Carlyle *Sartor Resartus*
John Stuart Mill *Autobiography*
John Henry Newman *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*

plus (specialists only): be familiar with the prose writings of at least three of the following:

- Grace Aguilar
- Edmund Burke
- Charles Darwin
- George Eliot
- Thomas De Quincey
- James Anthony Froude
- Edmund Gosse
- William Hazlitt
- Thomas Henry Huxley
- Charles Lamb
- Thomas Babington Macaulay
- Harriet Martineau
- Henry Mayhew
- Hannah More
- Walter Pater
- Thomas Paine
- John Ruskin
- Herbert Spencer
- Mary Wollstonecraft
- Dorothy Wordsworth
- Oscar Wilde

Biography: be familiar with at least four of the following works:

- Rosemarie Bodenheimer *The Real Life of Mary Ann Evans* (1996)
- Richard Ellmann: *Oscar Wilde* (1987)
- Gordon Haite: *George Eliot* (1968)
- Park Honan: *Matthew Arnold* (1983)
- Edgar Johnson: *Charles Dickens* (1952)
- Christopher Ricks: *Tennyson* (1972)