Doctoral Examination Reading List: Literary and Cultural Theory

The doctoral student who wishes to take a specialist examination in literary and cultural theory should construct a list of at least forty texts based upon this list, with substitutions and supplements as devised by the student in consultation with the examination director. The doctoral student who wishes to take a secondary specialist examination in literary and cultural theory should construct a list of at least thirty texts.

Adorno and Horkheimer, Dialectic of Enlightenment
Althusser, “Ideology and the Ideological State Apparatus”
Aristotle, Poetics; Rhetoric
Arnold, “The Function of Criticism at the Present Time,” Culture and Anarchy
Bakhtin, Rabelais and His World; Discourse in the Novel
Baker, Blacks, Ideology, and Afro-American Literature
Barthes, Mythologies; S/Z; The Pleasure of the Text; “The Death of the Author,” “From Work to Text”
Bataille, Visions of Excess; The Accursed Share; Inner Experience; Erotism; “Hegel, Death, and Science”
Baudrillard, Simulations; For a Critique of the Political Economy of the Sign; Ecology of Communication
Benjamin, “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction,” “Theses on the Philosophy of History”
Bersani, The Freudian Body; The Culture of Redemption; Heroes; “Is the Rectum a Grave?”
Bhabha, The Location of Culture
Brock, The Well-Wrought Urn
Burke, A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful
Butler, Gender Trouble; Excitable Speech; The Psychic Life of Power
Citron, “The Laugh of the Medusa,” The Newly Born Woman
Coleridge, Biographia Literaria
Delaune and Guttardi, Anti-Oedipus: Thousand Plateaus
Derrida, “Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences,” “Difference,” Of Grammatology; Dismissal; The Post Card; Writing and Difference
Engelmann, The Ideology of the Aesthetic: Literary Theory: An Introduction
Edelman, Homoeroticism
Eliot, “Tradition and the Individual Talent”
Emerson, “The American Scholar,” “The Poet”
Freed, Interpretation of Dreams; Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality; Civilization and Its Discontents; Beyond the Pleasure Principle; An Outline of Psychoanalysis; New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis
Gadamer, Truth and Method
Gates, The Signifying Monkey


Habermas, *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity*. "Modernity: An Incomplete Project"
Haraway, "A Manifesto for Cyborgs"
Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit: Lectures on Fine Art*
Holecquenghem: *Homosexual Desire*
Horne, *Art Poetica*
Hume, "Of the Standard of Taste"
Husserl, "Phenomenology"
Ingleson, *Spectacle of the Other Woman: This Sex Which Is Not One*
Jameson, *The Political Unconscious: Postmodernism: The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*
Kant, *Critique of Judgement*. "What is Enlightenment?"
Kojève, *Introduction to a Reading of Hegel*
Kristeva, *Revolution in Poetic Language: Powers of Horror: Desire in Language: Strangers to Ourselves*
Lukes, *History and Class Consciousness: Meaning of Contemporary Realism*
Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition*
Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844: The German Ideology: The Communist Manifesto*
Morrison, *Playing in the Dark*
Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema"
Plato, *Republic*, Book X: Ion: Phaedrus*
Rubin, "The Traffic in Women," "Thinking Sex"
Said, *Orientalism*
Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics*
Schiller, *On the Aesthetic Education of Man*
Sedgwick, *Between Men: Epistemology of the Closet*
Shklovsky, "Art as Technique"
Sidney, "An Apology for Poetry"
Spirakis, *Critique of Postcolonial Reason*
Williams, *Marxism and Literature*
Wimsatt and Beardsley, "The Intentional Fallacy," "The Affective Fallacy"
Willig, *The Straight Mind*
Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*
Wooll, *A Room of One's Own*
Wordsworth, "Prelace to Lyrical Ballads"

See also the "Selected Bibliography of Theory and Criticism" in *The Norton Anthology of Literary Criticism and Theory*. 